



SPANISH

INTERNATIONAL
BACCALAUREATE

SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS (AB INITIO)

WHY SHOULD I STUDY SPANISH?

With 483 million native speakers (and growing), Spanish is the world's second mother tongue. Indeed by 2060, with almost a third of Americans being Hispanic, the USA itself may be second only to Mexico in terms of Spanish speakers. A prominent language within both the UN and the European Union, Spanish is also the third most used language on the Internet. A familiar and accessible language to learn, with a fascinating and diverse history, and culture to go alongside, the real question is why not study Spanish?!

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

Spanish is available for beginners ('Spanish ab initio'), as well as those who have studied before ('Spanish B' - a separate course). All pupils will develop their communication skills to help them function effectively in a Spanish-speaking environment at a basic level. Pupils will learn to speak and write for different purposes, discussing topics relevant to the 21st century, from personal relationships to global problems. The course opens doors leading towards genuine understanding of authentic texts (spoken and written) and will help learners to communicate for real everyday purposes whilst travelling to or even living in a Spanish-speaking country. The 'ab initio' course is motivating and accessible for many language learners. and can also really appeal to those seeking a fresh start to language learning.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are assessed equally. The speaking examination is run internally focused on topics which have been studied in class. Other elements are assessed through two examinations at the end of the course.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

The course leads towards basic but genuine communication. Beyond that, cultural awareness and collaborative skills are a natural by-product of language learning, alongside the development of perseverance and attention to detail. Other skills associated with language learning are improved memory, problem-solving, critical-thinking skills, concentration, multitasking, and better listening skills. Speaking a second language is also believed to counteract mental decline as we age!

WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

Many universities offer language-learning opportunities to pupils alongside their regular courses – perhaps even in preparation for a year abroad in a Spanish-speaking country. Spanish may enhance prospects in careers such as Sales, Marketing, Journalism, International Development, Logistics, the Diplomatic Service, Education, Publishing and Tourism (amongst others).

