



OXFORD
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

A Level Spanish

Sixth Form study options



A Level Spanish

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Spanish is a fantastic language to learn: it is the second most widely spoken language in the world, it is rich and subtle, and it offers a true academic challenge.

What is required?

- A general interest in and curiosity about Spanish and Spanish-speaking countries
- An enjoyment of independent reading
- An enthusiasm for speaking and writing in another language
- A very good grade at GCSE Spanish

The AQA Syllabus at A Level

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing

- Themes: grammar, aspects of Spanish-speaking society, artistic culture in the Hispanic world, multiculturalism in Hispanic society, and aspects of political life in Hispanic society (further details given opposite)
- 50% of A Level marks
- 2 hour 30 minute exam paper
- Taken in June of Year 13
- Individual student control of listening comprehensions
- Reading comprehensions
- Translation from Spanish to English, and English to Spanish

Paper 2: Writing

- 20% of A Level marks
- 2 hour exam paper
- Taken in June of Year 13
- Two literary texts, or one literary text and one film

Paper 3: Speaking

- Discussion of one of the four themes outlined for Paper 1
- Presentation and discussion of individual research project
- 30% of A Level marks
- Taken in April/May
- Conducted by class teacher, marked by AQA

AQA A Level Spanish Themes

Aspects of Hispanic society

- **Modern and traditional values** (family, marriage, divorce, the Roman Catholic Church)
- **Cyberspace** (the internet, social networking sites, smartphones)
- **Equal rights** (sexual equality in the workplace, feminism, gay and transgender rights)

Multiculturalism in Hispanic society

- **Immigration** (pros and cons)
- **Racism** (racist attitudes, xenophobia, anti-racist legislation)
- **Integration** (culture, education, religion)

Artistic culture in the Hispanic world

- **Modern-day idols** (singers and musicians, TV and film stars, models)
- **Spanish regional identity** (traditions and customs, cuisine, languages)
- **Cultural heritage** (tourism, art and architecture, musical tradition)

Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world

- **Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens** (politics, youth unemployment, society)
- **Monarchies and dictatorships** (Franco, the monarchy in Spain, Latin American dictators)
- **Popular movements** (demonstrations, strikes and protests)

The Aims of the Course

- To teach students to understand language spoken at normal speed by native speakers. Students will hear a lot of Spanish spoken in the classroom by the teacher, and we have a Spanish Assistant with whom the students have weekly conversation lessons in small groups.
- To help students to understand Spanish from many different sources, including newspapers, magazines, the internet, films, TV, novels, poetry and plays.
- To teach a thorough knowledge of Spanish grammar, and thus to enable students to speak Spanish fluently, naturally and accurately, and to write with clarity and precision.
- To develop awareness and understanding of other cultures and civilisations.

Studying Spanish in the Sixth Form

Activities in the class include:

- Debating contemporary issues
- Translating (from Spanish to English and from English to Spanish)
- Listening to CDs and recordings in Spanish
- Reading newspaper and magazine articles
- Watching and commenting on Spanish films
- Reading and analysing Spanish literature
- New grammar and grammar exercises
- Vocabulary-building
- Conversation lessons in small groups with the Spanish Assistant
- Pair/group work
- Oral presentations and conversation in class

FAQs

Will Spanish A Level be useful?

Universities and employers tell us that they highly value students who have studied a modern language at A Level.

Spanish is spoken by 517 million people worldwide, and 80% of these are native speakers.

Spanish is the third most used language on the internet, after English and Mandarin.

Spanish-language content across the internet has increased by 807.4% in the past 10 years.

Spanish is the 2nd most used language on Twitter.

Do I need to have studied Spanish at GCSE?

Yes – the skills required in the Sixth Form build upon those developed at GCSE. You need to have a good grade at GCSE in order to do A Level Spanish.



What other subjects work well with Spanish?

Spanish goes well with a wide range of subjects. Many of our students study it alongside English, Maths, History, Geography, Politics, Classics and other Modern Languages, but we also have Scientists, future Medics, and Economists. Spanish works very well with any combination of A Level subjects.

Where do Spanish students go to university?

Most years we have students going on to a range of top universities to study Spanish – either on its own or to combine with another subject (including Arabic, French, History, Portuguese and Politics in recent years). Recently students have gone on study Spanish at Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Exeter, Oxford and UCL.

Other OHS A Level Spanish students have gone on to study subjects at university such as English, Geography, International Relations, Medicine and Psychology.

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If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.

Nelson Mandela

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