

SPANISH



Course content

The A level course builds on the knowledge and skills gained at GCSE, focusing on language, culture and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to further study, including a modern languages degree. The specification has been designed to be studied over two years.

The approach is a focus on how Spanish-speaking society has been shaped socially and culturally and how it continues to change. In the lower-sixth, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of Spanish-speaking countries.

In the upper-sixth further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on matters associated with multiculturalism. Students also study aspects of the political landscape including the future of politics in the Hispanic world and political engagement of young people.

Assessment

Paper 1:

Aspects of Hispanic society, Artistic culture in the Hispanic world, Multiculturalism in Hispanic society, aspects of political life in Hispanic society, Grammar.

Assessment - Listening, Reading & Writing, 2 hours 30 mins, 40% A-Level, (160 marks)

Paper 2:

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

Assessment - Writing, 2 hours, 30% A-Level, (90 marks)

Paper 3:

Individual research project, one of four sub-themes i.e. Aspects of Hispanic society

Assessment - Speaking, 21-23 minutes, 30% A-Level, (60 marks)

Individual research project

Students must also 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 must select relevant information in Spanish from a range of sources including the internet. Students will demonstrate their ability to initiate and conduct individual research by analysing and summarising their findings, in order to present and discuss them in the speaking assessment. Students may choose a subject linked to one of the themes or sub-themes or to one of the works. However, students must not base their research on the same text or film that they refer to in their written assessment.

Literary texts and films

In addition to the main topic areas, students must study a film and a text from the following:

Texts:

Gabriel García Márquez - Crónica de una muerte anunciada
Esquivel - Como agua para chocolate
Lorca - La Casa de Bernarda Alba
Zafón - La sombra del viento
Isabel Allende - La casa de los espíritus
Sender - Réquiem por un campesino español
Bécquer - Rimas y leyendas
Fernando Fernán-Gómez - Las bicicletas son para el verano
Manuel Rivas - El lápiz del carpintero
Gabriel García Márquez - El coronel no tiene a quien le escriba

Films:

Volver
El laberinto del fauno
Ocho apellidos vascos
María, llena eres de gracia
El bola
Las 13 rosas

Why Spanish is a smart choice

- Around 500 million people can speak it as a 1st or 2nd language By 2050 it is thought that 10% of world will speak Spanish and it will be the largest language in the Western Hemisphere
- Official language in 21 countries (lots of sunny places to visit!)
- Latin based, easier to learn than other Latin languages
- 400 million Spanish speaking customers. Some of the biggest companies in the world: - TELEFONICA: 3rs largest communication company, BSCH: 2nd largest bank in Europe, REPSOL: Among the 10 largest oil companies, ZARA: "the most innovative and devastating retailer in the world" – Luis Vuitton

Why learn a language?

- English is not enough. The world has become a much smaller place. It's really important that you learn to speak and understand other people no matter where they are from.
- Languages are the perfect way to meet new people and immerse yourself in new cultures.
- Makes you stand out from the crowd and you'll be able to work anywhere in the world.
- You develop four key skills that are vital for any learning; listening, reading, speaking and writing.
- You have loads of fun learning about a range of topics from fashion, food to entertainment.
- They're good for you! Speaking more than one language increases your brain capacity and you have better memory too.
- Learning a new language can increase your self-confidence and help you speak more clearly.
- Using a language at work could raise your salary from 8-20%

Extension Opportunities

- Put into practice their language and leadership skills and become one of our Spanish Ambassadors
- Attend university courses on offer at MMU related to Topics or Film studies.
- Travel to Spain to participate in an intensive language course in Salamanca and experience university life!
- Spend time each fortnight talking to the school's language assistant to help you/them improve your/their spoken Spanish!

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