

SPANISH

A LEVEL

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The AS/A-level course in Spanish centres on effective communication (both spoken and written) as well as giving students an insight into the culture and tradition of the Spanish speaking countries. Students studying Spanish at The Henley College are exclusively taught by native speaker teachers and they'll have additional time for speaking practice with the language assistant.

During the first year, the following broad topic areas are studied: Stereotypes, Equality and Gender, Modern World Issues, Aspects of Artistic Culture and you will study a contemporary Spanish film.

The AS level exam consists of two written papers (70 %) and one speaking exam (30 %):

- Spanish comprehension (listening, reading and translation into English) 1 hour 30 minutes
- Spanish writing (translation into Spanish and critical essay on prescribed film) 1 hour 30 minutes
- Speaking exam with a discussion of two topics (taken from the sub-themes of the AS subject content)

The AS level will be a qualification in its own right and will not contribute to the final A-level grade.

During the **second year**, students will consolidate their language skills and study the following topics: Multiculturalism in Hispanic society (Immigration, racism and integration), aspects of political life in the Hispanic world (monarchies and dictatorships, Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens, popular movements)

In addition to this a modern Spanish literary text will be studied.

The A-level exam (taken after two years of study) will consist of two written papers (70 %) and a speaking exam (30 %). There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

- Spanish comprehension (listening, reading and translation into English and translation into Spanish) 2 hours 30 minutes
- Spanish writing (critical essay on prescribed film and essay on prescribed literary text) 2 hours
- Speaking (discussion of a stimulus card relating to one of the sub-themes of the course and a further 10 minute discussion based on a topic which the student has researched in advance)

Students of Spanish at The Henley College will have access to a wide range of modern, up-to-date learning materials and support workshops. There is also the chance of participating in the annual weekend visit to Madrid which gives the opportunity of experiencing Spain's vibrant capital city.

Every year, some of our students have the chance of enjoy a scholarship to a free summer Spanish course in Valladolid, Spain.

We also have a close collaboration with University of Reading Spanish Department and with the Instituto Cervantes in London. Our students can enjoy activities and frequently use resources from these institutions.

WHAT NEXT?

Many of the students who have taken AS and A-level Spanish over recent years have gone to study modern languages at university or taken a degree involving Spanish and another subject (e.g. Law, International Relationships, Business and many others).

Employers value the skills that students of Spanish have gained at A-level which include the ability to pay attention to detail, communicate effectively and the ability to extract information from a wide range of texts.

ASSESSMENT

Exam (100%) Oral and written papers combining listening, reading and writing.

DURATION

2 years

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade 5 in GCSE Spanish or a similar level of competence, plus grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics and grade 5 in English.

EXAM BOARD

AQA

COSTS

£25 for textbook and approx. £480 for an optional trip to a Spanish city. A dictionary for work at home is advised, plus optional field trips.