

Proficiency in Spanish enables pupils to communicate successfully on a world stage. It affords access to the vibrant and lively culture of Spain and is becoming increasingly useful for communicating with businesses in North and South America.

This is a linear specification which leads to an A Level examination to be taken in June 2023.

Some of the topics will already be familiar to you from GCSE but you will be studying them in greater breadth and depth. Topics in Lower Sixth will include family, the ‘cyber-society’, Spanish culture (traditions, food and regional languages), music and cinema and in Upper Sixth we study, amongst other things, multiculturalism (racism, immigration and integration), politics and aspects of Spanish history. We also study literature and a Spanish film (see below).

The GCSE course provides a foundation for A Level study and you will find that the skills you have learnt will give you a good start for success at A Level.

What cultural topics will I study?

Literature and film play an important role in the Spanish culture, with some very famous playwrights and directors coming from various regions in Spain. It is important for pupils to feel confident about accessing the language and culture in as many different forms as possible. We begin looking at the film studied in Upper Sixth towards the end of Lower Sixth so that our pupils can feel confident about accessing the language and culture in different ways. Along with studying a film by a well-known Hispanic director (*El Laberinto del Fauno* – Guillermo Del Toro), we study a popular short novel (*Como Agua Para Chocolate* – Laura Esquivel). This is often the first time that pupils experience film and literature in another language and can, for a lot of them, provoke a further interest in the subject.

What materials will I be using?

A wide range of authentic sources, written and recorded, are used in the course. The course book is AQA Spanish. You will also use texts taken from the internet and the Spanish language edition of ELI, as well as watching excerpts from Spanish films, news websites and TV programmes. Thorough revision and consolidation of grammar is also built into the course along with exam techniques and preparatory examination-style questions.

What about spending time in Spain?

Every two years, the Spanish department offer a trip to a region of Spain. Past trips have been to Andalusia and Madrid and other areas will be visited in order to provide variety for the students who study Spanish. Work experience trips are also available, organised by an independent company. Information about these trips can be provided on request.

How will my work be assessed?

As with all other subjects studied post-GCSE, progress will be assessed throughout the course. As the classes are small, there are lots of opportunities to practise your language skills, receive help and improve. There will also be mock examinations, the first of which will take place in the January of Lower Sixth. At the end of the two years you will take three examinations: Paper 1 will test Comprehension (listening, reading and translation), Paper 2 will test Writing (two essays – one on the film and the other on the novel) and Paper 3 is an oral test, consisting of a discussion of a research project and another topic.

Assistants

Sixth Form students will be expected to attend weekly timetabled oral practice sessions in small groups or individually with the Spanish Assistant.

Will I enjoy A Level Spanish?

- Are you interested in learning more about the Hispanic culture?
- Do you like discussing current affairs?
- Are you considering a career related to languages or working abroad?
- Are you doing well in Spanish at the moment?
- Do you want to do a subject which can be combined with many other disciplines at degree level?
- Do you relish a challenge?

If your answer to all or most of the above questions is ‘yes’ then Spanish could well be a good choice for you!

