

Spanish A Level

There are lots of things you can do to keep learning Spanish. Independent students who seek out a variety of activities and practise on their own initiative tend to thrive at A level.

Grammar

Having a good grounding in grammar helps you to speak and write your thoughts in correct Spanish.

Learn and practise how to conjugate verbs in each tense. For each tense learn the rules for regular verbs and then for the irregular verbs.

The following websites have explanations and exercises.

<https://studyspanish.com/grammar> Work through the units on the left.

<https://personal.colby.edu/~bknelson/SLC/> Try the exercises on the right.

<https://www.bowdoin.edu/~eyepes/newgr/ats/> 56 grammar topics with exercises.

https://www.todo-claro.com/e_index.php Lots of exercises on different topics.

<https://learnpracticalspanishonline.com/index.html> Lots of explanations here.

<https://conjuguemos.com/activities/spanish/verb/1> Practise conjugating here. Choose a tense and click on graded practice.

Vocabulary

Get a vocab book. It can be a paper notebook, a spreadsheet or on your phone.

When you come across new words, look up the translation and add it to your vocab book. Start now.

Use **online dictionaries**

<https://www.wordreference.com/es/translation.asp> WordReference.com is very comprehensive. The middle tab shows you the Collins dictionary translations for the same words. The forum posts at the bottom are also helpful. Always think about which translation works best in the context in which the word appears.

<https://www.linguee.com/english-spanish> Linguee is a dictionary and gives lots of examples of how a word or phrase has been used and translated in real texts.

<https://quizlet.com/en-gb> You can make your own vocab lists and practise learning vocab on Quizlet.com. Create sets on Quizlet with words you have written in your vocab book. There are also lots of theme-based sets you can use – teacher created ones have fewer mistakes.

Reading

Browse the Internet in Spanish. Research things you are interested in by using Spanish search terms and reading about them on Spanish language websites. Be curious and find out things you didn't know about Spanish speaking countries.

Make vocab lists of words you don't know.

<https://www.learnpracticalspanishonline.com/beginner/beginner-readings.html> &

<https://www.learnpracticalspanishonline.com/intermediate/intermediate-readings.html>

Short reading passages with translations.

<https://www.bbc.com/mundo> News articles in Spanish.

<http://lanic.utexas.edu/> A hub with links to newspapers, history, geography, environment, science, museums and reference sites from across Latin America. Explore the diversity of the Spanish speaking world.

Listening

<https://www.bbc.com/mundo/media/video> Short news and current affairs videos.

<https://www.laits.utexas.edu/spe/> Native Spanish speakers from different countries speak about a range of topics. Comes with transcripts.

<https://www.brut.media/mx> Spanish videos with Spanish subtitles.

Podcasts

<https://podcast.duolingo.com/spanish> Many podcasts with explanations and context in English interspersed with Spanish segments with transcripts.

<https://radiolingua.com/coffeebreakspanish/> Pick a level and click on free podcasts.

<http://www.audiria.com/capitulos.php> Short videos. Click to see the text.

<http://www.espanolautomatico.com/todos-capitulos-podcast> 10 min. podcasts. Varied topics.

Tips for Studying A level Spanish

Watch these videos by previous students who got good grades about what helped them to learn Spanish at A level.

<https://youtu.be/oAJTnNYmrRs> Student 1

<https://youtu.be/btQT5HRJmfA> Student 2

Overview of the AQA Spanish specification topics

There 4 themes subdivided into topics

Year 1

Theme 1: Aspects of Hispanic society

- Modern and traditional values (Los valores tradicionales y modernos)
- Cyberspace (El ciberespacio)
- Equal rights (La igualdad de los sexos)

Theme 2: Political and artistic culture

- Modern day idols (La influencia de los ídolos)
- Spanish regional identity (La identidad regional en España)
- Cultural heritage (El patrimonio cultural)

(Apart from Spanish regional identity, these themes will cover material relating to any Spanish-speaking country or countries.)

Year 2

Theme 3: Multiculturalism in Hispanic society

Students may study all sub-themes in relation to any Spanish-speaking country or countries.

- Immigration (La inmigración)
- Racism (El racismo)
- Integration (La convivencia)

Theme 4: Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world

- Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens (Jóvenes de hoy, ciudadanos del mañana)
- Monarchies and dictatorships (Monarquías y dictaduras)
- Popular movements (Movimientos populares)

Apart from monarchies (just Spain) and dictatorships (just those countries which had or had dictatorships), these themes will cover material relating to any Spanish-speaking country or countries.

For more detail on the syllabus see here <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/spanish-7692/subject-content>

The skills related to these themes are:

- Acquisition of vocabulary
- Comprehension (reading and listening)
- Short specific answers relating to texts (listening and reading)
- Translation (to and from French)
- Summary writing (reading and listening)

Speaking

Regular discussion on all 4 themes as well as general conversation to improve fluency with the aim of ultimately being able to hold a complex conversation on any of these topics in exam conditions.

IRP Individual Research Project- started in year 2 on a personally chosen topic area relating to Spain or a Spanish-speaking country.

(historical/contemporary/political/cultural/sporting/current affairs)

Film and Book

(one film and one book will be studied over the 2 year course)

You will study characters and themes within the film and book and gain a deep understanding of both works and you will aim to write a 400 word essay in Spanish on each.