Spanish

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where Spanish is spoken, and their language skills. They will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in Spanish.

Course Structure & Content

The approach is a focus on how Spanish-speaking society has been shaped socially and culturally and how it continues to change. In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of Spanish-speaking countries. In the second year further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on matters associated with multiculturalism. Students also study aspects of the political landscape including the future of political life in the Hispanic world by focusing on young people and their political engagement.

The choice of works (literary texts and films) offers opportunities to link with the themes so that, for example, the play La casa de Bernarda Alba could be linked to the sub-theme modern and traditional values while the film Volver could be connected to the sub-theme Equal rights.

Assessment

Paper 1 - Listening Reading Translation
Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes • 160 marks in total • 40% of A Level
All questions are in Spanish
Paper 2 - One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
Written exam: 2 hours • 90 marks in total • 30% of A Level
Two 300 word essays chosen from two questions on either one book and one film or two books
Paper 3 - Individual research project on one of the sub-themes
Oral exam: 21 23 minutes (including 5 mins preparation time) • 60 marks in total • 30% of A Level
5-6 minute discussion based on stimulus card of a sub-theme (25 marks)
2 minute presentation on individual project followed by 9-10 minute discussion (35 marks)

Entry Requirements

Students would be expected to achieve a minimum grade 6 at GCSE to proceed to studies at A Level. However, students who have shown a similar level of academic ability in other subjects but do not have a particular languages qualification will also be considered if they already have some expertise in the language as a result of home circumstances where, for example, a parent is a native speaker and the language is spoken at home.

Possible Learning Pathways

Students who are able to converse in a foreign language are very much in demand on the job market. There are many opportunities available in the world of work which may be directly or indirectly related to the study of a language. The skills acquired by those who study languages – communication, problem solving, critical thinking, human relations- can be applied to a number of careers such as accountancy, public relations, journalism, advertising, international marketing, teaching and administration.