



Sixth Form Preparation for Success

Welcome to Spanish

AQA Spanish, specification code 7692



Introduction

The key to success at A Level Spanish lies in being able to build on the communication skills that you have developed for GCSE and learning to use language more accurately in tasks such as essay writing, translation or the discussion of more abstract themes. The various tasks outlined below will provide you with the opportunity to begin to look at how you can improve your accuracy in Spanish and begin to form opinions about some of the everyday subjects and issues that affect the world around us.

Part I – Y11 into 12 Spanish Specific Bridging Work To be completed May – September

Remember that prizes will be awarded for ‘exceptional’ work that demonstrates effort above expected!

a) Investigate places of interest

Clearly you are not going to be able to visit any Spanish-speaking part of the world for the foreseeable future, so the next best thing is to delve into the multitude of online experiences that can give you at least a flavour of the exciting and invigorating environment that you are going to be studying.

1. Start with a brief introduction to the Spanish-speaking world:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0o7Ylbg-tE>

2. Spanish is an official language in a solitary African state, Equatorial Guinea:

<https://viajerosonline.org/guinea-ecuatorial-informacion-turistica-y-guia-de-viaje-de-guinea-ecuatorial/>

3. The Spanish that is spoken across the world is not always the same. Find out more with this guide:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JN2RU2cJXzU>

4. The country with the greatest number of Spanish speakers is Mexico. Learn more about this fascinating country at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRM8wvzfwVY>

b) Wider reading

1. Get a head start by reading and researching around any of the literary texts that you will have the opportunity to study as part of the A Level Spanish course. You can choose from the following:-

- Federico García : Lorca *La casa de Bernarda Alba*
- Gabriel García : Márquez *Crónica de una muerte anunciada*
- Laura Esquivel : *Como agua para chocolate*
- Ramón J. Sender : *Réquiem por un campesino español*
- Carlos Ruiz Zafón : *La sombra del viento*
- Isabel Allende : *La casa de los espíritus*
- Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer : *Rimas*
- Fernando Fernán-Gómez : *Las bicicletas son para el verano*
- Luis de Castresana : *El otro árbol de Guernica*
- Gabriel García Márquez : *El coronel no tiene quien le escriba*

2. Download a newspaper app such as *20minutos* onto your phone. Read at least two newspaper articles per week and attempt to translate some or all parts of the articles you have read into English.

3. Obtain a copy of the grammar book *School Spanish Course* by John Pride or *Punto por Punto* by Neil Creighton (both available on Amazon) and work on any areas where you feel you need to consolidate your knowledge and understanding.

c) Compulsory task

1. Visit <https://baselang.com/blog/travel/spanish-speaking-countries/> which contains a list of all of the countries in the world that have Spanish as an official language. You need to choose one of the countries (other than Spain) and put together a detailed presentation in Spanish to introduce the country. You will need to include as much relevant information as possible with particular emphasis on the following:-

- The political make-up of the country
- Its geography and recent history
- The cultural life of the country, including food, traditions and music
- An aspect of life in the country that you have found particularly interesting

2. Revise all GCSE grammar. You can use the following websites:-

<https://www.language-gym.com/#/>

<https://conjuguemos.com/>

<https://personal.colby.edu/~bknelson/SLC/>

<https://www.memrise.com>

<https://studyspanish.com/>

d) Stretch!

Get interested in all things Spanish!

1. Find out what is happening in the news via some of the Spanish-speaking world's 24 hour news channels. Click on any reference to the word *Directo* or *En Vivo* in order to watch the programme live:-

www.rtve.es/noticias/24-horas/

<https://cnnespanol.cnn.com/>

www.tvazteca.com/aztecanoticias/

<https://noticieros.televisa.com/noticias-vivo-forotv/>

www.telesurtv.net/seccion/news/index.html

<https://tn.com.ar/envivo/24hs>

2. Watch *Pan's Labyrinth* and, if possible, *Crimson Peak* and *The Devil's Backbone*. Failing that, look for any other Guillermo del Toro film in Spanish with English subtitles.

3. Try watching a Spanish language TV series. Many are available on Netflix or Amazon Prime Video and for free in the Walter Presents area of More4.

4. Create a Spotify playlist of Spanish language music (if current pop music is not your cup of tea, look for alternative Spanish music or whatever type you like as there will be an equivalent in Spanish).

