

World class thinking. World class achieving.

St Mary's College

SPANISH A LEVEL Pre-course reading and guidance



Why choose A level in Spanish?



A Level Spanish is a challenging but rewarding course to choose, and one that will provide intellectual stimulus alongside opportunities to develop, both personally and linguistically, during your continued education at St Mary's College. Choosing A level allows you to move towards fluency in the language, at the same time as broadening your knowledge of Hispanic countries and culture. You will study a range of topics such as art, heritage, cinema, politics, immigration, making the course engaging and diverse.

Spanish is spoken widely across the world; it is the official language of 20 countries and of course, it is the fastest growing language in the USA. The opportunity for future travel and employment are also something to consider.

You will find the course enriching and gain real satisfaction from being able to truly express yourself in Spanish with increasing fluency as you move through your studies.

EXAM SPECIFICATION LINKS

We use the exam board AQA and the full specification for A level, along with resources can be found using the link below:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/spanish/specifications/AQA-7692-SP-2016.PDF>



COURSE STRUCTURE

- This is a 2 year course which will be assessed via **3 exams** at the end of Year 13, details of which can be found later on in this presentation.
- In **Year 12** you will cover **6 topic areas** and the in-depth **study of a film.**
- In **Year 13** you will do a **further 6 topics**, as well as learning how to read and **analyse a novel in Spanish.**
- The exams will assess your knowledge and skills in all 12 of the topic areas studied during Year 12 and 13, and you also write an essay on the film and book.
- For the speaking exam you are also required to complete an independent research topic with a Hispanic theme and present it in the exam.
- At the end of the course you will be awarded an A level graded from A*-E.

PAPER 1

Duration: 2 hours
30 minutes

Marks: 100

Percentage of
total A level: 50%

Paper 1:

This is a combined listening, reading and translation exam in which you will be tested on all 12 of the A level topics from the 2 year course.

Questions 1-4: listening section

Questions 5-8: reading section

Question 9: translation from English to Spanish

Question 10: translation from Spanish to English.

PAPER 2

Duration: 2 hours

Marks: 80 (40 for each of the 2 essays)

Percentage of total A level: 20%

Paper 2:

In this exam you have to write 2 essays; one on the book you have studied and one on the film.

PAPER 3

Duration: 5 minutes preparation time, 16-18 minutes exam approx.

Marks: 60

Percentage of total A level: 30%

Paper 3:

This is the speaking exam. There are 2 sections to complete.

Section 1: you are given 5 minutes to prepare a stimulus card on one of the Year 12 or 13 topics. You will then be required to discuss this topic for 5 minutes with the examiner.

Section 2: in this part of the exam, you have to present a project that you will have spent time researching and preparing beforehand. You choose the title of this research project, the only stipulation being that it must be linked to the culture or society of a Hispanic country.

For more information about The Independent Research Project, follow the link:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/languages/AQA-MFL-ALEVEL-TG-IRP.PDF>

Breakdown of Year 12 topics



Useful pre-reading and links:

Topic 1: Los valores tradicionales y modernos (Family in Hispanic society)

- Vocabulary: <https://quizlet.com/263209002/aqa-a-level-spanish-vocabulary-a1-los-valores-tradicionales-y-modernos-flash-cards/>
- Statistics on families in Spain: https://www.ine.es/en/prensa/ech_2017_en.pdf

Topic 2: El ciberespacio (Technology in Spanish society)

- Vocabulary: <https://quizlet.com/396535459/el-ciberespacio-aqa-a-level-spanish-vocabulary-flash-cards/>
- Statistics on internet use in Spain: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/567015/predicted-number-of-internet-users-in-spain/>

Topic 3: La igualdad de los sexos (Gender rights and equality in Hispanic society)

- Vocabulary: <https://quizlet.com/gb/315577226/spanish-a-level-aqa-vocab-31-la-igualdad-de-los-sexos-flash-cards/>
- Gender equality organisations and campaign groups in Spain: <https://lgbtinspain.weebly.com/lgbt-organizations.html>

Breakdown of Year 12 topics



Useful pre-reading and links:

Topic 4: La influencia de los ídolos: (Celebrity culture in Hispanic society)

- Vocabulary: <https://www.memrise.com/course/1612689/aqa-a-level-spanish-includes-as-vocabulary/12/>
- Celebrity and charities: <https://fundacionpiesdescalzos.com/en/>

