

GET READY FOR A LEVEL SPANISH!



Here is a suggested list of resources and activities that could help prepare you for starting your A level Spanish studies in September.

Increase your Spanish vocabulary!

BBC Bitesize

GCSE AQA

Spanish

There is a wide range of activities available on BBC Bitesize that are useful for revisiting all the GCSE topics.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z4dqxnb>

ActiveLearn

Log on to Active Learn and complete the interactive listening, reading, vocabulary and grammar activities that have been assigned to you.

www.pearsonactivelearn.com

BBC LANGUAGES SPANISH

Here you will find access to a wide range of activities designed to help you improve your Spanish; including, courses, audio, video and games, vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar activities and tests.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/>

duolingo

**MEM
RISE**

Two useful websites/apps to practise speaking, reading, listening, and writing to build your vocabulary and grammar skills.

<https://www.duolingo.com/>

<https://www.memrise.com/>

CHANGING THE LANGUAGE SETTINGS ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE, TABLET, COMPUTER, EMAIL AND SOCIAL MEDIA TO SPANISH WILL HELP BROADEN YOUR VOCABULARY!

WATCH A SPANISH TV SERIES OR FILM

NETFLIX

You may not understand much of it, but it will help you get used to how the language sounds and, with the help of the visuals, you'll pick up odd words and phrases. **Make sure you choose an age appropriate film/show!**

LISTEN TO SPANISH MUSIC

Listening to Spanish music can help improve your listening skills and pronunciation. Look up the lyrics and see if you can translate them.

LISTEN TO PODCASTS IN SPANISH

<https://www.notesinspanish.com/>

<https://www.hoyhablamos.com/>

<https://podcast.duolingo.com/spanish>

Know your Spanish tenses and grammar!



This website allows you to progress at your own pace with pronunciation lessons, grammar lessons, vocabulary lessons, and verbal drills. You can access many of the activities without having to subscribe.

<https://studyspanish.com/>

CONJUGUEMOS

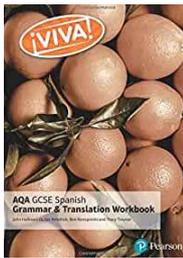


This website has thousands of interactive activities and flashcard-style study guides. The graded activities test your knowledge of specific vocabulary and grammar skills with or without the help of site-provided flashcards and study charts.

<https://conjuguemos.com/>

¡VIVA! AQA GCSE GRAMMAR AND TRANSLATION WORKBOOK

Use your Grammar and Translation workbook to strengthen your understanding of Spanish grammar and tenses.



SpanishD!ct

GRAMMAR EXPLANATIONS

INTERACTIVE QUIZZES

ONLINE DICTIONARY

VERB CONJUGATOR

PRONUNCIATION HELP

<https://www.spanishdict.com/>

ONLINE SPANISH DICTIONARIES

<https://www.spanishdict.com/>

<https://www.wordreference.com/>

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english-spanish>

These are much more reliable than google translate as you can see all the different meanings of words and select the one that best suits your purpose.

1. Set language-learning goals.
2. Learn about the culture.
3. Have fun. Talk to yourself in Spanish!
4. Test yourself.

FLASHCARDS

Spend some time making yourself flashcards for all the Spanish tenses that you have studied so far. You can use the Grammar section at the back of your textbook to help you. Remember to include the rules on how to form the tense and the main irregular verbs. This is a great way to revise the tenses and they will prove incredibly useful next year.

LANGUAGES ONLINE

<https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/spanishindex.html#Grammar>

A useful website with lots of interactive grammar activities.

Be informed about current affairs!

READ THE NEWS IN SPANISH

BBC NEWS | MUNDO

Read all the latest News in Spanish, watch video clips and reports too.

<https://www.bbc.com/mundo>

SPANISH NEWSPAPERS (either online or download the app)

El País - <https://elpais.com/>

El mundo - <https://www.elmundo.es/>

ABC – <https://www.abc.es/>

20 Minutos - <https://www.20minutos.es/>

Primeras Noticias -

<https://primerasnoticias.com/> - A newspaper for young people

READ AND WATCH THE NEWS IN ENGLISH

As an A level Spanish student, you will cover a wide range of topics and whilst you will study them in the context of Spain and other Spanish speaking countries many are relevant here in England too. Reading up on these topics in English will broaden your vocabulary and give you a deeper appreciation of key current affairs; which, in turn, will help you make stronger arguments in Spanish and access reading and listening activities more easily.



