

Spanish – GCSE Curriculum Overview (Years 10–11)

Curriculum Intent

At GCSE, Spanish builds on the secure phonics-led and grammar-focused foundations established at Key Stage 3, enabling students to communicate with increasing accuracy, independence and sophistication. Across the two-year course, students develop confident control of vocabulary, grammar and sentence structure while applying language across a wide range of themes relevant to their own lives and the wider world. The curriculum is carefully sequenced to strengthen listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, deepen grammatical understanding across multiple time frames, and prepare students effectively for GCSE examinations through sustained practice, cultural engagement and structured revision.

Structure of the GCSE Spanish Course

GCSE Spanish is taught as a **coherent two-year programme**, with clear progression from consolidation and extension in Year 10 to synthesis, fluency and exam readiness in Year 11.

Across both years, students develop:

- accurate pronunciation and listening skills through continued phonics revision
- secure use of present, preterite, imperfect, future and conditional time frames
- increasing grammatical sophistication, including pronouns, complex verb structures and word order
- the ability to express, justify and develop opinions
- cultural understanding of Spain and the wider Spanish-speaking world

Themes are revisited and strengthened over time, enabling students to apply language more independently and confidently.

Year 10 – Building GCSE Foundations

In Year 10, students consolidate KS3 knowledge while extending their ability to communicate accurately across all GCSE themes.

Language and Grammar Development

Students strengthen control of present, preterite and future time frames, revisiting regular and irregular verb conjugations and applying negation accurately. They develop confidence using object pronouns, *gustar*-type verbs, comparatives and superlatives, and begin to use more complex sentence structures, including conjunctions such as *porque*, *cuando* and *si*. Word order is reinforced, particularly in questions and with time expressions.

Themes and Application

Language is applied across themes such as my personal world, lifestyle and wellbeing, my neighbourhood, media and technology, studying and my future, travel and tourism. Students describe routines, experiences and ambitions, narrate past events and discuss future intentions. Reading and listening tasks include longer and more authentic texts, supporting comprehension for both gist and detail.

Cultural Understanding

Students explore cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking world, including traditions, festivals, regional identities and global perspectives. Cultural learning supports vocabulary development and deeper engagement with language in context.

Extended writing, translation and structured speaking tasks are embedded throughout the year, preparing students for GCSE-style assessments.

Year 11 – Accuracy, Independence and Examination Preparation

In Year 11, students refine and apply their language skills with greater independence, precision and fluency, while preparing directly for GCSE assessment at foundation tier or higher tier.

Advanced Grammar and Sentence Control

Students consolidate all major time frames and develop confidence moving flexibly between them within extended responses. They work with the conditional and subjunctive moods, relative pronouns, impersonal structures and idiomatic language. Grammar accuracy is reinforced through systematic revision and targeted practice, ensuring control and consistency across all skills.

Themes, Communication and Cultural Depth

Students revisit all GCSE themes, including personal world, neighbourhood, lifestyle and wellbeing, communication and technology, studying and future careers, and travel and tourism. They express and justify opinions, discuss abstract ideas and respond spontaneously to questions. Cultural content is deepened through study of Spanish-speaking artists, literature, history and contemporary global issues, supporting both exam performance and broader cultural understanding.

Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing

All four skills are developed in an integrated way. Students prepare for role plays, photo cards and general conversation tasks, practise translation in both directions and complete extended writing tasks with increasing fluency. Regular mock examinations and speaking practice support exam readiness and confidence.

Spring Term, Year 11 – Consolidation and Examination Readiness

In the Spring term of Year 11, curriculum time is deliberately structured for consolidation and preparation.

Students:

- revisit core grammar, phonics and vocabulary
- strengthen recall across all themes and time frames
- practise exam-style questions under timed conditions
- refine speaking responses and spontaneous communication
- address individual gaps through targeted revision

This ensures students enter the final examination period with confidence, accuracy and clear strategies for success.

Assessment and Progression

Assessment across KS4 includes regular retrieval practice, extended writing tasks, speaking assessments, translation exercises, mock examinations and exam-style listening and reading tasks. Assessment is used to identify gaps, inform teaching and support sustained progress.

By the end of Year 11, students can understand and produce extended spoken and written Spanish, apply complex grammatical structures accurately and communicate ideas clearly and confidently across a wide range of contexts, providing a strong foundation for further language study and wider literacy skills.