

Beths Grammar School

A level induction materials for Year 11 students

A level Spanish (AQA)

Preparation for courses to begin teaching in September 2021



The course

The first year of the A Level course comprises 6 really interesting and eye-opening units under two main headings:

Students may study all sub-themes in relation to any Spanish-speaking country or countries.

Social Issues and Trends

Modern and traditional values (Los valores tradicionales y modernos)

Los cambios en la familia

Actitudes hacia el matrimonio/el divorcio

La influencia de la Iglesia Católica

Cyberspace (El ciberespacio)

La influencia de internet

Las redes sociales: beneficios y peligros

Los móviles inteligentes en nuestra sociedad

Equal rights (La igualdad de los sexos)

La mujer en el mercado laboral

El machismo y el feminismo

Los derechos de los gays y las personas transgénero

Political and artistic culture

Modern day idols (La influencia de los ídolos)

Cantantes y músicos

Estrellas de televisión y cine

Modelos

Spanish regional identity (La identidad regional en España)

Tradiciones y costumbres

La gastronomía

Las lenguas

Cultural heritage (El patrimonio cultural)

Sitios turísticos y civilizaciones prehistóricas: Machu Picchu, la Alhambra, etc

Arte y arquitectura

El patrimonio musical y su diversidad

During the two year course, you will learn about the above units in the context of Spain and the Hispanic world through reading exercises, listening exercises, discussion and independent research. You will acquire facts and stats. to be able to confidently undertake your speaking exam, during which you'll discuss one of the units (randomly selected) via a speaking card and 5 minute discussion with your examiner (your teacher.)

We ask that students do a lot of independent research to broaden and further their knowledge, so, why not start now?... Why not conduct research into units from above that interest you/that you feel you know little about/would like to know more about. You could do this in a mixture of both Spanish and English. Ask yourself and investigate questions such as:

- ¿Cómo es la familia (en España) de hoy en comparación con hace 50 años?...
- ¿A qué edad la gente se va de (deja) su casa familiar?
- ¿Cuántos niños tienen las familias? (¿Cuál es el número medio de niños por familia?)
- ¿A qué edad la gente se casa?
- ¿Cuál es la tasa de divorcio?
- ¿Cuáles son los papeles del padre y de la madre? - ¿Han cambiado?

You could investigate Spanish traditions and festivals, Spanish food and its influences and the different languages of Spain for the Spanish Regional Identity unit and/or Pre-Colombian civilisations in Latin American (Mayan, Aztec and Inca), a Hispanic artist, a musician and an architect for the Cultural Heritage unit...

... And so on... (All research you do will be useful as you will be informing yourself about Hispanic history, society and culture!)

You need to know the facts and stats. but also have and be able to fathom **reasons** (e.g. why do Spanish people leave the family home later?) and you also need to be able to give **reactions and opinions** to everything (e.g. I can understand why people leave the house later when wages are lower on average in Spain and mortgages are high; if they can stay with their families paying minimal or no rent and save, that sounds sensible, however, on the other hand, that makes me think that it's probably harder for them to learn how to be independent as they don't take responsibility until later and I imagine there might be quite a lot of tension in a house with so many people and all adults!)
So, as you research facts and stats, be thinking – how do you react to this info.? What are your opinions?

High-Level Language

In order to succeed in all areas of the course, we have created Beths' Steps to Success. This comprises useful, high level opinion phrases, justifications, linking words and reaction structures, which will make what you say and write all that more impressive. You should aim to learn as much of this as possible before starting.

<https://app.memrise.com/course/5944910/beths-ks5-spanish-steps-to-success/>

Grammar

We want you to start the course confident in your grammar basics. These are great websites that explain/get you practising the different tenses you will have seen, as well as new ones and other grammar elements. (Minimum: Be sure to know your present, preterite, imperfect, future and conditional regular conjugations and some irregular (ser, estar, tener, hacer and ir are the big ones!):

- <http://www.studyspanish.com/tutorial.htm>
- <http://conjuguemos.com/list.php?division=grammar> (scroll down to 'Spanish')

The first 6 weeks of the course

We start the course with six weeks of 'bridging the gap' between GCSE and A Level: We visit GCSE topics but in a more A Level way (to ease you in) – with greater depth and complexity. We ask that you go through the following vocabulary lists (little and often) now/over the summer holidays, write down any words that you had forgotten or didn't know and learn it ahead of September.

Please bring your written out (and learnt!) vocab. with you to your first lesson:

<https://app.memrise.com/course/5814703/beths-gcse-viva-3/> (levels 1,2, 6, and 7)

<https://app.memrise.com/course/5814695/beths-gcse-viva-2/> (all levels)

<https://app.memrise.com/course/5814720/beths-gcse-viva-6/> (all levels)

You may also like to buy a copy of the first year textbook:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Level-Year-Spanish-Student-Book/dp/0198366906/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=as+textbook+spanish&qid=1585303410&sr=8-4

Extra

For random, extra Spanish vocab., try Babadum:

- <https://babadum.com/play/?lang=4&game=1>

To practise sentence structure, try Duolingo:

- <https://www.duolingo.com/course/es/en/Learn-Spanish-Online>

To practise **extensive reading** (for pleasure):

- <https://www.bbc.com/mundo> is the Spanish BBC site.
- www.elpais.es is an on-line Spanish newspaper

Why not challenge yourself to read an article every week!

To practise **listening** (for pleasure):

- www.lasexta.com is an TV channel and
- <http://lyricstraining.com/es/> sees you listening to songs and filling in lyric gaps!

Buena suerte!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Cato-Sargeant

Mscato-sargeant@beths.bexley.sch.uk