

Core aims of the subject at Key Stage 4

With over 450 million native speakers, Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world. Spoken as a first language in 21 countries, learning Spanish can take you further than you ever imagined. The ability to speak Spanish will allow you to discover the rich culture of not only Spain itself, but also almost all countries in Central and South America. Having the ability to speak even a little Spanish whilst travelling can open up new experiences and can give you valuable insight into the lives of native Spanish speakers.

With such a range of countries having Spanish as their official language, knowing Spanish is extremely useful in the international job market and can strengthen your CV and improve job prospects. This can open the doors to a wide variety of **challenging opportunities** within businesses not only across the globe but also within England, from the nationwide bank Santander to Seat. Further afield, the United States has recently been cited as the second largest Spanish-speaking country in the world, where an estimated 37.6 million people speak it as their first language. As the US has the world's largest economy and the Hispanic population in the US is projected to double by 2050, this makes Spanish enormously important if you aspire to work abroad. In addition, you could use your Spanish knowledge to volunteer abroad and help a community where many charitable organizations carry out work such as building schools for those less fortunate. This shows how important it is to be able to speak this language. It really does **prepare you for the future!**

As well as learning the language, you will be given the opportunity to study the culture of these countries. Spain and Spanish speaking countries have arguably the most interesting cultural traditions including thousands of weird, wacky and fun festivals. Learning about these events opens up a whole new world of traditions for you to experience, from the bull run of San Fermín to the baby jumping festival of El Colacho! This also allows you to put into perspective your own culture and compare what you consider to be the norm with that of other countries. A knowledge of Spanish also offers access to great works of literature in the original Spanish, as well as films and songs. Spanish is the language of **inspirational** figures such as Federico Garcia Lorca, Gabriel García Márquez, Penélope Cruz, Enrique Iglesias, Shakira and even David de Gea or Lionel Messi! You will have the opportunity to participate in school visits. This will allow you to get involved in a different community but also make you realise the lifelong effect of learning Spanish when are able to communicate effectively with native Spanish speakers. You will also study a couple of Spanish films, which will demonstrate some strong cultural differences within Spain.

Speaking Spanish opens up opportunities to study at renowned Spanish speaking universities and business schools, ranked among the top higher education institutions in Europe and the world. We have had students who have studied Spanish at GCSE then A level leading to studying in a Spanish speaking country for their degree.

Spanish is a rich, beautiful, and melodic language. Whether it is one of the beautiful varieties of Latin American Spanish, or Castilian Spanish from Spain. Spanish is a Romance language and is famous for being pleasant on the ears. As well as being enjoyable, it has been scientifically proven that learning a language is a stimulating activity for your brain and thus leads to your own personal development. Learning a language like Spanish is a great way to keep your brain young and provide excellent mental stimulation. Language learning boosts your memory by prompting you to memorise new vocabulary and grammar rules. In addition, it challenges and improves the cognitive functions of your brain allowing you to become a faster and more effective learner. Learning a language has many social benefits, for example your confidence grows as you push yourself out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself to

speak in another language to a native speaker. You will become more resilient and as you learn more and more, you will start to feel a tremendous sense of accomplishment and self-satisfaction. This motivational journey will enable you to be more prepared and have the confidence to tackle other challenges in life. As well as this, learning a language allows you to improve your English by spotting similarities between the two and correcting misconceptions within your own native language.

For all these reasons, we feel that through your Spanish journey you will be prepared to access a much broader world. The curriculum provides **breadth and depth**, and you will be able to study topics such as holidays, local environment or new technology. As the course goes on, you will develop a greater understanding of the Spanish language as well as different aspects of Spanish culture. You will develop a knowledge and achieve something which will make you different from other pupils. The topics have been chosen based on the appropriate specification and we have strategically planned out when to teach them and how long to dedicate to each of them, allowing plenty of time for revision and future preparation for the exams. You will have the opportunity to take part in the Spanish exchange with Granada during Year 10, during which you will be able to leave with a Spanish family for a week and host a Spanish student for a week. This is such a fantastic and rare experience, which can create long lasting friendship with French people and therefore **life-long learning**.

