AQA A Level Spanish

Modern Foreign Languages: Spanish

The Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) department at Ridgewood School aims to encourage pupils' curiosity about other cultures and develop their understanding of the wider world.

Intent: Curriculum Intent – AQA A Level Spanish

Our AQA A Level Spanish curriculum builds on from the four key skills at GCSE by working towards fluency in reading, listening, speaking and writing.

With a heavy focus on cultural capital and developing knowledge of the history and lifestyle in Hispanic countries, the A Level course covers a range of topics; from politics and current affairs to art and technology. It is designed to develop analytical and independent linguists who are able to communicate detailed concepts and give their own opinions on things that affect Spanish young people in today's world.

In line with the AQA scheme of work, students will study a piece of literature and a film- exploring the key themes, concepts and characters that make these works so integral to the Hispanic World. Through this, students will learn how to think critically and consider a variety of perspectives, as well as understanding the importance of context. This will enable them to write detailed, mature and well- structured essays in Spanish.

Skills such as oracy and independent study are heavily embedded into the A Level course as students learn how to debate and research effectively in a different language. This skill places them in good stead for further study as they are able to develop skills which are key to higher education.

Why study Spanish at The Sixth Form at Ridgewood?

- *Ridgewood Sixth Form is a great place to study Spanish at A Level because you will be taught by a language specialist who is passionate about the subject.*
- *Lessons will be tailored to individual needs and weekly after-school intervention sessions are open to anyone who feels they may need a little bit more support.*
- *Lessons are varied and consist of a range of activities, with students learning about both the Spanish language and Hispanic culture, in Spain and Latin America. Over the two year course, we cover everything from brutal dictatorships to the influence that Hispanic celebrities have on culture. We also take an in-depth look at a book and film.*
- *As the most widely spoken language in the world, Spanish is a fantastic course for anyone who thinks they would like to travel in the future or simply for those who are interested in learning more about another culture.*
- *Whatever you want to do after Sixth Form, studying Spanish will really make you stand out to employers and universities, as it is a subject that is no longer widely studied but a skill that is needed in many fields of work; from the police force and education to hospitality and tourism.*

What topics will I study in this subject?

In the first year, students will undertake modules in technology, art, architecture, gender equality, equal rights, Spanish traditions, music and film.

In the second year of the course, we will look a closer look at immigration, racism, politics and the history of both Spain and Latin America. Students will also study a piece a literature in preparation for the writing exam.

What will my lessons involve?

- *Skills-based lessons involving those detailed above*
- *Lessons based on the fieldwork completed which will be teacher and student led enquiry lessons completing both pre fieldwork preparation and post fieldwork analysis*
- *Diagnostic retrieval quizzes*
- *Teacher led discussions of new information delivered*
- *Analysis and interpretation of figures to answer 6 and 9 mark questions*
- *Essay planning both independently and as a class*
- *Practise of writing parts of extended 20 mark essay questions*
- *Evaluation and debate of key physical and human geographical issues*

What will my lessons and independent study involve?

In lessons, students practise all the skills needed to succeed in this subject; from reading and writing to grammar and translation. Students will also have a weekly speaking lesson, which may be either with the whole class or in smaller groups to build confidence.

Outside the classroom, students will be expected to learn vocabulary for a weekly test week and carry out other activities to consolidate their learning. This may take the form of translation, grammar or research for a presentation. Alongside this, we recommend that our students listen to and watch a wide range of Spanish sources, such as music and film.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment consists of three exams, all of which are sat at the end of the two-year course. These are:

- *A combined listening, reading, writing and translation exam*
- *A writing exam based on a text and film*
- *A speaking exam based on a photo card and a presentation that you will research and write yourself. This exam will be conducted with your class teacher.*

How do I know this is the right course for me?

This course is ideal for anyone who has a passion for languages and wants to learn more about the Spanish way of life and the culture in Latin America. We cover everything from politics to history and fashion to music, and use a range of different resources to do it. One lesson we might be watching a Spanish documentary about the Civil War and the next we may have a debate, in Spanish, about human rights.

To be successful on the course, you need to have studied GCSE Spanish and must have achieved at least a grade 6. You will also need to be prepared to work on your language skills outside of the classroom by listening to Spanish music, practising vocabulary and watching Spanish films.

