

THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

SPANISH DEPARTMENT

Summer transition work

From GCSE ... to A level

Spanish

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¡Bienvenido!

1. Why study Spanish?

Congratulations on choosing to study Spanish A Level. You have opened the door of opportunity! Studying Spanish will enrich your life, giving you opportunities to travel abroad and to learn about different cultures and different ways of life. Studying a language will also enhance your life chances, as universities and employers tend to prefer candidates who can speak more than one language – you will be in an elite club of those who can!

Did you know that linguists are better communicators and writers and have a better understanding of their own language too? Students who study languages do better in tests, and learning a language will improve the functionality of your brain and improve your memory skills.

Spanish is the second-most widely spoken language in the world (after Mandarin Chinese), with 400 million native speakers, and official status in a staggering 21 countries, spanning South, Central and North America, as well as Africa and Europe.

Studying A Level Spanish will enable you to learn the Spanish language and will also help you to gain an in-depth insight into the cultural, social, political and artistic aspects of the Spanish speaking country/countries you will study.

This booklet will help you make the jump from GCSE to A Level. It is a big jump but do not be daunted, just get started! The main reason students find A Level study a big jump is if they have gone the whole summer without speaking, listening or reading anything in the language.

¡Buena suerte!



“He (she) who does not know foreign languages does not know anything about his (her) own”
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German writer

2. Prepare for A level

At The Buckingham School we study the AQA A level course.

There are 2 core themes in the A level specification:

- **Social Issues and trends**
- **Political and artistic culture**

In addition, you will have to study a film in year 12 and a book in year 13.

Themes and sub-themes will be assessed in paper 1 & 3.

Film and text will be assessed in paper 2.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing (including translations Spanish to English and English to Spanish)

Paper 2: Writing - One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification & Grammar

Paper 3: Speaking -Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5 – 6 minutes) You will study the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test. Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9 – 10 minutes) of individual research project.

The choice of works (literary texts and films) offers opportunities to link with the themes.

3. What makes a successful language student?

Have opinions: Look at the topic areas and maybe just jot down in Spanish or even English how you feel about the major issues arising from each one of them. Watch the news or read a national broadsheet newspaper. Above all, **be interested and be informed.**

Practise grammar all the time: There is a large gap between GCSE and A-Level, caused largely by the non-grammatical approach to GCSE in the past. It is absolutely unavoidable now, so practise it week-in week-out and bridge that gap!

Be resilient: You are great at English because of the amount of time you have spent practising it, so do not give up when you do not immediately master Spanish – none of us do! Spend time little and often to build up your skills.

Go the extra mile: Do not rely merely on time in class to provide you with information for the topic areas and cultural information. Make it a habit to explore on your own, searching for interesting texts and making the most of the wide variety of cultural options provided here.

Be organised: Keep material from different topic areas separately filed in your folders.

Have a separate grammar book/area and constantly refer to it when attempting written tasks in particular. Always have your grammar books and dictionaries open in front of you when you are attempting tasks in any of the skill areas.

And lastly ...

You will take from the course what you put in.

Students who put in the most effort with independent work are always the most successful.

“A different language is a different vision of life”

Frederico Fellini, Italian film director

4. A world of culture

Your GCSE topics were mainly limited to personal matters and experiences. The next step is to try to develop a broader knowledge of the target language country's society, government, history, fashion, art, music and lifestyle.

At the same time, you will also be developing your listening and reading skills.

Spanish cinema

Watch films with subtitles in English first, and then in Spanish, will be an excellent preparation for the A level course. This way you listen and read so you see the spelling, hear the pronunciation and learn the meaning in a context, all at the same time. We study the Spanish film *El laberinto del fauno*.

El laberinto del fauno Guillermo del Toro (2006)

Ocho apellidos vascos Emilio Martínez-Lázaro (2014)

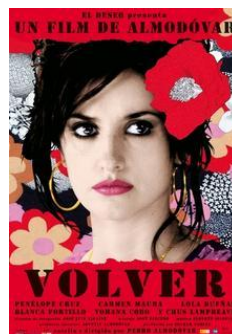
María, llena eres de gracia Joshua Marston (2004)

Volver Pedro Almodóvar (2006)

Abel Diego Luna (2010)

Las 13 rosas Emilio Martínez-Lázaro (2007)

Voces inocentes Luis Mandoki (2004)



Spanish television

https://wwitv.com/tv_channels/8234.htm this site allows you to choose from a number of Spanish TV channels that you can watch online. RTVE La 1 is the original Spanish channel and a good place to start.

