

# Modern Foreign Languages:

# Spanish A level



## Student Guide

### What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?



Sir John Cass

Sir John Cass's Foundation &  
Red Coat Church of England Secondary School

This is an advanced level course in Spanish, so you will be expected to have already undertaken some study of the language you have chosen. Most students who take this course will have a GCSE or an equivalent qualification. You will be interested in different cultures and keen to use a different

language to understand and to communicate your own ideas and opinions to others on different topics and issues. You will enjoy reading, speaking, writing and listening.

### What will I learn?

During this course you will develop your linguistic skills alongside your understanding of the culture and society of the countries where Spanish is spoken.

### You will study:

- technological and social change, looking at the multicultural nature of Hispanic society.
- highlights of Hispanic artistic culture, including a focus on Spanish regional identity and the cultural heritage of past civilisations.
- aspects of the diverse political landscape of the Hispanic world.
- the influence of the past on present-day Hispanic communities.

Throughout your studies, you learn the language in the context of Hispanic countries and issues and influences which have shaped them. You will study texts and film and will have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of your choice.

Assessment tasks will be varied and cover listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

### Course structure

The AQA A level in Spanish comprises three units.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

Paper 2: Writing

Paper 3: Speaking

### General Topic Areas for A level Spanish

The topics you will cover are as follows:

Year 1	Year 2
<b>Aspects of Hispanic society</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modern and traditional values</li><li>• Cyberspace</li><li>• Equal rights</li></ul>	Multiculturalism in Hispanic society <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Immigration</li><li>• Racism</li><li>• Integration</li></ul>
<b>Artistic culture in the Hispanic world</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modern day idols</li><li>• Spanish regional identity</li><li>• Cultural heritage</li></ul>	Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens</li><li>• Monarchies and dictatorships</li><li>• Popular movements</li></ul>

### How will I be assessed?

The final examinations test you in the four skills of speaking, listening, writing and reading. There are three units at the end of the second year.

### Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing

#### What's assessed

- Aspects of Hispanic society
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Aspects of political life in Hispanic society



## **Grammar**

### **How it's assessed**

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

100 marks

50% of A-level

### **Questions**

Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources covering different registers and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail. Studio recordings will be used and students will have individual control of the recording.

All questions are in Spanish, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in Spanish (30 marks)

Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from a range of authentic sources and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail.

All questions are in Spanish, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in Spanish (50 marks)

Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks)

Translation into Spanish; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks).

No access to a dictionary during the assessment.

## **Paper 2: Writing**

### **What's assessed**

One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification

Grammar

### **How it's assessed**

Written exam: 2 hours

80 marks in total

20% of A-level

### **Questions**

Either one question in Spanish on a set text from a choice of two questions and one question in Spanish on a set film from a choice of two questions or two questions in Spanish on set texts from a choice of two questions on each text.

All questions will require a critical appreciation of the concepts and issues covered in the work and a critical and analytical response to features such as the form and the technique of presentation, as appropriate to the work studied (eg the effect of narrative voice in a prose text or camera work in a film).

No access to texts or films during the assessment.

No access to a dictionary during the assessment.

Students are advised to write approximately 300 words per essay.

## **Paper 3: Speaking**

### **What's assessed**

Individual research project

One of four sub-themes ie Aspects of Hispanic society or Artistic culture in the Hispanic world or Multiculturalism in Hispanic society or Aspects of political life in Hispanic society

### **How it's assessed**

Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)

60 marks in total

30% of A-level

### **Questions**

Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks).

Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks).

No access to a dictionary during the assessment (including 5 minutes preparation).

Students may take the assessment only once before certification.

Assessments will be conducted by either the centre or a visiting examiner and marked by an AQA examiner.



### What can I do after I have completed the course?

With an A level in Spanish you can apply to university to study the language, study this language and take up a second language *ab initio* at university, combine a language with another subject (e.g. business) at university, communicate with people from other countries, work abroad, work for a company with international links, improve your UCAS application for any subject, have more fun on foreign holidays! Throughout the course you will also be practising your Key Skills (Communication, ICT, improving your own learning and performance, working with others) that will help you both personally and professionally.

### Spanish A level support

What can you do to develop your Spanish further? Independent learning is key to your success in this subject and developing a wide knowledge of language comes from extensive contact with Spanish.

Grab a Fanta naranja and browse for new Spanish bands on [Spotify.com](https://www.spotify.com). You could use the bestseller lists on [amazon.es](https://www.amazon.es) to get you started.

Find a Spanish poem and develop your Spanish accent by learning it by heart. Can you translate it? Try [www.donquijote.org/spanishlanguage/love/love.poems.asp](http://www.donquijote.org/spanishlanguage/love/love.poems.asp) for some ideas

Download some 'cool' Spanish - [www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/cool/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/cool/)

Take the national Gallery's printed trail to find out more about Spanish art and artists. Download the trail from their website - [www.nationalgallery.org.uk/search?q=spanish](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/search?q=spanish)

Set up a Twitter account ([twitter.com](https://twitter.com)) and start tweeting in Spanish. Find interesting Spanish people to follow. Explore Spanish film. Both Pedro Almodóvar and Guillermo del Toro have had their films shown on British television, and there are loads of Spanish DVDs available. Try [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [amazon.es](https://www.amazon.es) for lists of films.

Have a look at the (free) events offered at the Instituto Cervantes in London. [http://londres.cervantes.es/en/culture\\_spanish/culture\\_spanish.htm](http://londres.cervantes.es/en/culture_spanish/culture_spanish.htm)

### Websites:

[www.esfacil.eu/es](http://www.esfacil.eu/es)

Spanish is easy! Improve your control of verb tenses.

[www.rtve.es/noticias/telediario-4](http://www.rtve.es/noticias/telediario-4)

What is happening in Spain and the rest of the world? Watch the main news in the "Telediario" (4 minute video).

[www.elpais.com](http://www.elpais.com) or [www.20minutos.es](http://www.20minutos.es)

More news! If you prefer to improve your reading comprehension.

[www.videoele.com/menu\\_A2.html](http://www.videoele.com/menu_A2.html)

[www.videoele.com/menu\\_B1.html](http://www.videoele.com/menu_B1.html)

Watch some videos, and do the activities related to them. First link lower level. If it is too easy, move to the second. Try to choose one with "guía didáctica". They also include answers and transcription.

[www.veintemundos.com/en](http://www.veintemundos.com/en) - Great website where you can listen to articles whilst reading the transcripts. Intermediate and advanced level.

[www.espanish.org.uk/elearning/spanish-tv/](http://www.espanish.org.uk/elearning/spanish-tv/) - Webpage with links to a range of Spanish TV programmes.

[www.marca.com](http://www.marca.com) For those interested in football and sports, look at all the information on the various events in these popular sport newspapers.

You should work through the [AQA Spanish AS Grammar Workbook](#) (Chris Fuller) published by Nelson Thornes.