

Mayflower High School

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

The GCSE course enables students to develop their linguistic skills so that later they are better prepared to join the global job market, connect with other cultures and keep their options open. In particular, students will develop their ability to communicate with Spanish native speakers in both speech and writing. They will develop a greater awareness of culture of Spanish-speaking communities and countries. The course will enable students to manipulate and use the target language effectively, independently and creatively, so that they have a solid basis from which to progress to A Level or use the language for real purpose for work or pleasure.

Examination Board: Edexcel

Specifications: Spanish: 1SP0

CONTENT OF THE COURSE

Questions across all four language skills are set in common contexts, addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes. They are organised into five themes, each broken down into topics and sub-topics.

The five themes are:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday, travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

ASSESSMENT METHODS

The Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Spanish consists of four externally examined papers (at Higher or Foundation Tier) all examined in Year 11. Students must complete their speaking assessment in April/May in Year 11. The four skills; Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing are all worth 25%.

The Listening paper will present a range of question formats such as multiple-choice, open response, gap fill and target language questions.

The Speaking examination consists of three tasks. Task 1 is a role play. The role play is an interaction requiring the student to initiate conversation, to ask and answer questions, to exchange information and to use different registers. It can be based on any of the topics mentioned in the content section above. Task 2 is a picture-based task, whereby students describe and narrate events, respond to points of view and exchange opinions. Students are required to use a range of tenses across the task. Task 3 is a conversation, which is in two parts. For the first part of the conversation, the student selects one topic from one theme in advance of the assessment. This must then move on to other topics within the same theme. The second part of the conversation must be on a different theme, which is allocated by Edexcel. Students are required to use a range of tenses in both parts of this assessment.

The Reading paper will present a range of question formats some requiring short or one word responses. Students are assessed on their understanding of written Spanish across a range of different types of authentic texts, including advertisements, emails and letters. Literary texts are also included and these may be short extracts from texts that may have been adapted and abridged from short stories, novels or plays to contemporary and historical sources.

Students will also be expected to translate a short passage of written Spanish into English to demonstrate an ability to transfer meaning accurately into English.

The Writing paper assesses a student's ability to communicate effectively for a variety of purposes across a range of specified contexts. It also contains a translation requirement where students translate sentences and short texts from English into Spanish and apply grammatical knowledge of language and structures.

GRADING

GCSE Spanish will be graded using the 9-1 scale.

CONTACT

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