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Hartismere College



Spanish

A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO THE A LEVEL IN SPANISH

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

In order to study this subject, it is usual for students to have a GCSE grade 6 or above in Spanish.

The course focuses on the study of the Spanish language through topics linked to the lives of young people today and then looks at issues concerning the wider world.

What will I learn on this A level course?

The course will enable you to:

- develop your ability to communicate in Spanish
- improve your interpersonal & communication skills generally
- develop your self confidence
- develop your creativity and writing skills
- enhance your understanding of topical issues
- develop your ability to express and justify your own opinions
- broaden your career opportunities

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who:

- have a genuine interest in the language
- have an interest in the news and current affairs
- have an interest in history and politics
- have a committed and thorough approach to work
- would like to work in an international context
- might like to learn another language in the future
- have the motivation to practise spoken Spanish

What exactly will I be studying?

Four main themes:

1. Evolution of Spanish Society

This theme is set in the context of Spain only and covers social issues and trends.

- Changes in Spanish families
- The world of work
- The impact of tourism in Spain

2. Political and artistic culture in the Spanish speaking world

This theme is set in the context of Spanish-speaking countries and communities and covers artistic culture through music, festivals and traditions, and artistic and political culture through media.

- Music
- The media
- Festivals and traditions

3. Immigration and Spanish multicultural society

This theme is set in the context of Spain only and covers social issues and trends.

- The positive impact of immigration on Spanish society
- The challenges of immigration and integration in Spain
- Public and social reaction to immigration in Spain

4. The Francoist dictatorship and transition to democracy

This theme is set in the context of Spain only and covers political culture.

- The civil war and the rise of Franco (1936-1939)
- The Francoist dictatorship
- The transition from dictatorship to democracy

Knowledge of the grammar and structures specified for GCSE is assumed. This is revised and extended to enable candidates to express themselves effectively in fluent Spanish.

Literary texts and films

You will study one literary text from the list of set texts and also one film, again from the list prescribed by the board. One will be studied in year 12 and the other in year 13.

5. Individual research project

Students will identify a subject or a key question which is of interest to them and which relates to a country or countries where Spanish is spoken. They select relevant information from a range of sources, analyse and summarise their findings in order to present and discuss them in the speaking assessment.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

The A level course is linear which means that exams are taken at the end of the two-year course. There are 3 examinations. The exam board is Edexcel.

Paper 1 – Listening, Reading and Writing

- 40% of A level
- 80 marks in total
- Written exam; 2 hours 30 minutes

Paper 2 – Writing

- includes translation, an essay on the film and an essay on the book
- 30% of A level
- 120 marks in total
- Written exam; 2 hours 40 minutes

Paper 3 – Speaking

- 30% of A level
- 72 marks in total
- Oral exam; 21 - 23 minutes
[including 5 minutes preparation time]
- Conducted by one of your teachers

And did you know...

...you can combine Spanish with most subjects at university, including:

Law	Business Studies	Engineering
History	Sciences	Economics
Drama	Media Studies	Politics

and of course, other languages!!



WHY STUDY A LEVEL SPANISH?

Choosing an A-level language is a really smart move if you want a fascinating subject that offers you a range of career possibilities at the end and are a lot of fun along the way. A-level language courses are interesting and varied subjects to study and give you a broad range of knowledge and skills. Learning a language is a never-ending process; languages are constantly changing, bringing in new words and getting rid of old ones.

The skills and qualifications that you gain from studying a language at A-level are incredibly important tools to have under your belt.

What other subjects can I study?

An A-level language complements a whole variety of subjects. You may need languages for all sorts of career destinations - doctors, psychologists and physiotherapists need language skills to communicate effectively with patients whether they work in the UK or overseas; businessmen, bankers and entrepreneurs all need language skills to make deals and sell products on the global market. Politicians, historians, geographers and holiday reps all need language skills to get to know the people and area that they are passionate about. A foreign language A level will complement and enhance your other A level studies.

What can I do afterwards?

Languages are an invaluable skill to have. Having a language can increase your salary from 8 to 20% and gives you a head start on other potential employees as by speaking another language you're vital to any company who does international business (and there are a lot of them). Plus, a language is also an advantage for lots of university courses so it's something to consider if you're thinking about university in the future. Languages are key to the exciting multinational world we live in!

Source: Routes into Languages, University of Southampton
http://www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/post16/why_languages/

Contact

Mrs J Hudson
Director of Sixth Form
Hartismere School
Castleton Way
Eye
Suffolk
IP23 7BL

Telephone 01379 870315
Email: sixthform@hartismere.com
Website: www.hartismere.com

¡Hasta pronto!