

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 at A-Level helps you really become an independent, confident language speaker. It is challenging, but speaking a language at this level will be a huge asset to you in whatever path you follow. Speaking another language well is exciting and will help you see the world in a new light.

What will you be learning?

A-level covers a wide range of interesting topics involving language, culture, history, art and politics. These varied topics will offer you the chance to learn more about Spain and Latin America as well as the Hispanic World's place in the modern world. To help further your understanding of Spain and the Spanish identity, we will be studying a classic modern film – *Ocho Apellidos Vascos* – in year 12 and a classic of Spanish literature – *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* - in year 13.

Alongside what you will learn about the country and the culture, we will be focusing on developing your language skills so you become a confident and competent language speaker. To help in this you will also have a half-hour spoken language session with a Spanish native speaker once a week.

Assessment:

We will be taking all of our exams at the end of the two years. These will consist of:

One Reading, Listening and Translation paper covering all of the topics from the two years.

One Written paper. You write two essays on the film and book you have studied, as well as doing some English to French translation.

One oral exam in which you discuss the topics you have been learning about, as well as your independent research which you will undertake over the course of the two years.

What are lessons like?

In lessons you will come across a wide range of activities which will test your developing language skills. You might give presentations, take part in debates and role plays as well as more complex listening and reading texts. Often you will be looking at how issues relate to society in Spain or Latin America.

In addition to lessons you will also have one half-hour of spoken Spanish class per week.

In 6th form you will be taking more initiative in organising your own studies. As well as set homework you will have self-study packs to help you with your listening and reading skills.

What can it lead to?

An A-level in Spanish is vital if you want to go on and study Spanish at university, but having an A-level in a language shows you as a competent linguist and is sought-after by employers in all spheres of work. It is more than just a qualification though, and we hope that it will be the catalyst for exploring the language, culture and history of the Spanish-speaking world.

Want to know more?

To find out more about the course and discuss your suitability please contact s.green@qes.org.uk