



SPANISH

INTERNATIONAL
BACCALAUREATE

SPANISH POST-GCSE (LANGUAGE B)

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. As well as refining and honing earlier grammatical foundations, pupils will learn to speak and write for different purposes, discussing topics relevant to the 21st century, such as friendship, the media, film and music, through to social issues, global problems, diversity and identity. Spanish B enables pupils to make more genuine, independent use of the language, with the Higher Level course developing the skills needed for university study.

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 genuine communication in Spanish. 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?

You may consider studying languages at university and become a translator. Equally you may use your Spanish to enhance your career prospects through opportunities in Sales, Marketing, Journalism, International Development, Logistics, the Diplomatic Service, Education, Publishing and Tourism (amongst other careers).

(A-level pupils may also take the IB Certificate in Spanish Language B as a stand-alone course.) The Instituto Cervantes' DELE examinations (recognised by Spanish-speaking countries and universities) may also be an option.

