

Spanish A-level

Exam board: AQA

Where do I start?

You must meet the minimum entry requirements of Wootton Park VI. For this subject you must have obtained at least **Grade 7 at GCSE Spanish**.

Spanish – about the subject:

Spanish is currently the third mostly widely spoken language in the world, behind Mandarin Chinese and English, with 483 million native speakers.

It is one of the ‘Romance’ family of languages and is spoken in large parts of South America, is the second language (by an enormous margin) in The United States and originates from Spain, in mainland Europe. It is spoken in parts of the Caribbean, Mediterranean islands and coastal areas of Northern and Western Africa.

The study of Spanish at A-level encompasses the language, history, geography, culture and literature of Spain and the Spanish-speaking world. We look at literature, film, theatre, art and architecture, as well as exploring the history, geography and socio-economic/socio-political of countries where Spanish is the native language.

Learners will take Speaking, Writing, Listening and Reading exams – which are a step up from GCSE. We look at a range of contemporary topic areas, including the role of women; immigration, integration and racism; the cultural heritage of the Spanish speaking world, alongside other topics. Learners also complete an independent research project, which forms the basis of a section of their speaking examination.

We study a film, which can vary each year but is currently either ‘El Laberinto del Fauno’ or ‘Volver’. We look at direction, the script, effects and the cultural importance of the film. We also look at a piece of Spanish literature. We currently intend to look at the seminal work by Lorca ‘La casa de Bernarda Alba’. We examine themes, the stylistic and technical linguistic features used by the author, and the way in which the work both comments on, and reflects the society of its era.



Why study Spanish?

If you are an enthusiastic learner with an interest in how languages work, and the study of other cultures, studying Spanish can offer you an interesting and challenging course of further study – which really explores a huge range of cultural topics.

Learners study Spanish because they want to:

- Consider working and/or studying abroad in the future
- Explore the world, different cultures and takes on modern life
- Investigate international trade, business, politics and law
- Expand their horizons and be able to communicate with people in their own language, or expand their communication abilities into the second most widely studied language in the world – Spanish has the most second language speakers after English.

What type of learner chooses Spanish?

Learners who choose to study one, or more language at A-level, need to be self-motivated, independent learners who like to work with a high level of accuracy. They must be analytical and determined to succeed in all areas of language learning.

A-level languages courses link well to a number of other subject areas and can be considered alongside other languages, with arts and creative subjects, or as an additional tool to those studying for Medicine, Law or Economics. Studying Languages A-level requires an inquiring mind, and a mature outlook, as topics covered can be complex and advanced in nature – including the role of women in society; political systems and the move from dictatorship to democracy; abortion, euthanasia, the role of the church, abuse in society; what constitutes culture...

What are the career/higher education prospects?

Spanish combines well with almost any other subject at A-level and can lead to careers in:

The Diplomatic Service, The Armed Forces, Translation & Interpreting, International Law Retail Buying & Fashion, Marketing, International Medicine, Politics, International Journalism, Language Teaching & Academia, Travel & Tourism...

What co-curricular opportunities are there within this subject?

Spanish offers many opportunities for learning outside the classroom and, subject to suitable numbers and interest, there should be opportunities for trips and visits, including trips abroad to immerse learners in the language they are studying. We will also arrange film showings, theatre visits, cooking and food-tasting opportunities alongside the chance to read, research and investigate topics independently. Learners are encouraged to read Spanish newspapers, watch Spanish TV, access Spanish radio and will have one 1-2-1 or small group speaking session per week with a native speaker. Learners will be encouraged to use Spanish as a means of communication with their languages teachers and other learners in the class groups, and to prepare and engage in debates on a range of complex topics.

ASSESSMENT: The A-level will be assessed in the following way:

A-level Examinations

Paper 1 – Listening, Reading & Writing	Paper 2 – Written Exam	Paper 3 - Speaking
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2 hours 30 minutes	2 hours	23 minutes
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100 marks (50%)	80 marks (20%)	60 marks (30%)
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All examinations are in the second year of the course.

We will follow the AQA 7692 Specification –

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/spanish-7692/specification-at-a-glance>