

Spanish

Advanced Level

General Information

Spanish is a major world language and Spain is an important holiday destination and trading partner for us. Those who have a knowledge of this language are in great demand. Speaking, listening, reading and writing skills are developed by progression through a series of topics which explore aspects of present-day life, current events and important issues. Spanish and Latin American culture and civilisation are also studied through documentary and video material. You have one additional lesson per week with our Spanish Assistant, where you will have the opportunity to develop your spoken fluency.

Please also see our Specialist Language Centre leaflet for further details

Entry requirements

The normal minimum entry requirement is a grade 4 in Spanish at GCSE. However, a formal entry qualification is not always required:

- Those who have spent time living in Spain will be considered for direct entry to the course
- Those who have not had the opportunity to study Spanish at school, but who are good linguists, may be accepted.

You should also meet the general college entry requirements for advanced level study. Please refer to the current Prospectus - advanced programmes, entry requirements.

In this subject, particular skills and aptitudes will be required, many of which will be demonstrated by students' GCSE profiles.

Entry requirements might be changed in light of curriculum reform.



Course content

■ 1st Year

Topics include youth trends and issues, regional culture in Spain and Spanish speaking countries, education & careers, Hispanic film and music

■ 2nd Year

Topics include cultural identity and social issues, some modern Spanish history, a more in-depth look at Hispanic film and the text *Como Agua para Chocolate*. Students will also research an individual aspect of Hispanic life/culture that interests them.

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Examination details

A Level is a 2 year linear course with all assessment at the end of year 2 - it makes sense to take your exams after as much input as possible!

The four skill areas will be tested: listening, speaking, reading, writing. In the second year students will also research an individual aspect of Hispanic life/culture that interests them.

How it is taught

The course is delivered in 6 hours a week (5 hours of lessons & 1 hour conversation class). The language is taught through a wide range of interactive activities which include vocabulary building, reading authentic texts, listening to Spanish music and conversations, speaking tasks, studying video clips and independent research.

Useful / common subject combinations

Spanish goes well with any subject combination, as it is the perfect way to broaden your skills portfolio, especially if you are studying two similar subjects, such as science or maths.

These days it is useful to have a working knowledge of several languages, so combine it with French or German for maximum employability! Spanish is also a popular choice with Law, Travel & Tourism, Business and Arts subjects.

Any student contemplating applying to Oxbridge for Languages is advised to take English Literature alongside Spanish.

Careers and HE information

Modern Languages graduates have some of the lowest unemployment rates and are highly sought after by large companies. They also earn, on average, 8% more than other graduates! Our students realise this, and many continue studying a language at university - often with subjects like International Business or Law. Our students choose a wide variety of universities, but all comment on how well prepared they feel when they start their languages course. A language is needed to allow students to compete on an equal footing with our mainland European counterparts whose level of English is often as good, if not better, than our own!

A number of our students have progressed through our courses, from Beginners' Level to A Level and beyond. Some have found work in Spain or have participated in voluntary projects in Spanish-speaking countries. Others are putting their Spanish to good use in this country in business or education.

Other relevant information

Text books and on-line resources are provided. You may find it useful to have a 'good' Spanish/English dictionary and the Library has many useful resources to support your language learning, as well as an excellent collection of Spanish films.