It would not be fair or true to say that learning Spanish is easy; language learning takes time, effort and dedication. The acquisition of vocabulary and grammar knowledge is relentless, but we make no apology for this! The rewards for perseverance are enormous; you never know which doors might just open for you because of your language skills. Employers and universities recognise that learning a language shows resilience and tenacity and will respect and value you for this. Your teachers will guide you safely through the course, preparing you for the exams and beyond, but this is your grade for a reason. Spending just five minutes a day reading through your class notes, revisiting grammar points or learning vocabulary is worth more than half an hour once a week. The dividend for trawling meticulously through your written pieces, to correct and improve them will come when you sit your writing exam and can tackle any essay question with ease and confidence. You will be able to develop resilience that will help you in the future. Making links to a whole host of related words from one word you've just discovered, will train your brain to find connections and break down words more easily, keeping your brain firing on all cylinders (you're welcome).

Assessment

Students will be tested in listening, reading, speaking and writing and will develop transferable skills, relevant to further study and the world of work. The range of topics within the specification aims to inspire students who are interested in Spanish culture and Spanish speaking countries. Students study all the following themes on which the assessments are based.

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology

- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

Paper 1 Speaking in Spanish

Foundation tier: 7-9 minutes plus 15 minutes' preparation time; 50 marks Higher tier: 10-12 minutes plus 15 minutes' preparation time; 50 marks

Paper 2 Listening and understanding in Spanish

Foundation tier: 45 minutes, including 5 minutes' reading time, 50 marks Higher tier: 60 minutes, including 5 minutes' reading time, 50 marks

Paper 3 and understanding in Spanish

Foundation tier: 45 minutes, 50 marks Higher tier: 60 minutes, 50 marks

Paper 4 Writing in Spanish

Foundation tier: 1 hour 15 minutes; 50 marks. Higher tier: 1 hour 20 minutes; 50 marks

Homework

Fortnightly vocabulary tests and half termly verb tests. Further to this, the students need to learn or reinforce vocabulary/verbs by using Languagenut and their course vocabulary booklets. Improvements to written tasks and speaking questions and other exercises as set by individual teachers.

Clubs and/or intervention

Lunch revision clinic.

Helpful sources of information

Languagenut

GCSEpod

Seneca

Memrise

Quizlet

Pearson website and use of past papers

elpais.es (reading practice)

RTVE.es (live TV and radio)

<http://www.listenlive.eu/spain.html> (live radio stations)

Year 10 Overview
2024-2025

Term	Knowledge	Assessment	Connections to learning
<p>Big Idea – Module 1: life online, free-time activities</p> <p>Rationale: Are you fiercely proud of your bedroom? Do you love your garden because it is the size of a football pitch, with a goal at either end? Does the lack of cinema in Nantwich annoy you as you like watching films on the big screen? Do you think that there is nothing to do in the area, or do you think the countryside is brilliant for hiking? This is the unit to tell us all about it!</p>			
<p>Autumn 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Talking about Spanish speaking sports stars ➤ Using adjectives in Spanish ➤ Talking about life online ➤ Revising the present tense ➤ Using expressions of frequency ➤ Talking about sports and free-time activities ➤ Revising irregular present tense verbs ➤ Using opinion verbs and expressions ➤ Arranging to go out ➤ Using the near future ➤ Planning a cinema visit ➤ Saying what you did at the weekend ➤ Using the preterite tense ➤ Phonics focus on the letter “c” ➤ Talking about days that went wrong ➤ Using the direct object pronouns ➤ Recognising and using three tenses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fortnightly vocabulary / key phrases testing ➤ Half termly verb tests ➤ Other exercises as set by the teacher such as learning and revising vocabulary and verb conjugations on Memrise and Languagenut There could also be some translations, redrafting of written work following detailed marking by your teacher. ➤ Speaking exam preparation starts as well and you will be asked to prepare answers to specific topic and theme related questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Looking for clues when listening ➤ Learning to distinguish word types ➤ Understanding questions ➤ Spotting patterns ➤ Spotting grammatical signposts ➤ Looking for near-cognates ➤ Thinking creatively in speaking ➤ Achieving a fluent translation ➤ Ignoring words which are not needed ➤ Using cognates and near-cognates ➤ Understanding near-cognates when listening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Answering unprepared questions

Big Idea – Module 2: Holidays and festivals

Rationale: We will look at the use of what takes a huge part in the life of teenagers: mobile technology. You will be able to discuss and write about what you do with it, but also discuss what the risk and dangers are with social media. Have you ever spent New Year’s Eve watching amazing fireworks? What do you think of Christmas: is it too commercial or should we help the poor at this time of year? How do we spend Christmas in Spain? What do you know of la Tomatina or other celebrations? In this unit, you’ll find out how you might if you spend 31st December in Spain! How many times are your parents saying ‘Come on, you can order, you do Spanish at school!’. In this unit, we will be looking at booking accommodation and how to talk about holidays. Hopefully, by the end of this unit, you’ll be planning your visit to Spain!

