

# 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 German and now you have the choice to continue this language at GCSE to expand your knowledge and improve your fluency OR you can also choose to pick up a new language in our beginners GCSE Spanish class.

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. The GCSE course also provides the opportunity to explore different cultures within the German speaking world to gain global views and intercultural understanding.

## Why study Spanish?

**There is a growing demand for Spanish speakers:** Spanish is spoken by over 500 million people worldwide, making it the second most spoken native language globally. As businesses expand into Spanish-speaking markets across Europe, Latin America and the United States, demand for employees with Spanish language skills continues to rise. Spanish is highly valued across sectors such as business, travel, tourism, education and healthcare. In the UK, over 130,000 companies trade with Spanish-speaking countries, and major organisations such as British Airways, HSBC, Amazon and Santander operate extensively in these markets.

**Spanish develops highly valued transferable skills:** Employers look for the analytical, communication and critical thinking skills gained through language learning. They also value the cultural awareness and global perspective that students of Spanish bring to the workplace.

**Spanish combines with a wide range of degree subjects:** Spanish can be studied alongside over 60 non-linguistic disciplines at degree level, including accountancy, sciences, business, law, economics, humanities and creative subjects, making it a highly versatile option.

**Gaining a university place is easier with Spanish:** Due to the smaller numbers of applicants with Spanish skills, they are more likely to be successful with their first choice, including at the UK's top universities. Universities also look for A-level languages in candidates for all subjects, so that they can take part in undergraduate exchange programmes. Spanish is an official language in over 20 countries, giving students access to a wide range of undergraduate exchange opportunities across Spain and Latin America, enhancing both academic and cultural experiences.

**Spanish is a practical skill for travel and real life:** Spain is the most popular overseas destination for UK travellers, with over 15 million visits each year. From the Balearic and Canary Islands to cities such as Barcelona and Madrid, speaking Spanish enhances travel experiences and enables more meaningful engagement with local culture.

**Spanish is a global language of culture and media:** Spanish-language music is among the most streamed worldwide, with artists regularly topping global charts, while Spanish-language films and series reach international audiences through platforms such as Netflix. This enables learners to engage directly with authentic and contemporary media.

## 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
<b>Listening</b> 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
<b>Reading</b> 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
<b>Writing</b> 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
<b>Speaking</b> 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>

If you have any further questions regarding the course, please email [ahoward@sandbachschool.org](mailto:ahoward@sandbachschool.org)