

A Level Spanish Transition Booklet



This pack contains information about **A Level Spanish** and a programme of activities and resources to help you get ready to start your course in September. Please use this during the summer term and the summer holidays to prepare in advance.

Please note the compulsory summer work which starts on page 3

About the course: The specification we teach is produced by AQA. The unit code is 7692 (A level) and a full copy of this specification and other useful information is available at:

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

The course:

The course is a two year course, examined at the end of the second year.

You will study the following content:

- Theme 1: Aspects of Hispanic society
- Theme 2: Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
- Theme 3: Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Theme 4: Aspects of political life in Hispanic society
- At least one piece of Spanish or Hispanic literature
- At least one Spanish or Hispanic film
- An individual research project (IRP) – topic of your choice

Examination:

The examination is entirely exam based and no coursework will be completed. Component breakdowns are briefly outlined below with more information on the specification link.

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|--|------------|
| 1. Paper 1 – Listening, Reading & Writing (2h30m) | 50% |
| <i>Topic based content on the four themes</i> | |
| 2. Paper 2 – Writing (2h00m) | 20% |
| <i>Set text and Set film – essay based</i> | |
| 3. Paper 3 – Speaking (21-23 minutes + 5 minutes preparation) | 30% |
| <i>A presentation of the Individual Research Project (IRP), A discussion of one of the four themes prompted by a stimulus card. The speaking exam is usually conducted by a visiting examiner.</i> | |



Compulsory Summer Work

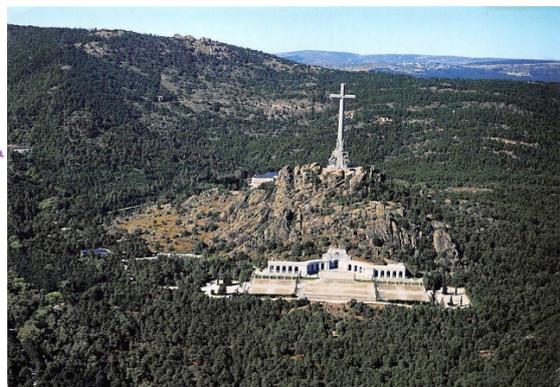
Task 1: The Culture & History of Spain – Independent Research Task

Research the following areas;

1. Create a fact file on Spain with a timeline of key Spanish historical dates, key figures and information about them, regional culture and traditions.
2. Ensure that you include at least some information on:
 - Autonomous Regions – languages, gastronomy, geography etc.
 - Culturally Important Sites and Monuments
 - Famous Spanish People – writers, artists, architects etc.
 - Festivals & traditions
 - Key Historical Periods: Al Andalus, The Catholic Monarchs, The Civil War, Dictatorship, The Return to Democracy
 - Any other key information/facts/figures or aspects which interest you
 - Any controversies linked to the things you find out

This should be significant piece of research and lead to a project/booklet/presentation. Information can be presented in a mix of English and Spanish.

Completing this should help you build your background knowledge of Spain and Spanish culture.



Task 2: News and current affairs – Comprehension and summary task

1. Find a news story that you find interesting that is reported in the Spanish press. Look up articles on this story on at least two different news sites (El Mundo, RTVE, El País, ABC...). Print copies of these for your folders and to bring.
2. Create a short summary of the main issues and any interesting/new vocabulary. Compare and contrast (in English) any similarities or differences in the way the story is presented in different news sources.

This should help you get used to reading different sources of authentic Spanish and help you to start building your vocabulary up independently. You will also hopefully see the different styles of reporting across the Spanish press.



Task 3: Grammar Development

Complete the Spanish Grammar workbook that you were given in the transition session. This is a recap of all the GCSE grammar that you should know before embarking on the A Level Spanish course. Your teachers will expect to see this in September to be marked and this will give an indication of the Grammar points we need to be working on in the A level course. You can also practise using the following websites.

www.conjuguemos.com

www.studyspanish.com

www.languagesonline.org

www.todo-claro.com

(and/or any other site that you prefer)

Grammar points you should be familiar with include:

- Present tense regular verbs
- Present tense irregulars (SER, ESTAR, TENER...)
- Preterite Tense (Simple Past)

- Imperfect Tense
- Compound (Near) Future Tense
- Simple Future
- Conditional
- Radical (Stem) Changing Verbs
- Reflexive Verbs
- Present and imperfect continuous
- Perfect Tense
- Use of *por/para*
- Use of *ser/estar*
- Use of the article (the/a/some)



FINAL TASK

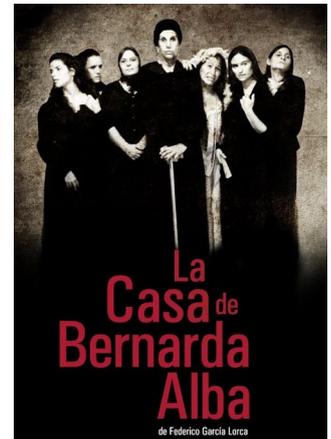
This task is voluntary, but highly recommended.