Autumn
2

- Using *me gusta (n) / me gustaria* + infinitive
- Describing a photo
- Discussing travel plans
- Using comparatives
- Using *se puede(n)* + infinitive
- Talking about festivals in the Spanish-speaking world
- Using the superlative
- Using *if* clauses in the present tense
- Saying what you did on holiday
- Using *acabar de* + infinitive
- Using a range of structures to give opinions in the past
- Describing where you stayed
- Using the imperfect tense
- Giving and spotting positive/negative opinions
- Talking about holidays using different tenses
- Using *suelo* + infinitive
- Using strategies to work out meaning

- Fortnightly vocabulary / key phrases testing
- Other exercises as set by the teacher such as learning and revising vocabulary and verb conjugations on ‘Memrise’
There could also be some translations, redrafting of written work following detailed marking by your teacher.
- Speaking exam preparation starts as well and you will be asked to prepare answers to specific topic and theme related questions.

- Listening for key information
- Working out the meaning of new words
- Asking for clarification
- Word patterns
- Listening for essential words
- Spotting feminine nouns
- Coping strategies
- Pronunciation of verb endings
- Building your speaking and writing skills
- Collecting useful phrases
- Adding opinions to produce more complex sentences
- Making use of grammatical markers
- Listening for detail
- Translation strategies
- Using common patterns between Spanish and English when reading
- Structuring a debate

Big Idea – Module 3: me and my friends

Rationale: Who doesn't want to talk about themselves?! Here, we'll get you doing it in Spanish. We want to know who you are, what your friends and family are like and what your opinions on important things in your life.

Spring 1
and
Spring 2

- Reading about different families
- Using possessive adjectives

- Describing people
- Using the present continuous to describe a picture
- Using *ser* for physical descriptions and *estar* for location

- Talking about who you admire
- Saying how long you have been doing something
- Using the personal *a*

- Talking about friendships and relationships
- Using reflexive verbs
- Using the pronouns *me* and *te* before a verb

- Talking about your identity and what matters to you
- Using *para* + infinitive
- Listening for gist

- Talking about problems and giving advice
- Using *estar* to express moods
- Using *podrías* and *deberías* + infinitive

- Fortnightly vocabulary / key phrases testing
- Other exercises as set by the teacher such as learning and revising vocabulary and verb conjugations on 'Memrise'
- There could also be some translations, redrafting of written work following detailed marking by your teacher.
- Speaking exam preparation starts as well and you will be asked to prepare answers to specific topic and theme related questions.

- Paraphrasing
 - Spotting different words used to express the same idea
 - Using context when listening
 - Requesting help
 - Using a word which refers to a similar item
 - Making use of social and cultural context when reading
- Developing knowledge of Spanish-speaking countries

Big Idea – Module 4: healthy living and daily routines

Rationale: Do you eat healthily at the moment? What about when you were younger? Do you like cooking and what is your favourite dish? We will look at how to talk about healthy living and how to improve our daily routines and health habits.

Spring 2
and
Summer
1

- Learning about typical foods in Spanish-speaking countries
- Using adjectives of nationality
- Describing healthy daily routines
- Using indefinite adjectives
- Using *tener + noun*
- Talking about mealtimes and food trends
- Using direct object pronouns
- Practising listening skills
- Comparing old and new habits
- Using the imperfect tense to say what you used to do
- Using *ya no + verb*
- Talking about illnesses and injuries
- Using reflexive verbs in the preterite tense
- Giving advice using *debes, tienes que* and *necesitas*
- Talking about future plans to improve health and wellbeing
- Using the future tense
- Using 'if' clauses

- Fortnightly vocabulary / key phrases testing
- Other exercises as set by the teacher such as learning and revising vocabulary and verb conjugations on Languagenut, Seneca or GCSEpods.
There could also be some translations, redrafting of written work following detailed marking by your teacher.
- Speaking exam preparation starts as well and you will be asked to prepare answers to specific topic and theme related questions.

