# Spanish A Level

## HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
Dr Catherine Ames

## HEAD OF SPANISH
Katie Holmes

## EXAM BOARD
AQA

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

A-Level Spanish at The Grey Coat Hospital covers an integrated programme of study with a focus on language, culture and society. It explores how Spanish-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. It will enable you to enhance your linguistic skills and promote and develop your capacity for critical thinking on the basis of your knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of the Spanish-speaking world. If you are curious about Hispanic culture and society and are keen to express your ideas in ever more sophisticated ways then you will very much enjoy this course. A-Level Spanish is a highly respected course and can lead to a number of different university disciplines and future careers.

## SKILLS REQUIRED

- Control of the language system to convey meaning, using spoken and written skills, including an extended range of vocabulary, for both practical and intellectual purposes as an increasingly confident, accurate and independent user of the language
- Ability to interact effectively with users of the language in speech and in writing
- Engagement with critically and intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in Spanish, developing an appreciation of sophisticated and creative uses of the language and understanding them within their cultural and social context
- Understanding about matters central to Hispanic society and culture, past and present
- Ability to learn other languages
- Capacity for critical and analytical thinking
- Independent research skills

## EXAMINATION RESULTS

Exam results were excellent in 2026 with 61% A*- A, 67% A* - B and 89% A* - C. Every year, many students choose to study Spanish at university, either with Linguistics, another language or as a Joint Honours degree in combination with other subjects such as Political Sciences, History or International Relations. Our students go on to a wide range of prestigious destinations including Oxbridge, Russell Group Universities and overseas.

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Listening, Reading and Writing

2 hours 30 minutes

50% of total A Level

Writing

2 hours

20% of total A Level

Speaking

21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)

30% of total A Level

Greycoat Place
Westminster
London SW1P 2DY
www.gch.org.uk

## ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

We make the most of the wealth of cultural opportunities on offer in London including visits to exhibitions, plays, films and concerts. Year 12 students have the opportunity to attend a study day at the BFI and watch the film they study *Volver* in the cinema. The study day is mostly conducted in Spanish and pupils are encouraged to share ideas in this public forum. This year our Year 12 and Year 13 pupils will be going to Málaga and Granada. On this trip pupils will be given opportunities to speak Spanish and take part in cultural activities and visits that directly link to their A-Level course including a visit to the Picasso museum in Málaga and to the grounds of the Alhambra in Granada.

The KS5 Spanish Current Affairs club runs fortnightly. In this club pupils research current news stories in Spanish-speaking countries and discuss them in Spanish linking them to A-Level topics.

## FUTURE CAREERS

Studying Spanish can lead to a wide variety of very well respected university degrees and future careers. You might choose to study Spanish on its own or combine it with another subject such as History or English as part of a joint honours degree. There is also a huge variety in content: some degree courses for instance will allow you to focus on specific content areas such as Literature or Politics so it is important to choose the right course for you.

Having Spanish A-Level on your CV will be very attractive to future employers in a very wide range of sectors. Some careers might not be directly related to Spanish but there could be opportunities to use your language skills. Many big graduate employers are multinational organisations and are keen to recruit candidates who are willing to work overseas and can liaise effectively with international colleagues. Studying Spanish is likely to develop interpersonal and communication skills that graduate recruiters value, as well as other key strengths.

In financial terms, The Guardian newspaper reported that in careers such as sales, marketing or technical support, languages can open doors for you, and that having a language can add between 10% and 15% to your salary.

At The Grey Coat Hospital we regularly promote a range of university taster days and summer schools and we have an established link with the London Centre for Communications and Culture and Pembroke College, Oxford. We also run specific Oxbridge preparation sessions and mock interviews.

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Students study the following themes and sub-themes **in relation to at least one Spanish-speaking country.**

- Social trends (for example the changing nature of family, the role and evolution of women and other groups in the Spanish-speaking world)
- Social issues (for example positive features of a diverse society; criminality)
- Artistic culture (for example Spanish cinema and music, cultural heritage in Spain and Latin America, the various settlements in the Iberian Peninsula and how this developed a subsequent regional identity in Spain)
- Political life (for example politics and immigration, the right to demonstrate, popular movements, the impact that various dictatorships had in the Spanish-speaking society)
- Grammar (see the AQA scheme of work for details)
- Works: Literary text(s) and/or films *Volver* by Pedro Almodóvar and *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* by Federico García Lorca
- Individual Research Project (a subject or a key question which is of interest to you and which relates to a country or countries where Spanish is spoken).