On the BBC site <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/tv/> you can see access a variety of programmes online.

Spanish literature

You will be required to do more reading for your A level subjects. In year 13 we study the book *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*, which you will read over the summer between year 12 and 13. This summer why not try to start reading a Spanish book.

You could get a translation of an English book/author you know eg. Harry Potter or Charlie and the chocolate factory.

You could read some of the famous comics such as *Zipi y Zape* or *El justiciero fantasma*.

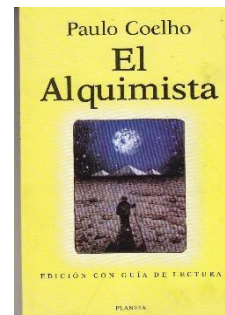
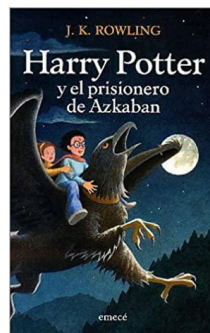
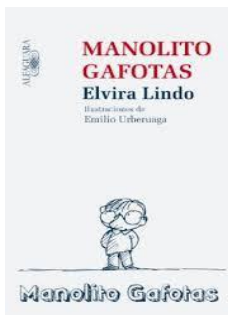
Spanish books to try would be *Manolito Gafotas*, *El Alquimista* or Spanish short stories for beginners.

You can have access to free books at this digital library <http://bibliotecadigital.ilce.edu.mx/>

Keep your own vocabulary book for new expressions you come across. You could order it alphabetically, by topic area based on what we are going to study or just use it as a diary and scribble away your Spanish development in it.

TOP TIP: Don't look up every word you are not sure of when reading an article/ book

Yes... you read that right. When you are reading articles etc, try not to look up every word, as it will take you forever. Skim and scan the text to get the gist. Remember to use the context or the article, cognates and common sense to figure out what the article is saying. Pick out a couple of words that you like the look of, that you feel may be real hurdles to getting the idea of the text, look them up carefully and add them to your vocab booklet. The aim at this stage is to get the gist of the article, not be able to translate it completely. Translation is a completely different ball game and you will learn it soon enough.



Spanish newspapers

Read a foreign language newspaper.

El País has its own website <http://elpais.com/> so that you can read the paper online. You do not have to read the paper cover to cover, just scan the headlines and pick out ONE article that grabs your attention. You could also use <http://www.elmundo.es>

This website is a more light-hearted newspaper, which covers global stories as well as gossip. <http://www.20minutes.es> Also try <https://www.20minutos.es/videos/> This is the TV Channel for this newspaper.

In Spain, there is also a news website for young people: <https://primerasnoticias.com/> It has sections on the Internet and Mobile Technology; Science and Wildlife; Education; Culture; Sport; Society and Health. A glance today contained articles about addiction to technology, secrets of Mexico and FC Barcelona to name but a few.

Spanish radio

The great thing about listening to the radio is that you can get on with something else at the same time. Listen live using the RTVE site. It can take a while to buffer so be patient.

RTVE Radio 3 <https://www.rtve.es/radio/radio3/> or M80 radio <https://radiofy.online/m80-radio>
Online radiobox <https://onlineradiobox.com/es/> allows you to choose from a range of radio eg Muy Buena or Los 40 principales.

Spanish music

Music artists are studied in year 12 as part of one of the topics. You will have come across some already. This is another great way to improve listening and reading skills. Use www.lyricstraining.com to play!

Alvaro Soler, Rosalia, Bad Bunny, Juanes and many more ...



Spanish websites

Switch to Spanish browsers such as and www.terra.es/ or www.es.yahoo.com as well as www.google.es. This way, you will read Spanish every time you log on and it will become part of your everyday activity.



