



GCSE SPANISH

“Pupils feel a sense of belonging at Goldington Academy and, consequently, they are well placed to learn and achieve.”

Ofsted, June 2016



GCSE SPANISH

EXAM BOARD: AQA GCSE Spanish (Specification code 8698)

Should my child study Spanish?

Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the world, with over 400 million native speakers worldwide. Spanish is an official language on four continents and has official status in a staggering 21 countries spanning South, Central and North America, as well as Africa and Europe. The ability to speak Spanish has practical uses for travel and leisure, offers access to a wide range of different countries, and allows students to develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures.

Course outline:

As part of the GCSE Spanish course, students will develop the four key skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. The course will focus on the following themes which will apply to all four GCSE question papers:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

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

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

As well as learning to communicate in Spanish and understand the language in speech and writing, students will study a range of different topics which will deepen their understanding of both Spanish culture and that of other Spanish-speaking countries.

Assessment:

Students will have final examinations at the end of year 11 in each of the 4 key skill areas (listening, reading, speaking and writing). These skills are all weighted equally:

25% - Listening examination

25% - Reading examination

25% - Speaking examination with class teacher

25% - Writing examination and translation

Students will either sit their exams at Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) or at Higher Tier (grades 4-9). They will be advised as to which tier would be most suitable for them.

Supporting trips and activities:

Students will have the opportunity to watch films in Spanish (with English subtitles) in order to support their understanding of the language, culture and themes to be covered. There may also be the opportunity to take part in language conferences, cinema visits for relevant films, and a residential visit to Spain for Year 10 students.

What can my child do with a language qualification?

Languages are valued by employers and are particularly sought after in fields such as journalism and media, law, engineering, business and marketing, sport and leisure, travel and tourism, civil service, banking and teaching (UK and abroad).

Choosing to study a language at GCSE will enable students to achieve the Ebacc. For students hoping to go to university, it is worth considering that many universities now require a GCSE in a modern foreign language as part of their entry requirements (even if not immediately relevant to the course of study being applied for).

Employers recognise that other skills and personal qualities are gained if you speak a second language. Excellent communication skills, brilliant listening skills, determination and an exceptional ability to perform well under pressure are only but a few and will make you really stand out! There is even evidence to show that acquiring a second language can improve your memory, attention span, decision-making and problem-solving skills!

In short, a language qualification will always be useful, no matter what you do. From going on holiday to working abroad, a language is not just a skill for school; it is a skill for life!

Further reading:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698>

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