

A Level Spanish

Examination Board: AQA

Specification Code: 7692 – A Level

Why Spanish?

Medic in Buenos Aires? Solicitor in Madrid? Architect in Quito?

If you speak Spanish, you can communicate with almost 500 million people worldwide! Spanish is the second most used language in international communication, and an official language of the UN and its organisations. Not only is it widely spoken in Latin America, it is also the second language in the USA. An advanced knowledge of Spanish provides extensive opportunities for both world travel and future career development in such areas as diverse as engineering and law, finance and fashion, tourism and business, development work and conservation, medicine and translation/interpretation. Employers love potential employees who have more than just a smattering of a world-wide language – 80% of internet content is not in English!

Entry Requirements

QEHS standard entry requirements will apply and in addition, students will be expected to have a grade 6 or above in GCSE Spanish. However, a 7 grade or better makes for an easier transition from GCSE to A Level. Students will be expected to have a solid comprehension of grammar from Key Stage 4.

Course Content

Speaking (30%)

You will perform one role-play on a theme covered during the course (see below), and you will discuss a topic of your choice relating to Hispanic society with the examiner, which you will research in advance.

Listening, Reading and Writing (50%)

You will complete listening and reading tasks with some non-verbal and some Spanish responses to spoken/written passages including factual and abstract content with questions targeting the main points. Topics covered will include social issues and trends, political and artistic culture, multiculturalism in Hispanic society and aspects of technology. You will complete translation activities into both English and Spanish, practising the grammar skills you will have acquired during the course.

Essay Writing (20%)

You will write two extended critical and analytical essays on cultural topics, one film and one literary text, that you will have studied as part of your course.

How does learning differ from Pre-16 study?

Following the government's recent changes to A Levels, 2018 will be the third year of the new 2-year course leading to an A Level qualification. There will still be an AS Level in Spanish but this will be examined as a separate entity and results will not contribute to the full A Level.

In A Level Spanish we build on the key GCSE skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing and help you develop the language and intellectual skills you require to tackle real issues. You will use a wealth of real life resources from all parts of the Hispanic world. We want you to expand your vocabulary and comprehension further to give you the skills to converse more naturally in Spanish. We encourage you to listen to or read items of personal interest on the Internet in Spanish and you will have a study slot each week with a native speaker to help your skills and confidence grow.

Prospects

The prospects for students of Spanish at A Level and beyond are excellent, and are improving all the time. Spanish not only provides access to language-based university courses and careers, but also opens up opportunities for you to study and visit other countries and pursue your career choice there later. The openings for gap year travel in Spain and Latin America are many and varied, from a year in Spain on an ERASMUS exchange to working as a volunteer in Latin American countries. They often lead to future career choices and promote personal development, and are always favourable on university applications, complementing science and medicine applications, and you can go to work as part of "Medicos sin Fronteras" as everything from a logistics coordinator/administrator to nutritionist, doctor or expert in International Human Rights Law, as Spanish is an official UN language.

Contacts

Please contact Mrs K. Howard, Head of Spanish, if you wish to discuss this qualification further.