

GCSE Spanish

Examination Board: AQA

What is a GCSE in Spanish all about?

At Sandbach School we offer both German and Spanish at GCSE. In Y7 and Y8 you will have studied one of these two languages and now you have the choice to continue this language at GCSE to expand your knowledge OR you can also choose to pick up a new language in our beginners GCSE course.

You will study a variety of topics throughout the course which will develop your vocabulary and enable you to learn new linguistic structures to communicate independently, confidently and effectively in another language. Knowing another language allows you to communicate with significantly more people as only about 6% of the world's population are native English speakers and an estimated three quarters do not speak English at all. Spanish is an extremely useful language to have because it has almost 500 million native speakers.

GCSE Spanish will also help you to develop transferable skills such as communication strategies, listening skills as well as building your confidence to talk to and in front of others which are all valuable assets later in life.

Languages also provide the opportunity for you to study or work abroad in the future as well as helping you to be more confident when travelling to countries such as Spain, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Colombia and Guatemala.

Course Structure:

We follow the new AQA Spanish (8692) specification. Through this exciting and engaging syllabus, you will study a variety of contemporary topics which are relevant to you and your life as well as learn about the cultures of different Spanish-speaking countries and gain a deeper understanding of the world around you. During the GCSE course there will also be the opportunity to visit a Spanish-speaking country and experience the language and culture first hand.

Theme 1 – People and lifestyle

- talking about yourself and the people around you
- healthy living and lifestyle
- school and work

Theme 2 – Popular culture

- free time activities
- festival and celebrations (e.g. Dia de los Muertos, Semana Santa, la Tomatina)
- celebrity culture

Theme 3 – Communication and the world around you

- travel and places of interest
- media and technology
- the environment and where people live

How will I be assessed?

At the end of the course, you will sit an exam in listening, reading, writing and speaking which will test your knowledge of each of the topics listed above.

Languages are accessible to all abilities as there is the option to sit a foundation paper (maximum grade 5) or a higher paper (maximum grade 9).

Exam	Requirements	Duration
Listening 25%	Listen to texts in Spanish and answer comprehension questions in English. You will also be required to dictate sentences which you have heard.	Foundation = 35 minutes Higher = 45 minutes
Reading 25%	Understand texts in Spanish and answer comprehension questions in English. You will also be required to translate a short text from Spanish to English.	Foundation = 45 minutes Higher = 1 hour
Writing 25%	Write short text and an extended piece of writing in Spanish as well as translate a selection of sentences into Spanish.	Foundation = 1 hour 10 minutes Higher = 1 hour 15 minutes
Speaking 25%	Read a short paragraph aloud with accurate pronunciation, participate in a role play scenario, hold a conversation with your teacher in Spanish as well as describe a photo.	Foundation = 7-9 minutes Higher = 10-12 minutes

For more information about the specification, visit <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/german-8662>

What could I do next with a GCSE in Spanish?

After GCSE there is the option to develop your passion for language learning even further by studying Spanish at A Level here at our sixth form. From there you could then move onto university to study a degree in Spanish on its own or in combination with a variety of other subjects such as business, history and geography.

Having a GCSE in a modern foreign language can open many doors for apprenticeships and employment. Knowledge of a second language boosts your employability, as demand for language skills is booming in the global job market and having a second language is often a high priority for employers when recruiting. Studying a language can lead to jobs in business, tourism, interpretation, translation, journalism, international relations, national intelligence and security and more. There are lots of Spanish companies, which could be your future workplace such as:

- Santander
- Chupa Chups
- Telefónica

If you have any further questions regarding the course, please email ahoward@sandbachschool.org