

A Level Spanish (AQA)

Transition Booklet

¡Bienvenido!

Congratulations on choosing to study A level Spanish. You have opened the door of opportunity! Studying Spanish will enrich your life, giving you opportunities to travel abroad and to learn about different cultures and different ways of life. Studying a language will also enhance your life chances, as universities and employers tend to prefer candidates who can speak more than one language.

Did you know that linguists are better communicators, writers and have a better understanding of their own language too? Students who study languages do better in tests and learning a language will improve the functionality of your brain and improve your memory skills.

Spanish is one of the most influential languages in the world and is spoken as an official language in over 20 countries. Depending on your sources, Spanish is either the 2nd or the 3rd most common native language in the world, with 437 million speakers.

Studying A Level Spanish will not only enable you to learn the Spanish language but you will gain in-depth insight into the cultural, social, political and artistic aspects of the Spanish speaking country/countries you will study.

This booklet will help you make the jump from GCSE to A Level. It's a big jump but don't be daunted, just get started!

¡Suerte!

The Main Themes

- Aspects of Hispanic society
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world
- Literature and film
- Research and presentation

Here is the link to the AQA A Level Course: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/spanish-7692>

How you are tested

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing.

What is assessed:

- Aspects of Hispanic society
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Aspects of political life in Hispanic society
- Grammar

How it is assessed:

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes, **50% of A-level**

Paper 2: Writing

What is assessed:

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

How it is assessed:

- Written exam: 2 hours, **20% of A-level**

Paper 3: Speaking

What is assessed:

- Individual research project
- One of four themes (Aspects of Hispanic society / Artistic culture in the Hispanic world / Multiculturalism in Hispanic society / Aspects of political life in Hispanic society)

How it is assessed:

- Oral exam, 21-23 minutes (including preparation time), **30% of A-level**

What to do over the summer

1. Complete as much of the **grammar workbook** as you can. Ensure you cover **all** the tenses as **A MINIMUM**.
2. Research the **Spanish Civil War**: brief causes, aftermath (what life was like). Write at least 200 words in English summarising what you have found out.
3. Log on daily to at least one of the websites below and **read/watch news articles**. Get them on your phone/follow them on Facebook so you can get regular updates.

<http://internacional.elpais.com/>

<http://www.rtve.es/>

<http://www.20minutos.es/>

<http://www.elmundo.es/>

<https://www.terra.es/>

<http://www.abc.es/>

4. Log onto the **following website** and use it!

<https://www.memrise.com/courses/english/spanish-spain/>

5. Set up an account on **Study Stack** (it is free!) to start building up flashcards (get on your phone too) <https://www.studystack.com/>
Create lists for at least the following:
 - a. irregular past participles (e.g. *hecho – done*)
 - b. the following irregular verbs in the preterite tense; *hacer, perder, decir, dormir, producir*.

I advise you create more for the other tenses, especially irregular verbs.

6. Watch the film **Pan's Labyrinth**.