

QUEEN'S GATE SCHOOL
SPANISH
A-LEVEL GUIDE



WHY STUDY SPANISH A-LEVEL?

The main reason for choosing a subject should be, above all, that you want to do it, or like it, and are likely to use it or draw enjoyment from it in later life.

Spanish is one of the major romantic languages, the second most widely spoken in the world after English, rich in literature and poetry. Queen's Gate offers you the advantage of having individual attention, with plenty of oral practice and an interesting course to follow. You will enjoy reading about the history and culture of Spain and Spanish speaking countries. You will also be encouraged to do wider reading and self-learning to widen your knowledge and understanding of the language as well as the culture.

It is a good idea to spend two or three weeks in Spain or Spanish-speaking country doing a language course during the summer prior to the start of your A Level course.

At Queen's Gate we follow the Edexcel Specification for the A Level Course.



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To study Spanish at A Level, students are normally expected to achieve at least a Grade 7 or above at IGCSE Spanish. You should bring enthusiasm for the language, a willingness to be challenged, and the motivation to work hard. Independent learning is essential- for example, regularly reviewing vocabulary and grammar after lessons and seeking opportunities to practise beyond the classroom. A genuine interest in Spanish and Latin American culture and society is key, as the course explores both literature and film alongside current social and political issues. By Upper Sixth, you will also be expected to follow Spanish-language media, such as news reports and cultural programmes, to broaden your understanding and sharpen your listening skills. If you're passionate about communication, culture, and challenge, Spanish A Level will give you the confidence to thrive.

INFORMATION ABOUT EXAMINATION FORMAT AND COURSE OUTLINE:

The linear A Level course in Spanish (**Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Spanish**) consists of two externally examined papers assessing listening, reading and writing and a non-examined speaking assessment. Students complete their speaking assessment in April/May and all other assessments in May/ June in any single year.

The course is structured around four engaging Themes:

FIRST YEAR

TEMA 1: EVOLUCIÓN DE LA SOCIEDAD ESPAÑOLA. Subtemas:

- I a) **Cambios en la estructura familiar** - Evolución de las actitudes hacia el matrimonio, las relaciones y las familias.
- I b) **El mundo laboral en España** - La vida laboral en España y las actitudes hacia el trabajo; las oportunidades de trabajo para los jóvenes; la igualdad de género.
- I c) **Impacto turístico en España** (económico, social y político) - El impacto económico; las oportunidades que ofrece el turismo; el impacto socio ambiental.

TEMA 2: CULTURA POLÍTICA, INTELECTUAL Y ARTÍSTICA EN EL MUNDO HISPANOHABLANTE. Subtemas:

- 2a) **La música y la cultura contemporánea** - Los cambios y las tendencias; el impacto de la música en la cultura contemporánea.
- 2b) **Los medios de comunicación** - La televisión y las telenovelas: los medios de comunicación escritos y en internet; el impacto en la sociedad y la política.
- 2c) **Los festivales y las tradiciones** - Los festivales, las fiestas, las costumbres y las tradiciones.

SECOND YEAR

Themes 3 and 4 are set in the context of Spain only.

Theme 3: La inmigración y la sociedad multicultural española

Theme 4: La dictadura franquista y la transición a la democracia

4a) **La Guerra Civil y el ascenso de Franco, la vida cotidiana bajo el franquismo: la opresión política, la censura, las divisiones en la sociedad.**

4b) **La dictadura franquista**

4c) **El paso de la dictadura a la democracia:** El papel del Rey Juan Carlos en la transición; el Gobierno de y Suárez; el impacto de la dictadura en la sociedad actual.

These four Themes are studied alongside two works chosen from a prescribed list (**one film** in the first year, and **one literary text** in the second year) assessed through two externally examined papers and one non-exam assessment (speaking).

The course will enable the students to develop an advanced level knowledge and understanding of the Spanish language, the culture of Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries, as well as practical and valuable language and transferable study skills.

Paper I: Listening, reading and translation.

Written examination: 2 hours

40% of the qualification (80 marks)

The examination is made up of:

- Section A: Listening (30 marks)
- Section B: Reading (30 marks)
- Section C: Translation into English (20 marks)

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation.

Written examination: 2 hours and 40 minutes 30% of the qualification (120 marks)

- Section A: Translation (20 marks)
- Section B: Written response to works (literary texts) (50 marks) Students must write an extended response on either one or two of the literary texts.
 - Section C: Written response to works (films) (50 marks) Students who answer only one question from a literary text in Section B must write an extended response on one of the films listed.

Paper 3: Speaking

Total assessment time: between 21 and 23 minutes (including 5 min preparation time) 30% of the qualification (72 marks) Students need to complete two tasks:

- Task 1 (30 marks): discussion on a Theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing two different statements.
- Task 2 (42 marks). Task 2, Part 1: is an independent research presentation. Students present a summary of at least two of the written sources they have used for their research and give a personal response to what they have read. Task 2, Part 2: is a discussion on independent research. Students answer questions on their presentation and then have a wider discussion on their research.

SKILLS YOU'LL GAIN

- Confidence to speak and write fluently in Spanish.
- Ability to analyse films, texts, and real-world issues from a new perspective.
- A deeper understanding of Spanish and Latin American culture and society.
- Independent research skills through your chosen project.
- Analytical and research skills valued by universities and employers.
- Stronger communication and problem-solving skills valued by employers.
- An edge in today's job market, where language skills make you stand out.
- Greater opportunities for travel, work, and study abroad.

PATHWAYS – CAREER AND /OR FURTHER STUDY POSSIBILITIES:

- University degrees in Spanish, Modern Languages, or combined with subjects like History, Politics, Law, or Business.
- Careers in business, law, politics, international organisations, economics, marketing, education, translation, travel and tourism.
- Exciting career paths in translation, teaching, journalism, law, diplomacy, tourism, and international business.
- Opportunities to study, live, or work abroad, gaining valuable global experience.
- A strong advantage in a world where employers value language skills and cultural awareness.

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