- Using grammatical markers
- Describing something when the word is unknown
- Using drawing to help with communication
- Breaking down long words to aid comprehension
- Recognising key topic words in reading and listening tasks
- Building longer sentences
- Simplification and paraphrasing
Using intensifiers

Big Idea – Module 5: School

Rationale: If you were not able to take part in the Spanish exchange and experience first-hand life in a Spanish educational establishment, then you will be able to understand the differences between Spanish and English schools. Do you like school rules? You will be able to express your views and opinions in Spanish about them and move onto what your ideal school would look like.

Summer
1
and
Summer
2

- Learning about schools in Spain
- Using absolute superlatives

- Talking about a typical day at school
- Using the relative pronouns *que, donde, cuando*
- Translating into English effectively

- Talking about my studies
- Using *lo que*
- Talking about the opinions of others

- Talking about how I would change my school
- Using the conditional tense
- sing impersonal verbs with an infinitive

- Talking about students and teachers in my school
- Using negatives
- Forming questions

- Describing a school trip in the past
- Using adjectives and adverbs

- Fortnightly vocabulary / key phrases testing
 - Other exercises as set by the teacher such as learning and revising vocabulary and verb conjugations on Languagenut, Seneca or GCSEpods.
- There could also be some translations, redrafting of written work following detailed marking by your teacher.
- Speaking exam preparation starts as well and you will be asked to prepare answers to specific topic and theme related questions.

- Ignoring words that are not needed
 - Using cognates and near-cognates
 - Using layout to help understanding
 - Reading authentic texts
 - Using verbal context when listening
 - Using questions to formulate answers
 - Recognising common patterns in Spanish when listening
- Using negatives to add complexity

Big Idea – Module 6: Where you live.

Rationale: What is your house like? Do you like it, or would you like to live in a big city, or the countryside? How long have you lived there? What can you do in your town and how do you get there? Is shopping something you really like? If you won the lottery, where would you live? You need to know how to give and understand directions.

Summer
2 and
Autumn
1 (Y11)

- Finding out about Colombia
- Recognising demonstrative adjectives
- Describing cities
- Using the perfect tense
- Using prepositions of place and directions
- Describing how a city or town has changed
- Using demonstrative adjectives for descriptions
- Comparing now and then using the imperfect tense
- Describing shopping preferences
- Revising direct object pronouns
- Choosing the correct tense when translating
- Giving preferences about where you live
- Using the subjunctive with *cuando*
- Revising comparisons
- Talking about your area
- Using a variety of verb tenses
- Finding different ways to describe future plans

- Fortnightly vocabulary / key phrases testing
- Other exercises as set by the teacher such as learning and revising vocabulary and verb conjugations on Languageut, Seneca or GCSEpods.
There could also be some translations, redrafting of written work following detailed marking by your teacher.
- Speaking exam preparation starts as well and you will be asked to prepare answers to specific topic and theme related questions.

- Spotting near-cognates when listening
- Using grammatical categories
- Recognising suffixes
- Looking for words inside other words
- Making use of social and cultural context when listening
- Tackling 'Positive, Negative or Positive/Negative tasks
- Agreeing and disagreeing in a discussion
- Dealing with longer texts.

Year 11 Overview
2025-2026

Term	Knowledge	Assessment	Connections to learning
<p>Big Idea – Module 7: local and global issues</p> <p>Rationale: Here we also move away from looking at ourselves and our own lives and we take a more outwardly look at the world. How can we save our planet? What are the causes of environmental problems and what can we do about them? Does helping people around the world and in your community interest you? You might want to help fighting the Ebola virus in Western Africa or simply help your local food bank. This might sound a little complicated to be able to say all this in Spanish, but trust us, we'll get you there.</p>			
<p>Autumn 1 and autumn 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Learning about natural wonders of Spanish-speaking countries ➤ Using pronouns after prepositions ➤ Talking about how you help in your community ➤ Using the imperative ➤ Using <i>falta, hace falta, vale la pena, basta</i> ➤ Talking about climate change ➤ Using the passive ➤ Using the imperfect continuous ➤ Acting to help the environment ➤ Avoiding the passive ➤ Practising negatives ➤ Talking about solutions ➤ Using the subjunctive to give opinions ➤ Translating more complex texts ➤ Developing effective comprehension skills ➤ Using <i>(no) se debería</i> + infinitive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fortnightly vocabulary / key phrases testing ➤ Other exercises as set by the teacher such as learning and revising vocabulary and verb conjugations on Languagenut, Seneca or GCSEpods. There could also be some translations, redrafting of written work following detailed marking by your teacher. ➤ Speaking exam preparation starts as well and you will be asked to prepare answers to specific topic and theme related questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Using paraphrasing ➤ Using adjectives to improve a piece of work ➤ Using social / cultural context to understand meaning ➤ Adding complexity to written and spoken language ➤ Recognising cognates and near-cognates when reading ➤ Reading for gist