5. Log onto the Kerboodle website (use the login provided by school). Get familiar with the course resources and with the topics that you will be studying from September:

<https://www.kerboodle.com>

Part II - Year 12 Head Start! for completion June – September

a) The A Level course

Familiarise yourself with what you are going to be studying in A Level Spanish by reading through the examination specification at:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/spanish/specifications/AQA-7692-SP-2016.PDF>

b) Our lessons

Now that you have an overview of the whole course, here is what you can expect to study during the first half term in Year 12:-

- **Aspects of Hispanic Society:** Modern and traditional values (changes in family, marriage and divorce, influence of the Catholic Church); Cyberspace (influence of the internet, risks and benefits of the internet, smart technology in our society); Equal rights (women at work, Machismo and feminism, LGBT rights)
- **Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society:** Immigration; Racism; Integration
- **Artistic Culture in the Hispanic World:** Modern Day Idols; Spanish regional identity; Cultural Heritage

A good idea at this stage is to start exploring the various topics you will study by becoming familiar with key vocabulary, a lot of which will be new to you and may appear quite complex. Think too about developing opinions and consider how you will later express these in Spanish. Use the online versions of the A Level textbooks along with any other sources that you come across. Make a note of your findings and be prepared to share these with the class when lessons begin.

c) Your textbooks

We use Kerboodle's two A Level Spanish textbooks, one for Year 12 and the other in Year 13. These will be provided for you but you may decide to purchase your own copies in order to be able to make notes in them.

You can access both books at any time online at: www.kerboodle.com. Your username is usually your first initial followed by your surname and you will need to enter the

school's Institution Code which is zv6. If you have any problems accessing the Kerboodle website please let us know and we can reset your password to match your username. Once you have successfully logged in you will be prompted to choose your own bespoke password.

d) Additional tips and advice

1. Learn on the go! Download all the free versions of Spanish apps that you can find onto your phone. They will be useful to practise vocabulary and some even offer exam-style reading comprehension questions. Well known language learning apps include Duolingo, Babbel, HelloTalk, Memrise and LyricsTraining.

2. One of the biggest requirements of stepping up from GCSE to A Level is being able to master grammar. Revise and revisit as much grammar as you can with particular emphasis on:-

TOPIC	CONTENT
Recognise and use a range of tenses with regular verbs	Regular –AR, -ER and –IR verbs Tenses: Present Preterite Imperfect Near future (form of <i>ir</i> + infinitive) Future (e.g. <i>será</i>) Conditional (e.g. <i>sería</i>)
Recognise and use a range of tenses with irregular verbs	Common irregular verbs: <i>ser, estar, ir, tener, hacer</i> Tenses: Present Preterite Imperfect Near future (form of <i>ir</i> + infinitive) Future (e.g. <i>será</i>) Conditional (e.g. <i>sería</i>)
Give opinions with reasons	A range of opinion expressions Positive and negative reasons to justify Opinions Be able to agree and disagree

3. A new area that you will be required to study at A Level Spanish is literature and you will be expected to read a text and write about it in Spanish. Good sites to familiarise yourself with studying literature are:

<http://www.bne.es/en/Catalogos/BibliotecaDigitalHispanica/Inicio/> (Biblioteca Digital Hispánica) and <http://www.cervantesvirtual.com/> (Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes).

4. The bridging work in part 1 contains an extensive list of useful Spanish language websites and links. Others to consider which can help with developing your listening and reading skills are: <http://www.rtve.es/radio/radio3/> and <http://www.cadenadigital.com/>
<http://www.discomusicradio.com/>

5. Language learning is not just fun and highly rewarding but it can also be good for you! There is extensive research to show that the ability to speak more than one language improves cognitive function which comprises multiple mental abilities, including learning, thinking, reasoning, remembering, problem solving, decision making and attention. At McAuley we have been invited to take part in a project organised by the University of Cardiff which allows Sixth Form students to access university style themes and even lectures online. You can find out more, see a full timetable of events and explore a whole host of learning opportunities in Spanish and other languages at <https://hwb.gov.wales/playlists/view/bbf64e57-3191-4a6d-94b3-f08b3dc5af69/en/3> or via the Twitter page @MFLmentoring.

6. Developing independent study skills is a key requirement in all A Level subjects and for Spanish in particular. A significant part of your final speaking examination at the end of Year 13 will comprise an Independent Research Project and you will be expected to have chosen and begun working on your theme before completing Year 12. Now is the perfect time to start thinking about possible themes. The University of Cardiff project contains a number of possible ideas, but the possibility is pretty much endless. In previous years students have focused on themes such as famous Spanish-speaking fashion designers and musicians as well as areas as diverse as the differences in the Spanish spoken in South America and Spain. The key is to focus on an area in which you are

interested, a subject about which you will be able to find sufficient information and ultimately be able to talk about confidently in Spanish for an extended period of time.

7. Again with a view to developing your ability to study independently, research opportunities to work in Spanish-speaking areas of the world or with multinational companies such as BBVA, Iberia, Repsol, Banco Santander, Telefonica, Inditex (Zara), Mango, Melía, Seat, Iberdrola, Endesa, Unicaja and Freixenet which all have Spanish as their main working language. Look for online resources that work for you and actively help you improve your language skills. Compare and share these with others. Look at the resources provided by organisations designed to promote the Spanish language across the world such as Instituto Cervantes <https://leeds.cervantes.es/en/default.shtm> and Hablamos Español: <https://hispanohablantes.es/>. Remember that most international organisations such as ONU (United Nations), Interpol, UE (European Union) and la FIFA (world football's governing body) use Spanish as a principal working language.

¡ Disfrutad y hasta pronto !