1. Choose a film or book in Spanish and read/watch it.
2. Produce a summary/synopsis of around 50-100 words.
3. Produce a 100-300 word review in Spanish.

Suggestions from the specification (we study one film and one book in detail) are below:

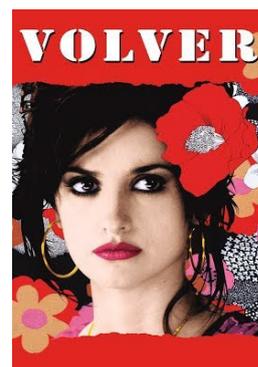
TEXTS

- Federico García Lorca *La casa de Bernarda Alba*
- Gabriel García Márquez *Crónica de una muerte anunciada*
- Laura Esquivel *Como agua para chocolate*
- Ramón J. Sender *Réquiem por un campesino español*
- Carlos Ruiz Zafón *La sombra del viento*
- Isabel Allende *La casa de los espíritus*
- Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer *Rimas*
- Fernando Fernán-Gómez *Las bicicletas son para el verano*
- Luis de Castresana *El otro árbol de Guernica*
- Gabriel García Márquez *El coronel no tiene quien le escribe*



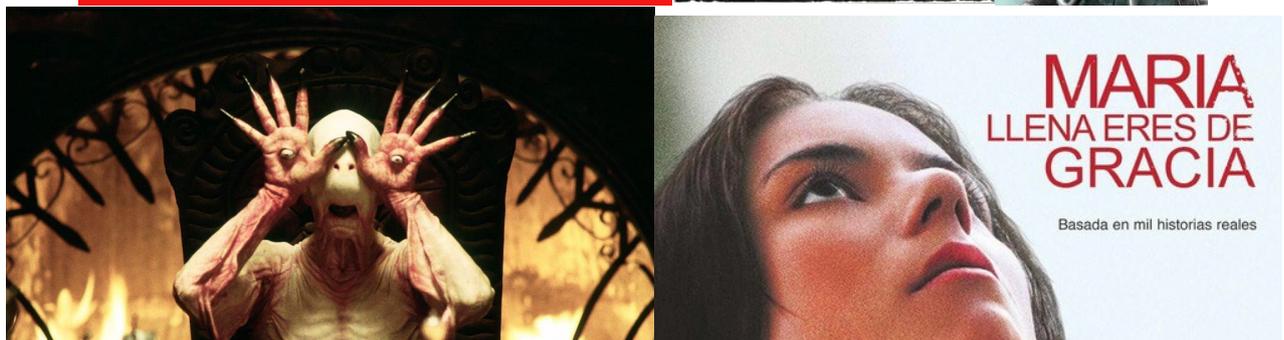
FILMS

- *El laberinto del fauno* Guillermo del Toro (2006)
- *Ocho apellidos vascos* Emilio Martínez-Lázaro (2014)
- *María, llena eres de gracia* Joshua Marston (2004)
- *Volver* Pedro Almodóvar (2006)
- *Abel* Diego Luna (2010)
- *Las 13 rosas* Emilio Martínez-Lázaro (2007)



n/b The works we will study in detail are likely to be 'La Casa de Bernada Alba' and 'Volver'. However, we can adapt to suit the group if there are strong preferences for other books/films. We will also use other pieces of literature and other films throughout the course to teach sections of content.

You don't have to select one of the works above for this task – and can use any Spanish/Latin American film or book/play/poem.



Suggested Reading List

Below are the ISBN and details of the Spanish A Level textbooks. The key texts will be provided for your use but you may wish to have your own copy, as we would not permit annotations. If you would like any advice on this before purchasing any books please speak to one of the Spanish teachers.

