Spanish A Level

Exam Board: AQA
Entry requirements: Grade 7 at GCSE Spanish

Intent

Structure

Throughout the course, students will use complex language to explore modern culture of Spanish-speaking countries. Students develop confident, effective communication skills in the Spanish language and a thorough understanding of the culture of countries where Spanish is spoken. Students will develop language learning skills, the ability to write and speak in Spanish with accurate grammar and syntax and to understand written and spoken Spanish in a variety of contexts and genres. As well as language and subject related skills A Level Spanish develops rich inter-personal, inter-cultural, cognitive and transferable skills.
During the course students will study the following topics:

Social Issues and Trends
Modern and traditional values
Equal rights
The digital world

Artistic Culture in the Hispanic World
Modern day idols
Spanish regional identity
Cultural heritage

Aspects of the Hispanic Society
Immigration
Racism
Integration

Aspects of Political Life
Young people and political engagement
Monarchies and dictatorships
Popular movements

In addition, students will study a Spanish film and a literary text.

Implementation

Content & Sequencing

Throughout Spanish A Level students engage with complex subject matter requiring sophisticated analytical skills and the ability to express opinions clearly and concisely. They are taught to read, listen for detail and to interpret a wide variety of texts, in the process developing higher level writing skills and the ability to translate from Spanish to English and vice versa. Students have the opportunity to study a modern Spanish film and novel which adds further depth to their understanding of the cultural context of modern Spanish-speaking countries.

As part of the course students must complete an Independent Research Project on a subject of their choosing but that is rooted in the culture of Spain or another Spanish-speaking country. This allows students to develop their research skills and find out more about an aspect of society/ culture that they are particularly interested in thereby developing skills that will be of great benefit to either higher study or future employment.

Assessment Methods

Spanish A Level is assessed through three examinations.

Paper 1 is Listening, Reading and Writing (50%)
Paper 2 is Writing (20%)
Paper 2 is Speaking (30%)

Impact

Onward Progression

A Language A Level is well regarded by all universities and develops the skills considered desirable for a range of higher education courses. Students may choose to continue studying languages in a higher education context either as part of a Modern Languages degree or as part of a combined course, for example Law with French; German and Engineering; Spanish with Economics.
Many employers recognise competence in a foreign language as a desirable skill, giving an advantage in a wide range of areas including sales, business, import/ export, logistics, IT, marketing, journalism, advertising, law, tourism, customer services and many more.

Reed employment agency cites language ability as one of the most sought-after skills by prospective employers and Spanish as the second most studied language in the world.
https://www.reed.co.uk/career-advice/five-languages-you-should-be-learning-right-now/

Further information contact

Miss R Stephenson - Curriculum Leader Spanish
rachel.stephenson@shoreham-academy.org