

SPANISH

'A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE IS A DIFFERENT VISION OF LIFE'

WHAT IS THE COURSE ABOUT?

This course focuses on a range of topic areas that allow students to develop their understanding of written and spoken Spanish. The course helps students develop an insight into another culture and provides a basis for further study. It encourages enjoyment of language learning and the recognition that language skills enable students to take their place in a multi-lingual global society.

Studying languages can be a fantastic way to gain confidence, discover new cultures and add value to a CV.



SUBJECT CONTENT

In GCSE languages, we study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment



Although the GCSE content will officially be covered over 2 years, students will have already been exposed to the topic areas over their previous 3 years of study. We will ensure that students have the fundamental skills to access the full curriculum which comprises of 8 key modules. The skills developed range from comprehension through to skills studied in English such as inference. Once they have mastered the key concepts of languages study, students will then delve into the complexities of language learning through different topic areas. They will develop their knowledge and understanding of new vocabulary and grammatical terms.

WHAT SKILLS ARE REQUIRED?

Courses based on this specification should enable students to:

- Develop their ability to communicate confidently and coherently with native speakers in speech and writing, conveying what they want to say with increasing accuracy.
- Express and develop thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently.
- Listen to and understand clearly articulated, standard speech at near normal speed.
- Deepen their knowledge about how language works and enrich their vocabulary to increase their independent use and understanding of extended language in a range of contexts.
- Acquire new knowledge, skills and ways of thinking through the ability to understand and respond to authentic spoken and written material, adapted and abridged, as appropriate, including literary texts.
- Develop awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where Spanish is spoken.
- Make appropriate links to other areas of the curriculum to enable bilingual and deeper learning, where the language may become a medium for constructing and applying knowledge.
- Develop language learning skills both for immediate use and prepare them for further language study in school, higher education or employment.
- Develop language strategies, including repair strategies.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are 4 assessments the students will sit in their final year, Listening, Speaking, Reading & Writing.

Paper 1: Listening

- Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language
- Written exam: 35 minutes (F), 45 minutes (H), 40 marks (F), 50 marks (H)

Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English

Section B – questions in Spanish, to be answered in Spanish or non-verbally

Paper 2: Speaking

- Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes
- Oral assessment: 7-9 minutes (F Tier) + prep time, 10-12 minutes (H Tier) + prep time 60 marks (for each of F Tier and H Tier)
- Role-play – 15 marks (2 minutes at F Tier; 2 minutes at H Tier)
- Photo card – 15 marks (2 minutes at F Tier; 3 minutes at H Tier)
- General conversation – 30 marks (3-5 minutes at F Tier; 5-7 minutes at H Tier)

Paper 3: Reading

- Understanding and responding to different types of written language
- Written exam: 45 minutes (F Tier), 1 hour (H Tier) 60 marks (for each of F Tier and H Tier)
- Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English
- Section B – questions in Spanish, to be answered in Spanish
- Section C – translation from Spanish into English (a min of 35 words at F Tier and 50 words at H Tier)

Paper 4: Writing

- Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes
- Written exam: 1 hour (F Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (H Tier) 50 marks at F Tier and 60 marks at H Tier
- Foundation Tier
 - Q 1 – message (produces 4 sentences in response to a photo) – 8 marks
 - Q 2 – short passage (student writes a piece of continuous text in response to four bullet points, approx. 40 words) – 16 marks
 - Q 3 – translation from English into Spanish (min. 35 words) – 10 marks
 - Q 4 – structured writing task (student responds to 4 compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approx. 90 words) – choice from two questions – 16 marks
- Higher Tier
 - Q 1 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approx. 90 words) – there is a choice from 2 questions – 16 marks
 - Q2 – open-ended writing task (student responds to two compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 150 words) – there is a choice from two questions – 32 marks
 - Q3 – translation from English into Spanish (minimum 50 words) – 12 marks



STUDYING SPANISH MAY LEAD TO:

There are numerous employment prospects open to languages students, and popular choices include:



- Teaching (either the foreign language or teaching English as a Foreign Language)
- Translation and Interpreting
- Working in International Organisations
- Armed Forces

There are also opportunities in all other fields of work including in the fields of journalism, creative arts and law.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Within our current climate, having a languages GCSE has never been more vital for young people in the UK and provides students with many skills that they can apply to other subjects and aspects of their future careers. Languages are actively sought in the world of work with many employers stating that speakers of another language are some of the most employable people.