Topic 5: La identidad regional en España (Study of the regional differences in Spain)

- Vocabulary: <https://quizlet.com/gb/297055302/aqa-a-level-spanish-year-1-la-identidad-regional-en-espana-flash-cards/>
- Autonomous regions information: https://www.spain.info/en_GB/consultas/ciudades-y-pueblos/comunidades-autonomas.html

Topic 6: El patrimonio cultural (Study of pre-Hispanic society)

- Vocabulary: <https://quizlet.com/gb/242961522/aqa-spanish-a-level-year-1-el-patrimonio-cultural-flash-cards/>
- South America pre-Columbus: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Latin-America>

GRAMMAR CHECKLIST

The more aspects of this grammar list you can feel secure in applying the rules before A level, the better!

A really good website for learning about Spanish grammar is:

www.Spanishdict.com

- › Gender of nouns
- › Definite and indefinite articles
- › Adjectival agreements and position
- › Pronouns: subject, object, disjunctive, demonstrative, possessive and relative pronouns
- › Present tense
- › Perfect tense
- › Imperfect tense
- › Future and conditional tense
- › Pluperfect/future perfect and conditional perfect tenses
- › The subjunctive mood
- › The passive voice
- › The gerund (sometimes called present participles)
- › Negatives
- › Prepositions

THE FILM

‘El Laberinto del fauno’

Director:
Guillermo de Toro

Set against the appalling horrors of the Spanish Civil War, Ofelia the main character escapes reality via a fantasy world she creates in this fairy tale for adults. Cinematographically beautiful with a heart-breaking storyline, it is no wonder that this film was awarded Best Original Screenplay and Best Foreign Film by BAFTA and won a host of Oscars too. It is a dark, disturbing and moving film which you will enjoy getting to know.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Evmr2ZCjWc>

THE BOOK

'Como agua
para chocolate'

By Laura Esquivel

This book is set during the Mexican Revolution and follows the story of Tita, a repressed and obedient daughter living with a tyrannical mother, as she bids for freedom and love. You learn about Mexican morals and traditions in this novel written in the Magical Realism style.

- <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/likewater/summary/>



How A Level (language) develops your cultural knowledge and awareness

Whilst the main skill that you acquire is obviously to gain fluency in Spanish, you will study many topics within your A level course which will broaden your cultural awareness and intellect, keeping the course interesting and varied. Below are some examples of the wider knowledge you will gain and how you can find out more:

- **Art:** <https://learnodo-newtonic.com/famous-spanish-painters>
- **Gastronomy:** <http://www.across-spain.es/en/gastronomy-in-spain--4-211>
- **Music:** <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7JiTHpMvIL8vO2g5MmwjUU>
- **Films:** <https://www.espinof.com/categoria/cine-espanol>
- **Politics and current affairs:** www.bbcmundo.com
- **Geography:** <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000015641>
- **Human rights:** https://elpais.com/internacional/2018/02/21/actualidad/1519243640_296369.html

WIDER SKILLS

Through A level Spanish you will also learn how to...

- › analyse literature
- › study a film
- › debate controversial issues
- › discuss current affairs and politics
- › discuss philosophy and ethics
- › research and present a project
- › present a coherent and clear argument
- › write essays
- › improve your English

EXTRA CURRICULAR:

BOOKS, POETRY, FILMS TO WATCH

SPANISH NOVELS/PLAYS:

- › La Casa de los Espíritus (Isabel Allende)
- › El Amor en los Tiempos de Colera (Gabriel García Marquez)
- › La Sombra del Viento (Carlos Ruiz Zafón)
- › Don Quixote (Miguel de Cervantes)
- › Niebla (Miguel de Unamuno)
- › Bodas de Sangre & Yerma (Frederico García Lorca)
- › Homage to Catalonia (George Orwell)
- › As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning (Laurie Lee)
- › For Who the Bell Tolls (Ernest Hemmingway)

EXTRA CURRICULAR:

BOOKS, POETRY, FILMS TO WATCH

FILMS

- › Todo sobre mi Madre & Volver (Almodóvar)
- › Las Bicicletas son para el Verano
- › El Espíritu de la Colmena (Luis Bunuel)
- › Los Diarios Motocicleta

NEWSPAPERS:

- › El País
- › El Mundo

WEBSITES:

- › [bbcmundo](#)
- › [slownews in spanish](#)

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