

Spanish

A-Level

Overview

The Modern Languages department has enthusiastically embraced the revolution that has taken place in Language learning in recent years. The department aims to develop as fully as possible students' innate linguistic ability and the teaching is sympathetic, supportive and, as far as possible, tailored to individual needs. A range of techniques and activities are employed to make the learning process as enjoyable and stimulating as possible.

Why Study?

Studying a language at A-level gives you the opportunity to practise key skills which can be useful for all careers choices. The ability to understand and communicate in another language is a life-long skill for education, employment and leisure purposes. Through the study of a language, you can discover new cultures and broaden your view of our globalised world. In current climates, employers look favourably on future employees with the ability to speak another language.

Studying a language at university can involve studying languages solely or more often they can be combined to get joint or multiple Honours degrees. There is a wide range of courses available in universities where you can study a language ab initio in conjunction with another language studied to A-level standard.

Course Overview

The new A-Level syllabus covers a range of topics in its first year such as: media including television, advertising and communication technology; popular culture – cinema, music, fashion and trends; as well as topics such as family and relationships which includes friendships, marriage and partnerships. Students also study a spanish film, such as “Volver” by Pedro Almodóvar.





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The subject content in Year 13 comprises of the following themes: the multicultural society including immigration, integration and racism; and contemporary social issues such as modern day idols, Spanish regional identity including traditions and customs as well as cultural heritage. Additionally, students also make an in-depth study of a Spanish film, such as Laura Esquivel's "Como agua para chocolate" as well as the study of a literary text such as " Réquiem por un campesino español" by Ramón J. Sender. Students will also undertake an Individual Research Project about a topic related to a Spanish speaking country or community.

Progression

In recent years several students have continued Spanish at university or have started a new language, on its own or in conjunction with subjects such as cinema, music, history, economics, education, management, European Studies, international relations, international politics, journalism or linguistics. Through the Erasmus Scheme, universities are also able to offer undergraduates the opportunity to do part of their degree course abroad – a popular choice for students as it gives them an ability not only to become fluent but also to enjoy the culture of that particular country.

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