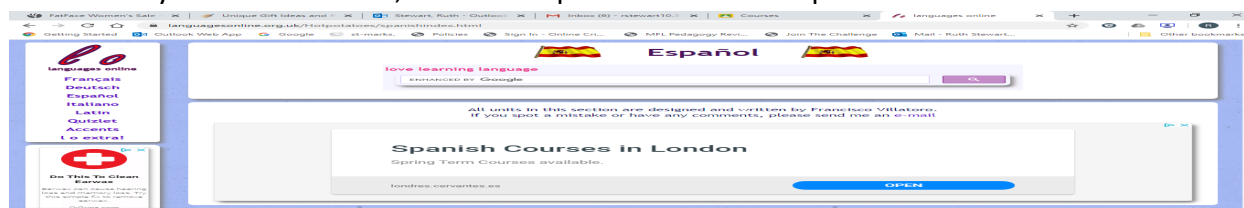
"Learn a new language and get a new soul"
Czech proverb

5. Language essentials - 'What I should know by now'

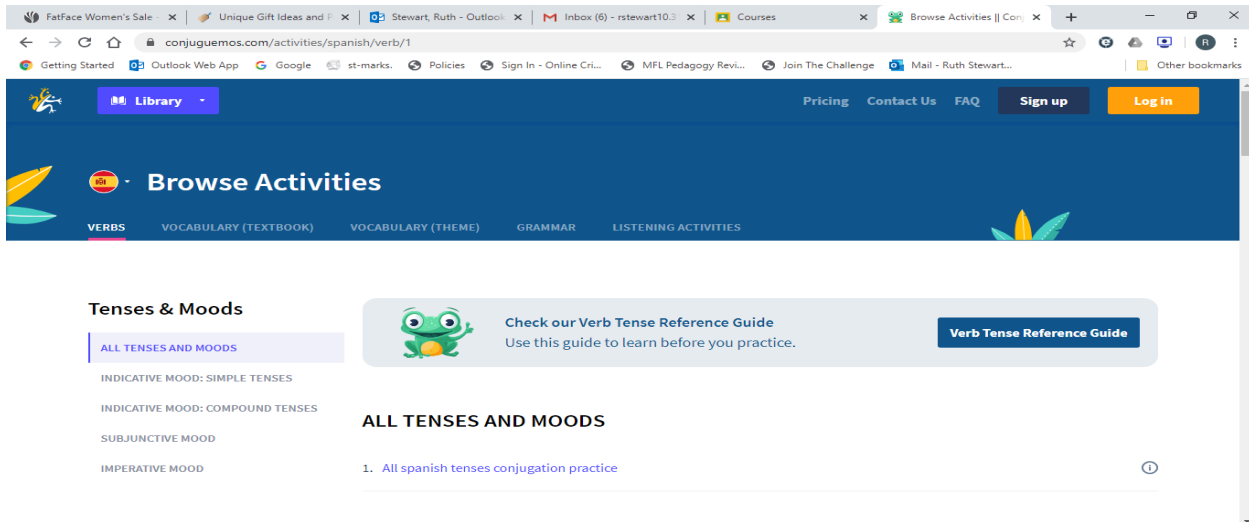
From GCSE you should be starting with the foundation in the table below. Some parts of this may be more secure than other parts, and revision of this is included in the course.

TOPIC	CONTENT
Recognise and use a range of tenses with regular verbs.	Regular –AR, -ER, -IR verbs: Tenses: Present (hablo) Preterite (hablé) Imperfect (hablaba) Near Future (form of ir + infinitive) Future (hablaré) Conditional (hablaría) Present continuous (estoy hablando) Perfect (he hablado)
Recognise and use a range of tenses with irregular verbs.	Common irregular verbs: ser, estar, tener, ir, hacer, poder, querer Tenses: Present Preterite Imperfect Near Future (form of ir + inf.) Future (eg. Sera) Conditional (eg. sería)
Give opinions with reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of opinion expressions • Positive and negative reasons for opinions • To be able to agree and disagree
Develop extended sentences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use sentence starters ● Use complex connectives ● Include a subjunctive phrase <p>Use <u>5 is the magic number</u> to help you learn a wider variety of these</p>

The Grammar Revision resources on www.languagesonline.org.uk are great as you can then select what tense you want to revise, read the explanations and complete the exercises.



Conjuguemos: a great website for practicing your verb conjugations. Find it here: <https://conjuguemos.com/>



Oye language skills: this website is free after 4pm and really comes into its own with its A level section. Practice your verbs, pronouns, do practice translations and review other grammar points. Find it here <http://oye.languageskills.co.uk/index.html>



“The limits of my language are the limits of my universe.”

