

Mayflower High School

WHAT WILL I STUDY AT A LEVEL?

A level Spanish at Mayflower consists of two externally examined papers assessing listening, reading, writing, translation and a speaking assessment which is externally set and conducted internally. Both examinations and the speaking assessments are marked by the **Edexcel** examination board. The classes are shared between 3 teachers and each teacher will teach as exam paper.

- **Paper 1** (listening, reading and translation into English) – worth 40%;
- **Paper 2** (writing [answering **two questions** based on the book: 'Como Agua para Chocolate' and the film: 'Volver' as well as a question involving a translation into Spanish] – worth 30%;
- **Paper 3** (speaking – worth 30%).

For **Paper One**, students will be assessed on their understanding of spoken and written Spanish from a variety of types of authentic texts and listening material, as well as their ability to translate accurately from Spanish into English. Texts and recordings vary in length to include some extended passages. All spoken and written materials are culturally relevant to Spain and Spanish-speaking countries and are drawn from the four themes (listed below). The listening section will be made up of spoken passages covering different registers and types, different accents including authentic communication involving one or more male and female speakers.

Sources will include material from online media. The reading section will be made up of texts containing both factual and abstract content and will be authentic or adapted from authentic sources. The texts will include contemporary, historical, literary, fiction and non-fiction, written for different purposes and audiences.

For **Paper Two**, students will study a Spanish-language film (Volver) and literary text (Como Agua para Chocolate), together with authentic source materials from Spain and the wider Spanish-speaking world. They will develop a detailed understanding and appreciation of the works studied, by writing critical and analytical responses in the language of study to the works.

Students will produce responses that relate to features such as the form and the technique of presentation, key concepts and issues and the social context, as appropriate to the work studied. They will present viewpoints, develop arguments and will also learn how to persuade; and analyse and evaluate the work they study. Paper Two will also be aimed at the students learning to manipulate language accurately through translating an unseen passage from English into Spanish.

In **Paper Three** students will learn to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the cultural context by giving ideas, examples and information on one of the themes listed below and on a chosen subject of interest they have researched linked to the social and cultural context of the language studied. They will develop the ability to analyse aspects of the cultural context by presenting and justifying valid arguments, viewpoints and conclusions. The aim of this paper is to provide the students with the ability to interact and hold a natural and fluent discourse.

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Themes

Four themes run through the three examination papers providing clear links to some of the most fundamental and interesting aspects of the culture of Spanish-speaking countries and communities. The themes address a range of social issues and trends, as well as aspects of the political and artistic culture of Spain and Spanish-speaking countries.

Theme 1 (*la evolución de la sociedad española*) focuses on how Spanish society has evolved over recent decades.

Theme 2 (*la cultura política y artística en el mundo de habla española*) allows students to broaden their knowledge of politics and the arts in Spanish-speaking countries and communities.

Theme 3 (*la inmigración y la sociedad multicultural española*) deals with immigration and multiculturalism in Spain.

Theme 4 (*la dictadura franquista y la transición a la democracia*) provides students with an insight into Spain's history in the last hundred years.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES AFTER A LEVEL?

In recent years, Higher Education institutions and employers have consistently flagged the need for students to develop a range of transferable skills to enable them to respond with confidence to the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work. Transferable skills enable young people to face the demands of further and higher education, as well as the demands of the workplace.

Spanish A level will help students develop their cognitive, interpersonal and intrapersonal skills. Their Spanish studies will also allow them to become more adaptable and to be more confident in the area of self-management and self-development - the ability to work in teams or to work autonomously.

As the world's second most spoken mother tongue, Spanish can be helpful if you want to pursue a career in areas such as International Trade and Commerce, Business, Technology, Economics, Engineering, Teaching and Travel and Tourism. Increasingly, Spanish can form part of a combined degree with many subjects including Business Studies, Economics or Law. Knowledge of Spanish is increasingly essential in the modern, ever-shrinking world in which we find ourselves.

Spanish A Level in Mayflower was really fun but also really challenged my ability, in a positive way. It enabled me to exceed my linguistic abilities and excel not only in learning the language itself but to also explore the Spanish culture.

The Spanish teachers themselves were extremely supportive and engaging. Learning to speak a new language fluently is so difficult but when you have the encouragement that the Spanish department offer it is such a confidence booster.

Mia Sibbons (A Level 2019)

WHAT ARE THE COURSE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

CAPS 5 plus a grade 6 in GCSE Spanish.

CONTACT: Miss J Nicholson (Head of Spanish) or Mrs A Burge (KS5 Coordinator)