



Spanish GCSE



GCSE Spanish aims to develop a further understanding of the second most spoken language in the world, as well as giving an insight into the varied cultures of Hispanic countries. Students will progress in their competency when using the four skills required to achieve fluency: Speaking, listening, reading and writing.

AQA GCSE specification:

The exams cover three themes which include a few topics:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

- Family and Friends
- Technology
- Free Time activities
- Customs and festival

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

- Home, town and neighbourhood
- Social issues
- Global issues
- Travel and Tourism

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

- My studies (life at school and college)
- Education Post-16
- Jobs, careers and ambitions

There are two different papers for GCSE Spanish.

- **The foundation paper** (you can get up to a grade 5).
- **The higher paper** (you can get between a 3 and a 9).

How is the Spanish GCSE assessed?

There are four exams: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Each exam is worth 25%.

Listening Exam

Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)
40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier)

Speaking Exam

7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time
10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time
60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)
Role-play – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 2 minutes at Higher Tier)
Photo card – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 3 minutes at Higher Tier)
General conversation – 30 marks (3–5 minutes at Foundation Tier; 5–7 minutes at Higher Tier)

Reading Exam

Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier)
60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)

Writing exam

Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)
50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier
Foundation – Responding to a photo (8 marks), Short Passage (40 words, 16 marks), Translation (10 marks), Longer Passage (90 words, 16 marks).
Higher – Shorter Writing Task (90 words, 16 marks), Longer Writing Task (120 words, 32 marks), Translation (50 words, 12 marks).

How is GCSE different from the work we have done at KS3?

As well as developing our accuracy and use of vocabulary and grammar, we will be learning to cope with unpredictability, understanding issues and opinions and discussing our own views on a range of topics.

