

Spanish



Exam Board
Edexcel

Syllabus number
9SP0

Spanish



King's
School

*“Nunca se puede cruzar el océano
hasta que se tenga el coraje
de perder de vista la costa.”*

Cristóbal Colón

Course entry requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish, as well as a love of languages, other cultures and the diversity of the World.

Why should I study Spanish?

Around the world Spanish is spoken as a native language by 406 million people, which makes it second only to Mandarin. Spanish is the official language of over 20 countries. Spanish is quickly becoming a key language in the modern business world. What this means is that anybody who can speak it at fluent business level will not only have a head start with university applications but also considerable advantage when applying for all types of careers later in life and it will also give you more opportunity for international travel and working abroad.

Learning Spanish will also give you a major advantage when trying to understand/learn any other Latin-based language such as Portuguese and Italian.

Spanish is phonetic, which means you say what you see. This makes it easier to read in comparison to other languages. Hispanic literature is regarded as some of the best in the world. We will also be studying Spanish-speaking cinema and literature. Throughout the course you will compare and contrast your own life with that of young people living in Spanish speaking countries and gain valuable insight as to what their history and culture is like. You will get the chance to experience the rich variety of their festivities, customs, art, and music original to Hispanic culture!

What does the course look like?

The course follows four general topics, but they are wide and open-ended topics which give scope for debate. The topics give students the opportunity to discuss new ideas, discover attitudes from other parts of the world and open their eyes to the wider world:

- Evolution of the Spanish society
- Culture in the Spanish speaking world
- Immigration and multicultural Spanish society
- Franco's dictatorship and the democratic transition

There is an independent research project as well as an essay-based exam on the literature, film and themes studied. This incorporates listening and reading as well as translation. There is an extended oral exam at the end of the course, too.

How will I learn?

The course features a wide range of teaching and learning approaches and methods; interactive classroom study, group tasks, private study, and research and one to one discussion. Grammar is a core part of the course and self-study of areas for development is necessary to strengthen this.

What kind of things might the subject lead me to?

Spanish can lead to many different and varied jobs – it is not all about teaching and translating. An A Level in Spanish shows universities and employers that you are prepared to work hard to learn grammar and vocabulary but that you also have lots of other skills like independent thinking, the ability to argue points and discuss ideas, that you can listen and that you can verbalise ideas.