6. Homework tasks (Tasks 1, 2, 3 and 8 are compulsory you can choose any others for extension)

1. Familiarise yourself with the topics you are going to study next year. Translate the sub-themes into English.

Aspects of Hispanic society (in relation to any Spanish-speaking country or countries)	
Spanish	English Translation
Los valores tradicionales y modernos	• Modern and traditional values
• Los cambios en la familia	
• Actitudes hacia el matrimonio/el divorcio	
• La influencia de la Iglesia Católica	
El ciberespacio	• Cyberspace
• La influencia de internet	
• Las redes sociales: beneficios y peligros	
• Los móviles inteligentes en nuestra sociedad	
La igualdad de los sexos	• Equal rights
• La mujer en el mercado laboral	
• El machismo y el feminismo	
• Los derechos de los gays y las personas transgénero	
Artistic culture in the Spanish-speaking world (in relation to any Spanish-speaking country or countries)	
Spanish	English Translation
La influencia de los ídolos	• Modern day idols
• Cantantes y músicos	
• Estrellas de televisión y cine	
• Modelos	
La identidad regional en España	• Spanish regional identity
• Tradiciones y costumbres	
• La gastronomía	
• Las lenguas	

El patrimonio cultural	• Cultural heritage
• Sitios turísticos y civilizaciones prehispánicas: Machu Picchu, la Alhambra, etc	
• Arte y arquitectura	
• El patrimonio musical y su diversidad	
Multiculturalism in Hispanic society (in relation to any Spanish-speaking country or countries)	
Spanish	English Translation
La inmigración	• Immigration
• Los beneficios y los aspectos negativos	
• La inmigración en el mundo hispánico	
• Los indocumentados - problemas	
El racismo	• Racism
• Las actitudes racistas y xenófobas	
• Las medidas contra el racismo	
• La legislación anti-racista	
La convivencia	• Integration
• La convivencia de culturas	
• La educación	
• Las religiones	
Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world (in relation to any Spanish-speaking country or countries)	
Spanish	English Translation
Jóvenes de hoy, ciudadanos del mañana	• Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens
• Los jóvenes y su actitud hacia la política : activismo o apatía	
• El paro entre los jóvenes	
• Su sociedad ideal	
Monarquías y dictaduras	• Monarchies and dictatorships
• La dictadura de Franco	
• La evolución de la monarquía en España	
• Dictadores latinoamericanos	

Movimientos populares	• Popular movements
• La efectividad de las manifestaciones y las huelgas	
• El poder de los sindicatos	
• Ejemplos de protestas sociales (eg El 15-M, las Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, ...)	

2. Summarise, in Spanish, 2 articles (that were in Spanish!) that you have read from one of the websites/ papers above and say why they interested you. If you cannot print the article, make a note of the website. Try to make these related to one of the topics we will study (as per the table above).

3. Translate this review from fondazionemilano.eu for *Volver* before watching it. Bring this along with you on paper to your first lesson:

Volver es una película del 2006 escrita y dirigida por Pedro Almodóvar, uno de los más importantes directores de cine, guionistas y productores españoles. Siempre me fascinó su persona y por eso decidí analizar una de sus películas.

La película cuenta la historia de unas mujeres que intentan sobrevivir a los sufrimientos de la vida ayudándose recíprocamente.

A lo largo de la película se entiende que también las madres tienen algo, o alguien, en común.

De hecho, Volver es una historia de supervivencia, de lucha, de amistad y de complicidad entre las varias mujeres de la obra. Todas intentan liberarse de un pasado que las hizo sufrir, olvidarlo todo y llegar a ser más fuertes para mirar con serenidad hacia el futuro.

Además, el título de la película tiene el mismo nombre del tango de Alfredo Le Pera, que se convierte en un flamenco cantado por Raimunda durante una fiesta en el restaurante que dirige.

En mi opinión, “volver” simboliza también la vuelta al pasado de las protagonistas, su recorrer los eventos pasados y la vuelta de Irene.