Publisher	Link
Oxford University Press	<p><u>Year 1</u>: AQA Spanish A Level Year 1 & AS – Bond, Kendrick & Yedra (2016) ISBN: 0198366906</p> <p><u>Year 2</u>: AQA Spanish A Level Year 2 – Bond, Kendrick & Yedra (2017) ISBN: 0198366876</p>
Hodder	<p><u>2 Year</u>: AQA A Level Spanish (Includes AS) – Weston, Garcia Sanchez & Thacker (2016) ISBN: 9781471858093</p>
Revision guides/ workbooks	<p><u>OUP</u>: A level Grammar & Translation workbook – Everett (2017) 0198415559</p> <p><u>Hodder</u>: Palabra por palabra – Spanish A level Vocabulary, - Turk & Thacker (2018) ISBN: 1510434828</p>
Set text - Literature	<p>La Casa de Bernada Alba – Garcia Lorca (Parallel Text Version) ISBN: 9780713686777</p> <p><u>Hodder Study Guide</u>: Modern Languages Study Guides: La Casa de Bernada Alba – Bianchi (2017) ISBN: 1471891968</p> <p><u>OUP Study Guide</u>: Oxford Literature Companions La Casa de Bernada Alba – Bond & Moya Morallon (2018) ISBN: 0008241341</p>
Set text - film	<p><u>Film</u>: Volver (Pedro Almodovar) – [Rated 12]</p>

	<p><u>Hodder Study Guide:</u> Modern Languages Study Guides: Volver ISBN: 147189178X</p>
Reference	<p>We do advise that students have access to a good quality bilingual dictionary. Collins/Oxford or similar.</p> <p>And a monolingual dictionary (Spanish with Spanish definitions).</p> <p>They may also find a Spanish reference grammar useful: e.g. Complete Spanish Grammar – Nissenberg (2020) ISBN: 126046315X</p>

Newspapers and magazines are a good way of keeping up to and extending your Spanish knowledge. You have to have up to date news and cultural references in the speaking exam as well. Examples of newspapers with online access include:

- El Mundo - <https://www.elmundo.es/>
- El Pais - <https://elpais.com/>
- ABC - <https://www.abc.es/>

It is useful to read the news online, access blogs and podcasts and also listen to news, music and popular shows. You can use the following examples of radio which can be accessed online:

- RTVE (Spanish equivalent to BBC) - <https://www.rtve.es/>
- Canal Sur - <https://www.canalsur.es/portada-2808.html>
- La Sexta - <https://www.lasexta.com/>
- Cadena Ser - <https://cadenaser.com/>
- COPE - <https://www.cope.es/>
- Cadena Dial - <https://play.cadenadial.com/>

Lighter examples of news and listening activities for learning Spanish include:

- Euronews – www.euronews.es
- News in slow Spanish - <https://www.newsinslowspanish.com/>
- Lyrics training - <https://lyricstraining.com>
- Youtube (search the song title and 'letra' for lyric videos)



Further resources:

We would further advise reading, watching and listening to as much Spanish as you can in many forms.

You could choose to try reading or watching a familiar story in Spanish – such as Disney films, fairytales, Harry Potter, The Chronicles of Narnia or similar. Many books are available in translation that can help you to understand and advance your own knowledge as you will understand even complex vocab from the context you already know. You can also get short stories in Spanish and parallel texts.

Podcasts and Youtube channels can be very useful sources of listening material, as can Spanish series on Amazon, Netflix etc.

Examples of useful Youtube channels/podcasts:

Tu escuela de español - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTyCyyV0eKfEoMWI_V11z6A

Easy Spanish - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAL4AMMMXKxHDu3FqZV6CbQ>

Examples of bilingual/translated books:

- Harry Potter y la piedra filosofal (JK Rowling)
- La materia oscura (Phillip Pullman)
- El curioso incidente del perro a medianoche (Mark Haddon)
- El leon, la bruja y el ropero (CS Lewis)
- Short Spanish Stories for Beginners
- Penguin Parallel Texts

Expectations and Workload

We are very pleased to have you with us next year studying Spanish. You can expect varied, interesting lessons, delivered by experienced specialists including a native speaker. You will be well prepared for the examinations and receive lots of 1-2-1 support and feedback. In return we expect you to arrive promptly and properly equipped to all lessons. Please ensure you have a lever-arch file, dividers and plastic pockets, and that you set your file up carefully in advance – you will be given advice on how to do this.

Learning and consolidation at home is key to success, as is the willingness to have a go and really use your Spanish. You will also be expected to use your private study time in an organised and effective way to supplement and reinforce what you have learnt in class, including attending small group sessions/speaking practice. **Simply turning up to most of the lessons will not be enough to secure your target grade.** The work you do outside of your lessons will have a very significant impact on your results. Above all else, we expect you to display *enthusiasm* and *passion* for Spanish, Spain and wider Hispanic culture. We want you to enjoy your learning and see the subject open doors for you!