Big Idea – Module 8: Plans for the future

Rationale: This is the end. You need to decide what you are going to do next. 6th Form, apprenticeship? You will be able to discuss in Spanish what the choices are and why they are good or not so good. Do you think learning languages are important? You will be able to discuss jobs and why they are fantastic and perfect for you, or the opposite.

Spring 1

- Talking about my plans for the future
- Using *seguir / continuar* + present participle
- Transcribing unfamiliar words

- Talking about getting a job
- Using possessive pronouns
- Using prepositions followed by the infinitive

- Talking about future career intentions
- Using masculine and feminine nouns for jobs
- Using and understanding the suffix *-dad/-idad*

- Talking about the importance of learning languages
- Using modal verbs
- Using different verbs forms

- Talking about changes in the world of work
- Understanding more complex texts
- Listening for percentages

- Talking about the impact of artificial intelligence
- Using *para que* + present subjunctive

➤

- Fortnightly vocabulary / key phrases testing
- Other exercises as set by the teacher such as learning and revising vocabulary and verb conjugations on Languageut, Seneca or GCSEpods.
There could also be some translations, redrafting of written work following detailed marking by your teacher.
- Final speaking exam preparation.

- Translating into Spanish and encountering translation problems
- Modes of address
- Telling the time
- Using grammatical markers and categories
- Describing physical properties
- Pointing and demonstration
- Using visual and verbal context in reading
- Using more than one tense in one sentence

Big Idea: Revision

Rationale: You will be using the lessons to revise different topics, go through past papers, look at exam technique, and reinforce learning. All the speaking elements will be rehearsed to prepare you for the speaking exam, which will involve practising role-play and photo cards, and all the questions related to the general conversation.

Practice for writing, listening and reading papers will also take place.

**Spring 2
And
Summer
1**

- Revision of all themes and sub-themes
- Practise all skills for each theme
- Finalise speaking questions and practise them in order to improve fluency and quality of language
- Practise exam papers (Exampro)

- Fortnightly vocabulary / key phrases testing
 - Other exercises as set by the teacher such as learning and revising vocabulary and verb conjugations on Linguagenut, Seneca or GCSEpods.
- There could also be some translations.
- Final speaking exam preparation

Connections to future pathways

Transferable skills

- Communication skills
- Adaptability/resilience /resourcefulness
- Independent learner
- Cultural development
- Global awareness

Job options

Jobs where your languages would be useful include:

- Broadcast journalist
- Detective
- Diplomatic service officer
- Education consultant
- English as a foreign language teacher
- Import/export
- International aid/development worker
- IT
- Logistics and distribution manager
- Marketing executive

Jobs directly related to languages include:

- Interpreter
- Secondary school teacher
- Translator
- Import/export
- Travel industry

- Patent examiner
- Public relations
- Private tutor
- Project manager
- Sales executive
- Solicitor
- Tour manager
- Writer

Significant local employers include

- Bet 365
- Muller yoghurt

- Bentley
- Networld Sports
- Airbus Broughton (Chester)
- Michelin (Stoke on Trent)

Degree courses where languages are required/useful to gain entry

- Classical Studies – useful
- Economics or Business related degrees - useful
- English - sometimes essential, always useful
- European Studies - essential, 2 languages even more useful
- Film Studies – useful
- French - essential, 2 languages even more useful
- German - essential, 2 languages even more useful
- History - useful
- History of Art - useful
- Italian - essential, 2 languages even more useful
- Law – useful
- Leisure and Tourism – very useful

- Philosophy - useful
- Spanish - essential, 2 languages even more useful
- Speech Therapy - useful
- Teacher Training - essential in some cases, useful in all
- many scientific journals are written in German
- increasingly pages added on the internet are in Spanish

Language graduates work for a huge variety of employers and sectors, including:

- business services
- charity work
- engineering
- media
- museums and libraries
- public administration
- teaching
- tourism
- transport and logistics.