



Aylesbury High School | #AHSWalksTall

Developing uniquely talented young adults, who are independent, strong and confident

Dear Parent/Carer,

As students embark on their Spanish A Level course, we thought it would be useful to share an overview of the course.

In Key Stage 5 Spanish

The examination board for A Level Spanish is AQA. You can find further information relating to the specification [here](#) and an overview on the school [subject](#) pages.

The core course content is split into two sections, which are each divided into 6 sub sections. The first 3 in each section are taught in Year 12 and the remaining 3 in each section in Year 13.

A Level Spanish core content:

- Social Issues & Trends.
 - Modern and traditional values
 - Cyberspace
 - Equal rights
 - Immigration
 - Racism
 - Integration
- Political & artistic culture
 - Modern day idols
 - Spanish regional identity
 - Cultural heritage
 - Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens
 - Monarchies and dictatorships
 - Popular movements

Cultural input:

In addition to the core content, students will study a film (*El laberinto del fauno*) in Year 12, and a play (*La casa de Bernarda Alba*) in Year 13. The film is readily available on various streaming services, but students will need to purchase their own copy of the play. (We will advise you on the particular version later in the course.)

Oral:

In Year 12, students will have ½ hour per week in small groups with our native Foreign Language Tutor, Rosa, where they will practise their speaking skills further. In Year 13 this will change to ½ hour in small groups one week and ½ hour individual sessions in the other week. Part 1 of the oral exam involves students responding to questions on a stimulus card, for which they have a short amount of preparation time. These stimulus cards are all connected to the core topics. Part 2 is where they present their Independent Research Project (IRP). In the summer term of Year 12 we introduce them to the IRP, where they choose any aspect of life in a Spanish-speaking country e.g. a famous person, a

historical event, and research it over the next 9 months before doing an exam where they present their findings and answer questions put to them by an outside examiner.

Students will sit 3 papers:

Paper 1: 2 ½ hours. Listening, Reading and Translations. (50%)

Paper 2: 2 hours. 1 essay on the film and 1 on the play. (20%)

Paper 3: 21-23 mins. 1 stimulus card and IRP. (30%)

Resources/organisation:

The course will continue to be organised through a Google Classroom. In Year 12 students will have 5 lessons a fortnight, and in Year 13, 4 lessons a fortnight. These will be split between 2 teachers who will each cover their own elements of the course. Students are expected to organise their own notes accordingly. We expect students to read around the subject, go through grammar notes and learn vocabulary outside of lessons. Kerboodle provides an online textbook, as it did at GCSE.

A Level extra resources:

Students will have access to a section of the MFL department's internal website which is devoted to extra materials for Sixth Form studies. There are videos, links, texts etc relating to all of the core content topics.

Career Links:

We recommend that you have a look at: <https://www.thelanguagegateway.uk/> to find out how languages can be useful in a variety of careers.

The students also have access to the career pages on our website which also features videos from our alumni.

Homework and assessments:

Homework of 1 hour duration will be set in Spanish for 4 out of 5 lessons in Year 12 and 4 out of 4 lessons in Year 13 to give the students time to consolidate their understanding of work covered at school and learn the vocabulary and grammar covered. Homework can take many different forms, but is always relevant to what is being taught in lessons.

Feedback is given in a variety of ways, including orally in class, on Google Classroom, and on paper for written paragraphs. The types of feedback given can be found on the Feedback PDF [here](#). Assessments can be in the form of vocabulary tests and end of topic tests (writing, reading, listening, speaking) as well as end of year and mock examinations.

Extension activities:

In addition to the resources on the internal MFL site, we would recommend listening to Spanish music; having a Spanish playlist is something many students benefit from. Watching Spanish TV programmes or films can of course also help. We would recommend students to read Spanish books or magazines in their spare time, there are lots of resources in the library. During the 2 years of the course, we are often given access to competitions and workshops run by various University Spanish departments and others, which we pass on to students as and when they arise.

In Y12, students can participate in the exchange programme with our partner school IES Alfonso X in Murcia and in Y13 they have the opportunity to make a cultural visit to Madrid.

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Medley at kmedley@ahs.bucks.sch.uk