

Spanish A Level

Examination Board:

AQA

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 or above in Spanish

Potential Career Opportunities:

This course helps develop your communication skills in the language and will help you become a confident speaker with an in-depth knowledge of Spanish culture. The Russell Group of Universities names Spanish among its list of 'facilitating subjects'. Language learning is indistinguishably linked with History, Culture, Business and Economics. There are well attested advantages of speaking more than one language. Linguists are in increased demand in many sectors of industry.

You may consider a degree purely in Languages / Linguistics / European Studies, leading to a wide variety of careers including, but not limited to, Translation, Interpreting, Teaching, Publishing, Journalism and Marketing. A language can also be combined with most subjects at higher education level, for example Law, International Relations, Politics, Media, Business or Sciences. Awareness of a foreign language is also an asset when applying for apprenticeships. Jobs where this is particularly useful are Cabin Crew, Travel Services, Customer Service and Relations, Events Assistants and Public Services.

Course Overview:

Topic 1 Social Issues and Trends

An in-depth study of the main factors affecting society in a Spanish-speaking country including: modern and traditional values, cyberspace, equal rights, immigration, racism, and integration.

Topic 2 Political and Artistic Culture

This unit covers both the vibrant cultural life of at least one Spanish-speaking country as well as its political landscape including: modern day idols, Spanish regional identity, cultural heritage or cultural landscape, today's youth and tomorrow's citizens, monarchies, republics and dictatorships, and popular movements.

Topic 3 Grammar

The A Level course puts a particular emphasis on learning grammar and grammar-specific questions will appear in the final examinations. The aim is to give you the confidence to use Spanish accurately in your spoken and written work.

Topic 4 Literature and Film

You will conduct an in-depth study of one piece of literature such as Isabel Allende's *La casa de los espíritus* or Zafón's *La sombra del viento*. In addition, you will also look at a specific film. Possible titles include *Volver* or *El laberinto del fauno*.

Topic 5 Individual Research Project

You must 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. You must select relevant information in Spanish from a range of sources including the internet. The aim of the research project is to develop research skills.

Assessment:

Unit	Length	% of A Level
Listening, Reading and Writing	2 hr 30	40%
Writing	2 hr	30%
Speaking	20 mins	30%

Why would this course suit me?

This course is an invaluable springboard for anyone considering working and living abroad and can open doors to international business and communications careers. Good linguists are risk takers and naturally inquisitive. At this level you need to be rigorous in your learning and very accurate in your application of knowledge.

How does this course link to other subjects?

If it is your intention to pursue languages as a career, it would be wise to consider studying Spanish with other languages at A Level. Given its cultural history, Spanish also goes well with subjects such as Philosophy, Music and Theatre, and most arts-based study areas. Psychology and History are also subjects you could consider pairing with Spanish. There is also a demand for Spanish in Science and the development of new technologies. If you want to pursue a career in Engineering, a lot of companies require their employees to be mobile.