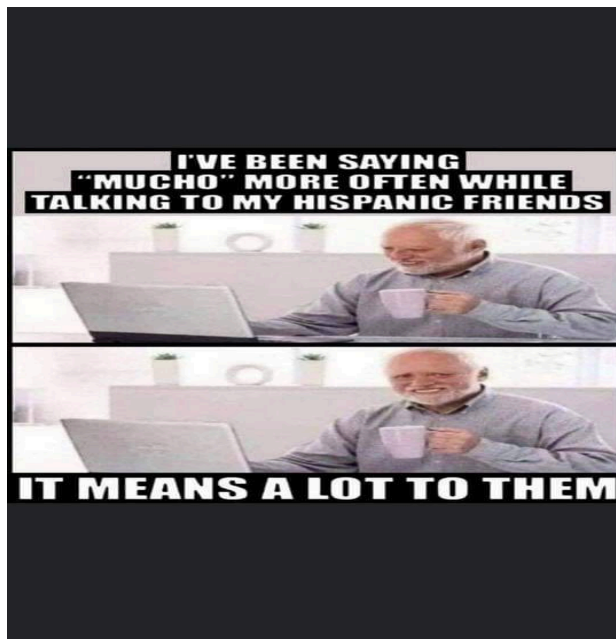
Volver tuvo mucho éxito no solo en España, sino también en otros países del mundo. Ha obtenido muchos premios: mejor película, mejor director, mejor actriz (Penélope Cruz), mejor actriz de reparto (Carmen Maura), y mejor música original.

En conclusión, la obra me gustó muchísimo porque es compleja y compuesta por muchos elementos diferentes magistralmente encadenados en la trama. Destacan el dolor, la muerte, los abusos sexuales, los fantasmas pero también la amistad, la solidaridad femenina, la complicidad y el vínculo entre madres y hijas.

Aconsejaría la película a todo el mundo porque el ritmo es rápido: siempre pasa algo, pero nunca pasa lo que tú piensas que va a ocurrir. Por eso es una película que atrapa desde el comienzo hasta el final.

about it. You can then put a couple of notes in your task log.

SPANGLISH
(noun)
CUANDO YOU CAN'T FIND LA
PALABRA EN UNA IDIOMA SO YOU
FILL IT IN CON LA OTRA.



INDEPENDENT TASK LOG

Every time you work on your language learning, complete the details below as a record:

Date	Skill practised Eg. reading, grammar, other ...	Source	Topic	Time spent	Reflection, evaluation	Evidence

7. Useful resources

Grammar	https://www.todo-claro.com/e_index.php https://spanish.tolearnfree.com/free-spanish-lessons/
Vocab/general help	https://www.thoughtco.com/spanish-4133085 https://mfl.jimdo.com/resources/spanish/ https://www.123teachme.com/learn_spanish/exercises_basic_spanish_all https://studyspanish.com/vocab https://www.livelingua.com/spanish/vocabulary/ https://www.mosalingua.com/en/spanish-vocabulary-lists-by-topic/
TV/radio	https://www.rtve.es/ https://www.rtve.es/radio/
Newspapers	https://elpais.com/ https://www.elcomercio.com/ https://www.reforma.com/ https://www.lanacion.com.ar/
Translator in context	http://www.linguee.com/ https://context.reverso.net/translation/english-spanish/
News on current events	https://www.univision.com/ https://www.generacion21.com/ https://www.telemundo.com/ https://www.practicaespanol.com/noticias/
Spanish pronunciation	https://studyspanish.com/pronunciation https://www.spanishdict.com/pronunciation



Appendix 1: Tenses workout

Can you identify the tense (or mood)? Use the highlighted abbreviations & then translate in to English

	Tense	Translation
1. Tuve que ir al médico ayer		
2. Me gustaría ir a Colombia		
3. ¡ Tienes mucha suerte!		
4. Tuvimos problemas con el coche de mi padre.		
5. Mi tío llegará a las tres de la tarde.		
6. Es necesario que estudie mucho para los exámenes.		
7. Mi padre ha hablado con mi profesor de matemáticas.		
8. Cuando era niña jugaba mucho en el parque.		
9. ¡ Escuchad!		
10. Para mañana ya habremos terminado todo.		
11. Habría querido ser piloto		
12. Mis abuelos van a visitarnos este verano.		
13. Había caminado por dos horas.		

PR esent	IM perfect	PRE terite	C onditional
Past C onditional	F uture	F uture PER fect	NEAR F uture
Past H istoric		(present) S ubjunctive	PLU perfect
PR esent PART iciple		IMPER ative	

Fill in the grid with both the yo (first person) and él/ella (third person singular) forms

Infinitive	Present	Imperfect	Preterite	Future	conditional	Subjunctive
ir	_____ va	_____	Fui	_____	_____ iría	_____
ser	_____	era	_____	_____	_____	_____
estar	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
tener	_____	_____	_____ tuvo	_____	_____	_____
hacer	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
poder	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
querer	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
saber	_____	_____	_____	_____ sabrà	_____	_____
venir	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	venga
decir	_____ dice	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____