

A level Spanish at NDHS

Transition from GCSE to A level

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Course content

The exam board we use is **Edexcel**

The following themes are studied over year 12 and 13:

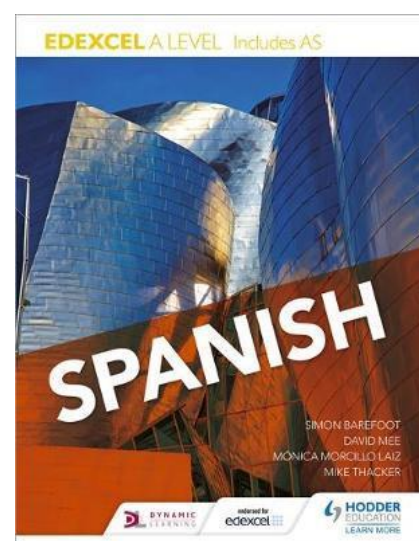
Themes and sub-themes	
La evolución de la sociedad española <ul style="list-style-type: none">• El cambio en la estructura familiar• El mundo laboral• El impacto turístico en España	La cultura política y artística en el mundo hispanohablante <ul style="list-style-type: none">• La música• Los medios de comunicación• Los festivales y las tradiciones
La inmigración y la sociedad multicultural española <ul style="list-style-type: none">• El impacto positivo de la inmigración en la sociedad española• Enfrentando los desafíos de la inmigración y la integración en España• La reacción social y pública hacia la inmigración en España	La dictadura franquista y la transición a la democracia <ul style="list-style-type: none">• La Guerra Civil y el ascenso de Franco (1936-1939)• La dictadura franquista• El paso de la dictadura a la democracia

Literature and film:

- *Réquiem por un campesino español* by Ramón Sender
- *El laberinto del fauno* directed by Guillermo del Toro

Textbook:

The course textbook we use is 'Edexcel A Level Spanish' by Hodder Education. If you would like a brand-new copy, you can buy one from school in September, at a reduced rate. However, you may be able to find a cheaper, second-hand copy online.



Exam format

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Translation [40%]

2 hours [80 marks]

Section A: Listening [30 marks]

Section B: Reading [30 marks]

Section C: Translation into English [20 marks]

Paper 2: Written responses to works and translation [30%]

2 hours 40 minutes [120 marks]

Section A: Translation into Spanish [20 marks]

Section B: Literature – *Réquiem por un campesino español* by Ramón Sender [50 marks]

Section C: Film studies – *El laberinto del fauno* directed by Guillermo del Toro [50 marks]

Paper 3: Speaking [30%]

21-23 minutes [72 marks]

Task 1 [30 marks]

5 minutes for preparation of stimulus card

Discussion based on a stimulus card (6-7 minutes)

Task 2 [42 marks]

Presentation of independent research project (2 minutes)

Discussion on the content of the research project (8-9 minutes)

How to prepare

The best way to prepare yourself for studying Spanish at A level is to ensure that you have a firm grasp of the language and skills that you have already used at GCSE.

You have several weeks in which to really prepare for the A level Spanish course and to make the transition from GCSE more manageable. At A level, you will explore topics in greater detail and move to wider issues that impact on Hispanic society. You will also be expected to work more independently, taking greater responsibility for your own learning.

The aim of this booklet is to encourage you to start this independent approach to study now. Little and often is best; try to build some of these suggestions into your daily routine

Buy...

- We recommend you get hold of a copy of 'Laberinto del Fauno' (with director's commentary) on DVD and watch it: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Pans-Labyrinth-Disc-Set-DVD/dp/B000L42MUQ>

Download...

There are several excellent apps available that are useful to download onto your phone:

- Memrise (vocabulary learning)
- Quizlet (vocabulary learning)
- Lyricstraining (a fun way to learn Spanish through music)
- Wordreference (an online dictionary)
- Gojimo Revision (a revision app, **not** available for Android)
- Twitter (explore the many accounts in Spanish to help you learn more about the language and culture)

Some useful accounts include:

@Spain (official tourism account), @spanishlanguage (phrases, articles etc.), @muyinteresante (science, history, technology, health etc.), @SpanishDict (word of the day)

Watch...

- Netflix is a very useful resource. There are many series and films available to watch in Spanish. Watch in English with Spanish subtitles or in Spanish with English subtitles. Some popular Spanish titles available on Netflix are *Grand Hotel*, *Cable Girls* (15), *Elite* (15) and *Roma* (15) and many more.
- Watch 'Laberinto del Fauno' several times. An important part of the course is to be able to analyse the film in detail, so you will need to know it very well.
- Watch Spanish TV online at <https://www.rtve.es/>, where there are all sorts of programs you can watch like cooking shows, documentaries and soaps. *El ministerio del Tiempo* is another popular series that you can watch through this website.

Listen...

- Listening to Spanish songs on YouTube, Spotify etc. is a good way to learn. Do some research into some popular Spanish music and see if you can find any artists you like.
- The Lyricstraining website combines learning Spanish songs and doing practise listening exercises. <https://lyricstraining.com/>
- Listen to the Spanish charts, known as 'los cuarenta principales' at <https://los40.com/>
- The 'News in Slow Spanish' podcast (available via Castbox, Spotify etc.) is a good way to listen to the latest headlines. It is read at a manageable speed and aimed at learners of Spanish rather than native speakers.
- You can listen to the Spanish news via <https://www.rtve.es/> There are various types of stations depending on your taste (a bit like BBC radio).

Read...

- Reading the news online is a great way to keep up with what is happening in Spain and Spanish speaking countries.

Some good examples include:

<https://www.bbc.com/mundo> (Spanish version of BBC news, it also has a YouTube channel)

<https://primerasnoticias.com/> (News website for young people)

<https://www.20minutos.es/> (Shorter, more accessible news than the national papers below)

<https://www.elmundo.es/> / <https://elpais.com/> (National newspapers in Spain)

- If you are a keen historian, there are several options for background reading, such as 'Franco: A Biography' by Paul Preston and 'Ghosts of Spain' by Giles Tremlett.

Learn...

Join the 'New Year 12' Memrise group here: <https://www.memrise.com/group/405019/>

- Make a start on learning the vocab for the first few A level topics
- Revise GCSE Higher verbs

Revise...

It is important that you have a good knowledge of the grammar that you studied at GCSE.

- Complete any grammar exercises from the GCSE workbook and/or revision guide
- There is lots of good grammar practice available on Seneca:
<https://www.senecalearning.com/en-GB/>