

Step Up to Spanish A Level

Why Spanish?

Congratulations on selecting 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.

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 currently the 4th most spoken language worldwide. Geographically, many countries have Spanish as a dominant language from Spain to Mexico and beyond. Knowing Spanish means you could communicate with a third of a billion speakers worldwide!

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



A Level Spanish – Introduction to the course



At A Level, we follow the AQA syllabus.

What will I learn?

During this course you will develop your linguistic skills alongside your understanding of the culture and society of the countries where Spanish is spoken.

You will study:

- technological and social change, looking at the multicultural nature of Hispanic society.
- highlights of Hispanic artistic culture, Spanish regional identity and the cultural heritage of past civilisations.
- aspects of the diverse political landscape of the Hispanic world.
- the influence of the past on present-day Hispanic communities.

Throughout your studies, you learn the language in the context of Hispanic countries and issues and influences which have shaped them. You will study texts and film and will have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of your choice.

Course structure

The AQA A level in Spanish comprises three units.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

Paper 2: Writing (Essay on a play + a film)

Paper 3: Speaking (involving discussion on a topic of your choice)

General Topic Areas for A level Spanish

The topics you will cover are as follows:

Year 1	
Aspects of Hispanic society <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modern and traditional values• Cyberspace• Equal rights	Artistic culture in the Hispanic world <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modern day idols• Spanish regional identity• Cultural heritage
Year 2	
Multiculturalism in Hispanic society <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immigration• Racism• Integration	Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens• Monarchies and dictatorships• Popular movements

Task 1 – Cultural awareness



As part of the speaking exam at A level, you will learn how to analyse texts and infer meaning. Sometimes people imply meaning rather than saying things directly and when you understand the culture, this can further help to improve your comprehension.

We are going to look at a song by a band called Bomba Estéreo. Complete the following tasks:

- a) Go online and find out as much as you can about Bomba Estéreo, including where they are from, when they were formed, whether they have ever performed in the UK, which festivals they have performed at, and where and when they are due to play this summer.
- b) Watch the video for the song *Soy yo* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxWxXncl53U>). Does the video help you to understand what the message of the song might be? If so, what do you think the (implied) message is?



Or click on the link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxWxNcl53U>

SOY YO

Me fui contra la corriente y también me perdí
Fracasé, me encontré, lo viví y aprendí
Cuando te pegas fuerte más profundo es el beat, sí

Sigo bailando y escribiendo mis letras
Sigo cantando con las puertas abiertas
Atravesando por todas estas tierras
Y no hay que viajar tanto pa encontrar la respuesta

Y no te preocupes si no te aprueban
Cuando te critiquen, tú solo di
Soy yo
Soy yo
Soy yo (soy, soy, soy, soy, soy, soy, soy)
Soy yo (yo, yo, yo, yo, yo, yo, yo)

Sigo caminando y sigo riendo
Hago lo que quiero y muero en el intento
A nadie le importa lo que estoy haciendo
Lo único que importa es lo que está por dentro
A mí me gusta estar en la arena



**BOMBA
ESTEREO**

Bañarme en el mar sin razón, sin problema
Estar sentada sin hacer nada
Mirando de lejos y estar relajada

Y no te preocupes si no te aprueban
Cuando te critiquen, tú solo di
Soy yo
Soy yo
Soy yo (soy, soy, soy, soy, soy, soy, soy)
Soy yo (yo, yo, yo, yo, yo, yo, yo)

Soy así, soy así, soy así (relaja)
Y tú ni me conoces a mí (bien relaja)
Soy así, soy así, soy así (relaja)
Y tú ni me conoces a mí (bien relaja)
You know what I mean? You know what I mean?

Sí, papá
(Relajá, bien relajá) Y no te preocupes si no te aprueban
(Relajá, bien relajá) Cuando te critiquen, tú solo di

Soy yo
Soy yo
Soy yo (soy, soy, soy, soy, soy, soy, soy)
Soy yo (yo, yo, yo, yo, yo, yo, yo)

En la cama
Relajá
Con mi encanto
Con pijama, soy yo

Así soy yo

- c) Have a look through the lyrics for the song + highlight any sentences that help explain what the song is about.
- d) Now read through an article that appears in an online newspaper from Colombia.

“SOY YO”, EL VIDEO DE BOMBA ESTÉREO

Del álbum “Amanecer” nos llega la canción “Soy Yo” con un clip protagonizado por una joven heroína que no se deja intimidar por nada.

“No te preocupes si no te aprueban, cuando te critiquen tú solo di: ‘Soy yo’”, dice la canción. *“El mensaje es el de no dejarse afectar por las críticas de otras personas y que la aceptación de uno mismo es esencial. El video se enfoca en los niños, haciendo referencia al acoso escolar que ocurre en los colegios”*, añadió la cantante de Bomba Estéreo.




- e) Highlight parts of the text that support your view on what the song is about. Also, what is the singer from the band saying in her quote?

Task 2 – grammatical focus

In the song *Soy yo* there are several examples of the **gerund**. This is the form of the verb which corresponds to ‘-ing’ in English, and which is commonly used with the verb ESTAR to say what is happening right now:

- *estoy estudiando* = I am studying
- *están conversando* = they are chatting
- *estábamos comiendo* = we were eating

We usually form the gerund like this:

Verbs ending in –AR		remove –ar and add:	-ando
Verbs ending in –ER / -IR		remove –er / -ir and add:	-iendo

Complete these sentences with the gerund of the verb given, and translate into English:

EXAMPLE: Estoy viendo el partido. (ver)

= I'm watching the match

1. Ella está _____ una canción.
(escuchar)

2. No estamos _____.
(bromear)


3. Mi mejor amigo está _____
mucho. (aprender)

4. Estaban _____ allí. (vivir)

5. ¿Qué estáis _____? (hacer)

Now please highlight all the examples of the gerund you can find in the song, and look up what it means if you use 'sigo' before a gerund.

Finally, not all verbs follow this pattern:

Verbs ending in –AR		remove –ar and add	-ando
Verbs ending in –ER / -IR		remove –er / -ir and add	-iendo

Look up irregular gerunds in Spanish, and write down a list of at least 5:

Task 3 - Film Critique



Watch a Hispanic film, you can use an online platform such as Netflix or borrow one from the library in the Forum. Then write a critique of the film in Spanish.

Include:

- Who directed it and what other films they have directed
- When and where it is set
- A description of the main theme and plot
- Your opinion of the actors
- Your opinion of the special effects/director's techniques/ soundtrack
- What you thought were the best and the worst aspects of the film
- If you would recommend the film to the rest of the class and why



There is some language help on the next slide

<u>Partes de la crítica de cine</u>	<u>Película:</u>
Director/a y otras películas	Está dirigida por..... que también dirigió
Género y ambientación (lugar y época)	Es del género y está ambientada en
Tema y resumen breve del argumento y breve evaluación.	Cuenta la historia deSe trata de E n mi opinión el argumento es.....
Reparto: actores/actrices, buenos? Malos? ¿Por qué?	En cuanto al reparto, hay que destacar a porque
Evaluación de efectos especiales/técnicas/banda sonora...	Los efectos especiales son buenos porque....., aunque.....
Lo mejor de la película y lo peor	Diría que
¿Recomendaría la película?¿por qué? Y resumen final	Recomendaría la película porque.....