

Subject:	Spanish
Level:	GCSE
Awarding Body:	AQA
Specification Code:	8698 (Two tiers: Foundation and Higher)
Awarding Body website:	www.aqa.org.uk
ASSESSMENT:	
Controlled Assessment	0%
When will it be taken	N/A
Examination	100 %
When will it be sat?	May / June at the end of Year 11
TIERS:	
Higher Tier Grades:	5 to 9
Foundation Tier Grades:	1 to 5
Subject Leader:	Mrs G Hall
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Why Opt for Spanish?

Languages can open doors of opportunity and change lives forever.

When you speak another language you can be somebody else, you can live another life.

There's no better way to truly understand another culture and nothing broadens the mind like foreign travel.

GCSE Spanish will give you a skill for life. It's much more than just an option.

It's exciting to be able to speak Spanish and it is simply a matter of practice.

The Spanish teachers at Pensby love what they do. They are enthusiastic and very experienced. They know what it takes to help you reach your potential.

The course is well designed enabling you, with hard work, to have a good degree of fluency in Spanish by the time you finish the GCSE.

Useful facts:

Linguists have the lowest rate of unemployment because employers value their skill. It helps their business grow.

Linguists usually get paid up to a fifth more if they use their skills at work.

Your brain actually gets smarter when you try to learn a new language.

Learning a language keeps your brain healthy.

Once you know how one language works learning the next is usually easier.

Opt for GCSE Spanish and...

Add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects.

Learn a range of transferable skills which are useful in a wide range of careers.

Create greater opportunity for yourself to earn more and work abroad in a foreign company, or for companies in the UK with international links.

Choose to go on a Spanish trip with our school to Cantabria or Barcelona.

Choose to become a Pensby Spanish Ambassador, helping to promote Spanish in school and with local Primary schools.

Use Spanish as your 'skill' for your Duke of Edinburgh Award.

What will I learn?

You will be working to improve your skills in Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing through the main topic areas listed below. You will also improve your understanding of how Spanish works through the study of Spanish grammar and expand your knowledge of vocabulary. Other activities include regular ICT based homework, singing along to the latest Spanish music, regular mini video clips to immerse you in Spanish language and culture, games to help make learning fun, poetry and short stories, cooking and sampling famous Spanish dishes, even some Spanish dancing and watching Spanish plays and films.

Identity and culture	Local, national, international and global areas of interest	Current and future study and employment
Me, my family and friends Relationships with family and friends Marriage/partnership Technology in everyday life Social media Mobile technology Free-time activities Music Cinema and TV Food and eating out Sport Customs and festivals Spain and customs Festivals in Spain and Hispanic countries	Home, town, neighbourhood and region Home Where I live Social issues Charity/voluntary work Healthy/unhealthy living Global issues The environment Poverty/homelessness Travel and tourism Holidays and travel Regions of Spain	My studies Schools and subjects Life at school/college Life at school Education post-16 University or work? Jobs, career choices and ambitions Choice of career

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Listening (25% of qualification):

Written examination: 35 minutes (Foundation tier) 45 minutes (Higher tier)

Listening comprehension tasks with non-verbal and written responses.

Component 2: Speaking - Oral test (25% of qualification):

7-9 minutes (Foundation tier)

10-12 minutes (Higher tier)

Three tasks: One role play, One photo card discussion, One conversation.

Component 3: Reading - Written examination (25% of qualification):

45 minutes (Foundation tier) 1 hour (Higher tier)

Reading tasks with non-verbal and written responses, including one translation task from Spanish into English

Component 4: Writing - Written examination (25% of qualification):

1 hour (Foundation tier) 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher tier)

Writing tasks including one translation task from English into Spanish.

Learners are not permitted to use dictionaries in any part of the examination, but we do recommend you have one for normal class and homework.

We will also offer you the chance to get the latest revision guides and even the textbook if you want your own copy at home too. We also produce a lot of our own in-house material to get to the core of what you need to know to do well in each examination.

Future Opportunities

People with language skills and knowledge are highly thought of in the modern world. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons. Taking GCSE Spanish means you will:

- Be able to study AS and A2 Spanish courses.
- Add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile, impressing those who read your CV.
- Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links or improve employability if you would like to work abroad.

Further information

Pupils are expected to have a 'can do' attitude, to work consistently hard in class, mindful of including GCSE success criteria in class and homework, and of course, to behave maturely. There is a clear expectation that learners also use their own time to regularly quiz themselves on vocabulary and grammar or to read over and listen again to texts from their on-line course book in order to help consolidate learning and progress. We also recommend using www.gcsepod.com to improve listening skills and pronunciation as well as the use of www.duolingo.com and www.quizlet.com. bitesize/spanish and www.gcsepod.com to improve listening skills and pronunciation as well as the use of www.duolingo.com and www.quizlet.com and our latest resource called The Language Gym www.uk.language-gym.com

Next steps:

- Talk to your teacher about taking GCSE Spanish if you are unsure.
- Talk to students who are already doing or who have done the course.
- Visit the AQA website (www.aqa.org.uk) for more information about what you will be studying and how you will be assessed.

Remember you don't have to be a genius to do well in this subject. It is not about understanding complex formulas and doing lots of analysis. You don't even have to write long essays.

It is about committing to regular practice and learning, doing your homework well, being mindful of what the examiners will be looking for, and trying your best in class. The extra effort is well worth it. You will have a new talent, a skill for life.