

Key Stage 3 students have Spanish twice weekly whilst Key Stage 4 students have it three times per week. At GCSE, we study the Edexcel syllabus.

KS3 purpose

For students to be able to:

1. Understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources.
2. Speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation.
3. Write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt.
4. Discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied.

KS3 Scheme of work outline

Year 7: phonics, greetings, numbers, ages, family, pets, colours and opinions, where I live and Spanish countries,

Year 8: phonics, free time and opinions, weather, where I live, where I lived and where I want to live, my house and description, what you do at home and holidays in present, past and future tense.

Year 9: phonics, holidays past tense, holidays present tense, holidays future tense, my free time, my city and my town, festivals and traditions and La Tomatina.

KS4 purpose

1. In years 10 and 11 students learn EDEXCEL exam board where they practise the four skills that are necessary for their GCSE exams: speaking, listening, writing and reading.
2. Each lesson contains opportunities to practise the speaking of the language, revisit high-frequency vocabulary and practise paying close attention to the meaning and form of grammar structures.
3. Our learners will be able to make connections between sounds, words and sentences and they are exposed to, and as they produce ever more complex text.
4. Our students at the end of the course will have been provided with the foundations of language learning to encourage and foster an interest in learning further language and equipping students with skills to work or study abroad. Students will have a deep cultural understanding and appreciation of the world around them.

KS4 Scheme of work outline

Key Information

- The course is divided into **five themes**. Each theme has topics and sub-topics. All themes/topics are assessed via listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

- There are two tiers: **Foundation** (grades 1-5) and **Higher** (grades 4-9). You must take *all* papers at the same tier.
 - First assessment under the new specification begins in **2026**.
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Themes & Topics

These are the five main themes in the Edexcel specification, with the kinds of topics covered.

1. Identity and Culture

- Who am I? (personal descriptions: family, friends, personality)
- Daily life: routines, customs, technology/social media, food & drink, shopping etc.
- Cultural life: holidays, festivals, music, film, reading, free-time and sports.

2. Local Area, Holiday & Travel

- Holidays (preferences, experiences, destinations) a
- Travel & tourist transactions: e.g. accommodation, directions, dealing with problems, eating out.
- Town, region & country: places to see, what your area is like, comparing with Spanish-speaking places. Weather etc.

3. School

- What school is like: types of school, school day, subjects, rules, pressures.
- School activities: trips, exchanges, events.

4. Future Aspirations, Study & Work

- Using languages beyond the classroom
- Ambitions, further study, volunteering, training
- Work: careers, job preferences etc.

5. International & Global Dimension

- Bringing the world together: events, global communication, culture, campaigns.
 - Environmental issues and sustainability; natural resources etc.
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Skills & Assessment Structure

Students are assessed on the **four language skills**: Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing. Each contributes 25% of the GCSE total.

Here's the structure under the older/current spec (before the 2026 version), but many features are maintained/updated in the new version:



Paper	Skill(s)	Duration / Marks	What to expect
Listening	Understanding spoken Spanish	Higher: ~45 mins, Foundation: ~35 mins; 50 marks	Multiple-choice, short answers; dictation task; responses in English or Spanish; sections in Spanish and English.
Speaking	Spoken communication	Higher: 10-12 mins + prep; Foundation: 7-9 mins + prep; 70 marks	Role-play; reading aloud task; photo stimulus; general conversation. Topics drawn from specification themes.
Reading	Understanding written Spanish	Higher: ~1 hour; Foundation: ~45 mins; similar marks to listening	Variety of texts: adverts, articles, emails etc.; questions in English & Spanish; translation from Spanish into English.
Writing	Writing in Spanish	Higher: ~1h20; Foundation: ~1h10; same mark weight	Structured tasks: short answers, longer response, translation (English → Spanish), writing for different audiences.

Grammar & Vocabulary

- Students learn a wide range of grammar: tenses (present, past, future, and others), comparative/superlative, modal verbs, conditional, use of “ser vs estar”, prepositions, etc. The specification lays out required grammar structures.
- Vocabulary is organised under the topics/themes above—students must know words and phrases relating to all the topics. There is also a vocabulary list provided by Pearson.

Homework

Students access homework in Languagenut and Sentencebuilder. Homework is set weekly.

For more information visit:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/spanish-2024.html>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zwbhb7h>