

Studying Spanish

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. At SGS, we offer Spanish as an accelerated GCSE course which builds on the Third Year Beginners' course. Due to the intensive nature of the course, it is aimed at pupils who have shown an aptitude for, and proven ability in, languages.

In the Fourth and Fifth Year, pupils follow a course of study combining a grammatically structured approach with the development of practical language skills, as a preparation for further study or for work or travel in Hispanic countries. Throughout the course, the language used and tasks required of pupils reflect real situations which a young person might experience when in contact with native speakers.

Pupils are prepared for the AQA GCSE examination. There are three main themes:

- Identity and Culture
- Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest
- Current and Future Study and Employment

The examination is taken at the end of Fifth Year and there are four papers.

There is no coursework.

- **Paper 1** – Listening (25%)
Candidates will hear recordings of native speakers and answer either with a non-verbal response or a short phrase / sentence in Spanish or English.
- **Paper 2** – Reading (25%)
Candidates respond to questions relating to Spanish passages of varying lengths. Questions are answered in English, Spanish or non-verbally. There is also a short translation from Spanish into English.
- **Paper 3** - Speaking (25%)
This lasts for 12 minutes and takes place in the April of Fifth Year. It is conducted, recorded and marked by the pupil's teacher. There are 3 sections: role-play, photo card and general conversation.
- **Paper 4** – Writing (25%)
There are two short essays (90 words and 150 words), as well as a short translation into Spanish.

Pupils choosing to study Spanish may take part in the Middle School trip to Madrid, during which they have the opportunity to experience typical Spanish culture along with visits to some of the city's main tourist spots.

At GCSE, pupils are taught in smaller groups and usually keep the same teacher for both years. The course book is AQA GCSE Spanish (Higher), which provides a lively balanced approach to language learning, including pair and group work, plus varied listening, reading and written tasks. Teaching is also heavily supplemented by other materials created by teachers. All pupils continue to have regular access to the language laboratories and, in both years, have the opportunity to work with the Language Assistant for at least one lesson per week.

For further information, please speak to Mrs Psaila-Harris or visit www.aqa.org.uk

