

# A-Level Spanish

## What are the topics like?

There are a total of 4 broad topic areas:

1. **Social issues and trends.**
2. **Political and artistic culture.**
3. **Cultural topic (the study of a film and a play)**
4. **An individual research topic (chosen by you).**



### 1. **Social issues and trends**

You will study the themes and sub-themes below in relation to at least one Spanish speaking country.

- Aspects of Hispanic society
  - Modern and traditional values (*Los valores tradicionales y modernos*)
  - Cyberspace (*El ciberespacio*)
  - Equal rights (*La igualdad de los sexos*)
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
  - Immigration (*La Inmigración*)
  - Racism (*El Racismo*)
  - Integration (*La Convivencia*)



### 2. **Political and artistic culture**

You will study the themes and sub-themes below in relation to at least one Spanish speaking country.

- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
  - Modern day idols (*La influencia de los ídolos*)
  - Spanish regional identity (*La identidad regional en España*)
  - Cultural heritage or cultural landscape (*El patrimonio cultural*)
- Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world
  - Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens (*Jóvenes de hoy, ciudadanos de mañana*)
  - Monarchies, republics and dictatorships (*Monarquías, repúblicas y dictaduras*)
  - Popular movements (*Movimientos populares*)

### 3. **The cultural topic.**

We will be studying a film and a play, and you will have to write two short essays on each of them for Paper 3. For the film, we will be studying *El Laberinto del Fauno* (Pan's Labyrinth), and for the play we will cover *La casa de Bernarda Alba* (The House of Bernarda Alba). Both of them will be watched and read in lessons.

### 4. **An individual research project.**

You will identify a subject or a key question which is of interest to you and which relates to a country or countries where Spanish is spoken. They may bear a direct relation to your other A-Level subjects (eg. if you're doing Economics, you might want to cover one of the emerging economies in Latin America). For this, you will be able to select relevant information from a range of sources including the internet, and then analyse and summarise your findings so that you can then present and discuss them in your speaking assessment.

Examples of possible broad research areas as suggested by Ofqual include:

- *La deforestación en Amazonas* (Deforestation in Amazonia)
- *Desarrollo y sostenibilidad en América Latina* (Development and sustainability in Latin America)
- *Activismo social en la España contemporánea* (Social activism in modern Spain)

### **How are the lessons divided up?**

You will have a total of 5 lessons a week. In addition you will have a conversation lesson for part of one of your non-contact periods with Mariluz, our Spanish assistant. This will be in pairs/a small group.

### **What will we do in class?**

You will study listening and reading passages from the textbook and many other sources. We will also have grammar lessons as we progress throughout the year. We will use the G10 (ie the language lab) once a week, so you will need a log-in and be able to access all the materials we have online for you.

### **What will the homework be like?**

You will be set listening tasks from the textbook, vocabulary to prepare for reading texts, some grammar exercises and some writing tasks. You will have vocabulary, grammar and comprehension tests, but your homework will be mostly be targeted to improve your essay-writing skills.

### **What do I have to do to succeed at A Level?**

The biggest difference between GCSE and A Level is that you are not a pupil anymore; as you enter Year 12 you become a student! This means that it is up to you to put time in studying and go beyond the minimum. This is because at A Level the questions, fields of vocabulary and grammar are much more open-ended, so it is not enough to simply pay attention in class; it is up to you to do more at home. It is very important that you keep up to date with the work set, particularly the topic-related essays. Remember, with Modern Languages, and especially at A-Level, you can't cram up for final exams.

### **Do I need any special equipment?**

You will be provided with a text book, grammar exercises and worksheets. Keep checking the Spanish Moodle section for updates, i.e. new video files, class-work that you may have missed.

A good dictionary is also essential, and you will need an A4 lever-arch file. This must be solely for Spanish and you should keep it organised - separate sections for topic-specific vocabulary and exercises on the one hand, and grammar on the other.

### **Will I get to go Spain?**

Going to Spain or any Spanish-speaking country is the whole point of learning Spanish. Any time you can spend practising your language skills will help you improve. If you have contacts in Spain (i.e. from previous trips/ exchanges), then make use of them and see if you can get yourself over there, speaking Spanish! As part of your A Level course, we will offer you the opportunity to take part in the Y13 Spanish Exchange with our partner school, IES Cavaleri, in Seville. You would be hosting your Spanish partner in Y12 (March), and you would be going to Seville in Y13 (October, just before half-term). You can also take part in a Work Experience trip, organised by Acorn Travel, (**this is a private venture and is not organised by the school**).

### **What have other students said?**

*Studying Spanish at A-level, and then at university, turned out to be the best decision I ever made. Not only did I get to spend the best year of my life living in Spain as part of my course, I am now able to say I can speak one of the most widely spoken and increasingly useful languages in the world. Speaking Spanish opens up unlimited opportunities for travel and work in the most interesting, colourful and diverse places you can think of all over the world.*

*I'm so glad I was able to take Spanish at A-level because it really helped to prepare me for my degree. I currently study Spanish and Linguistics at the University of Oxford and my knowledge of grammar and my ability to converse more confidently has really allowed me to concentrate on different parts of my studies.*