

GCSE Spanish

Why study Spanish?

Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the world. More people speak Spanish as their first language than speak English. It is spoken in over 40 countries worldwide and in the USA nearly 15% of the population speak Spanish as their first language. Spain itself is also historically one of the most important countries in Europe, and its language, culture and society has influenced the development of other societies around the world. Latin America is now emerging as one of the global markets of the 21st century.

Learning a language develops your communication skills—vital for success in the world of work—and gives you a broader outlook on life. Having a GCSE in a language is also increasingly seen as an important entry qualification for university.

What will you be learning?

Building on the language skills from KS3, you will develop the level of your language and become a more confident speaker and language user. You will also learn much more about the culture and history of Spain and Latin America.

Assessment

Speaking (25%) is examined by a Speaking test (10-15mins) at the end of the course. The test is a little like the tests you have been doing in Year 9, with a role-play and conversation. The test will cover a number of the different topics you have been learning over the two years. It is done with your teacher and is marked by the exam board.

Writing (25%) is examined in a Writing exam. You will write 2 pieces of writing based on the topics you have been learning, and there will also be a translation from English to Spanish. It is marked by the exam board.

Listening (25%) is examined by a Listening exam paper. The test lasts about 40-50 minutes depending on tier of entry. It is a mixture of multi-choice and short answer questions.

Reading (25%) is examined by a Reading exam paper. The test lasts about 40-50 minutes depending on tier of entry. It is a mixture of multi-choice and short answer questions, and there will also be a translation from Spanish to English.

What are lessons like?

Regular class activities include:-

- working with a partner or in a small group on speaking tasks.
- listening to a range of Spanish, for both gist and detail.
- reading a range of different types of texts.
- developing your confidence with the language through grammar practice and translation work
- building your spoken confidence by speaking regularly in Spanish

- discovering more about Spanish-speaking people, how they live and about their interests and concerns.
- learning about Spanish literature through reading extracts of books, poems and plays
- practising expressing your own ideas and opinions using Spanish.

What can it lead to?

A GCSE in Spanish is vital if you want to go on and study Spanish in 6th Form, but it is much more than just a qualification. It could be the start of a life of travel and exploration or an advantage in the world of work

Want to know more?

Speak to your languages teacher or Mrs Armitstead.