

RMGS

MODERN LANGUAGES - SPANISH

A LEVEL

What are the aims of the course?

To enable students to understand a wide variety of spoken and written Spanish and to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in Spanish in both speaking and writing.

To find out about, research and develop opinions about the society, culture and heritage of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken.

Most importantly, to **enjoy** listening to, speaking, reading and writing Spanish!

What does it involve?

Students will practise the four areas of language learning by

- **listening** to recordings and watching extracts from films and TV in Spanish
- **reading** a range of materials, from short extracts to more in-depth articles on a range of topics
- **speaking** in class activities and during a regular lesson with the Spanish assistant
- revising and extending your knowledge of **grammar** and **writing** essays of up to 300 words in length and translating longer passages from and into Spanish.
- having the opportunity to **visit** Spain during the course

How is it assessed?

- **Paper 1 – Listening, Reading and Writing** (2 hours 30 minutes) – questions will be based on current trends, current issues, the artistic culture and aspects of political life where the language is spoken. Grammar knowledge will also be assessed. 40% of A level.
- **Paper 2 – Writing** (2 hours) – An essay paper where students are asked to write 300 word essays based on a set text and a set film which has been studied during the course. 30% of A level.
- **Paper 3 – Speaking** (21 to 23 minutes including 5 minutes preparation time) – the student is asked to debate an aspect of society for 5-6 minutes and this is followed by a presentation of 2 minutes and a discussion for a further 9-10 minutes based on the student's individual research project. 30% of A level.

Are there any specific entry requirements?

Students who wish to take Spanish in the sixth form should have taken the majority of their GCSE at Higher Tier, and **preferably gained at least a grade A**. Students with a B grade may be considered at the discretion of the Head of Subject.

Why is it a useful qualification?

An A level qualification in a modern language is extremely well regarded by the top universities and by employers in almost any field. During the course, students develop techniques for language learning which can be applied to future study of any language. An A level in Spanish would fit in with any arts or humanities subject, but would also give Science and Mathematics students the breadth of study which universities now demand.