

# Spanish

## Edexcel A-level Spanish (9SP0)

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### Introduction

Explore advanced grammar, literature, and the diverse Spanish-speaking world. Build your fluency, cultural understanding, and critical thinking skills across a broad content. Through the Spanish A-level, you will give yourself an opportunity to discover the depth of Hispanic heritage through topics which cover society, history and economy while refining essential global communication skills. This A-level not only opens doors to a profound understanding of Spanish but also ensure you are well-equipped to compete in a multilingual world.

### Subject Requirements

A Grade 8 in GCSE Spanish is required. Students must have an excellent grasp of key tenses and grammar points to succeed at A-level, as well as being able to comprehend at speed. Understanding and finding success in the listening and translation sections at GCSE should be seen as an indicator of success.

Given the film and literary analysis paper at A-level, we recommend that candidates also have a Grade 7 or above in GCSE English Literature.

### Course Outline

Throughout the course, you are supported by two teachers from the Spanish Department over seven lessons a week, as well as the Spanish assistant, a native speaker, who will support your Spanish fluency and preparation for the speaking assessment each week.

The course content is divided into three key areas of work. Each contains a full review and deepening of grammatical knowledge.

#### 1. Hispanic Society and History

##### *Changing Spanish Society*

Family structures  
Working world  
The impact of tourism

##### *Hispanic political and artistic cultures*

Music in the Spanish speaking world  
Media and communication  
The role of customs and traditions

##### *Immigration and multiculturalism in Spain*

The positive impact of immigration  
The challenges posed by immigration and integration  
Public reactions

##### *Dictatorship and democracy in Spain*

The Civil War and the rise of Franco  
The Dictatorship  
The transition to democracy

## **2. Hispanic film and literature**

Analysis of two works, with at least one being a literary text. At Epsom, cinematic works have included Almodóvar's masterpieces *Todo Sobre Mi Madre* and *Volver* while literary texts studied have been *Bodas de Sangre* by Lorca and *El coronel no tiene quien le escriba* by Gabriel García Márquez.

## **3. Independent Research Project**

Here students research any area of the Spanish-speaking world they wish to present in their speaking component. Often, this relates to future ambitions and is an asset to university applications.

The final assessment is in three papers:

**Paper 1** (40%) – Listening, Reading, Translation

**Paper 2** (30%) – Literary and Cinematic Analysis (two 50-mark essays), Translation

**Paper 3** (30%) – Speaking

## **Higher Education and Careers**

Spanish A-level studies offer a wide range of academic and career opportunities in the UK. At the university level, students can specialise in modern languages through a single honours degree, focusing on language proficiency, literature, and cultural studies.

Alternatively, combined honours programmes provide interdisciplinary options. Combining Spanish and Business or Marketing allows for a more diverse degree coverage. Similarly, combining Spanish with Politics prepares students for roles in diplomacy or international relations, while Spanish and Law opens doors to global perspectives in legal careers. The combination of Spanish and Medicine enhances communication skills in healthcare. Proficiency in Spanish is highly valued in journalism and media, making Spanish and journalism or English a viable choice.

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Additionally, Spanish A-level studies lay the groundwork for careers in translation, interpreting, and international NGOs. In the expanding tech industry, Spanish proficiency is an asset, making Spanish and Computer Science a strategic combination. Overall, Spanish A-level studies equip students with a versatile skill set applicable across diverse academic and professional fields in the UK.

Spanish study at university level will allow for opportunity to take a year abroad. This offers a unique chance to immerse oneself in the language and culture, refining linguistic skills and gaining cultural insight. Engaging in internships or employment in a Spanish-speaking environment provides hands-on experience, builds adaptability, and enhances professional communication. This practical experience not only complements academic learning but also equips students with a distinct advantage in the competitive job market, highlighting their ability to thrive in diverse and international settings.

## **What should I study alongside Spanish?**

Spanish A-level complements most combinations, and previous candidates have studied Spanish alongside both the sciences and the arts. Other subjects which look at language analysis and communication transfer their skills to the study of Spanish well.

The diversity of Spanish A-level means you will look at the science of the language through linguistic study as well as the history and art of the language with literary and cinematic analysis.

Amongst others, complementary subjects include other modern languages, Latin, English Literature, History, Politics, Geography, Business Studies, and Economics. Spanish will involve analysis of literature, but it will also look at the socioeconomics of Spanish-speaking regions.

**Is there anything else I should consider?**

The overwhelming majority of the global workforce speak two languages or more. While English is often a key language to speak, most speakers will be proficient in at least one other language. A modern language at A-level ensures you can compete on an equal footing.