At A level students are required to read authentic articles from Spanish newspapers and have a strong knowledge and understanding about the culture and society where Spanish is spoken.

Here are some tips to get the most out of online newspapers:

- Start by scanning the headlines only.
- Look at the pictures and subheadings to help you work out the main points of the article.
- Skim the whole article to get the gist – do not look up every new word as it will slow you down and you will lose interest.
- Select a paragraph and try to translate it into English.
- Select articles covering topics that interest you or are familiar to you in English as it will help you to work out the meaning of unknown words.

SPANISH MAGAZINES

<https://www.hola.com/> - The Spanish version of Hello

<https://www.donbalon.com/> - A football website

WATCH THE NEWS IN SPANISH

To watch a 4 minute version of the news go to: <https://www.rtve.es/noticias/> and then click on Telediario en 4.

Increase your knowledge of everything Spanish and Hispanic!

GEOGRAPHY

- Study a map of Spain – Where is it? Which countries border Spain? Which seas/oceans border Spain?
- Find out the names of all the Spanish islands.
- Learn the names of all the Spanish autonomous communities and their location.
- Find out which countries have Spanish as their official language and where they are.
- Look up the population of Spain.
- Find out what the demographics of Spain are.

HISTORY and POLITICS

- Find out some important events in Spain's history.
- Do some background reading in English on the Spanish Civil War.
- Discover how Spain got its name.
- Find out the history behind the Spanish flag.
- Find out about Spain's government.
- Learn about Spain's monarchy.
- Listen to the Spanish national anthem. Find out why it is not like most other national anthems.

LANGUAGE

- Find out how many languages are spoken in Spain.
- See what you can learn about 'castellano'
- Find out where the Spanish language came from.
- What is the difference between Spanish and Hispanic?

FOOD

- Do some research on food in Spain.
- Find out which crops are grown in Spain.
- Discover what the Mediterranean Diet is.
- Cook a Spanish dish.
- Find a Spanish recipe and translate it into English.

Choose one Spanish speaking country and research its history, music, culture, food, famous people etc.

SPANISH TOURISM WEBSITE

A great website to learn more about Spain.



<https://www.spain.info/es/>

FAMOUS SPANIARDS/HISPANISTS

- Do some research on these famous Spanish speaking people:
- Pedro Almodóvar
- Guillermo del Toro
- Picasso
- Lionel Messi
- Penelope Cruz
- Antonio Banderas
- Pablo Escobar
- Che Guevara
- Salvador Dalí
- Miguel de Cervantes
- David Bisbal
- Frida Kahlo

Do you know any other famous Spaniards /Hispanists?

FESTIVALS

Find out about these important festivals:

- Semana Santa
- La tomatina
- Las Fallas
- San Fermín
- Feria de Sevilla
- Els Enfarinats

USEFUL RESEARCH WEBSITES

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Spain>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/spanish-history-and-culture-4133084>

<https://www.spanish-fiestas.com/festivals/>

COMPLETE ALL THE AQA GCSE PAST PAPERS

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes> (THESE ARE ON CLASS CHARTS TOO!)

A level Spanish topics - Edexcel

Theme 1: *La evolución de la sociedad española*

(Theme 1 is set in the context of Spain only)

- ***El cambio en la estructura familiar***
La evolución de las actitudes hacia el matrimonio, las relaciones y las familias.
- ***El mundo laboral***
La vida laboral en España y las actitudes hacia el trabajo; las oportunidades de trabajo para los jóvenes; la igualdad de género.
- ***El impacto turístico en España***
El impacto económico; las oportunidades que ofrece el turismo; el impacto socio-ambiental.

Theme 2: *La cultura política y artística en el mundo de habla española*

(Theme 2 is set in the context of Spanish-speaking countries and communities.)

- ***La música***
Los cambios y las tendencias; el impacto de la música en la cultura contemporánea.
- ***Los medios de comunicación***
La televisión y las telenovelas: los medios de comunicación escritos y en internet; el impacto en la sociedad y la política.
- ***Los festivales y las tradiciones***
Los festivales, las fiestas, las costumbres y las tradiciones.

Theme 3: *La inmigración y la sociedad multicultural española*

(Theme 3 is set in the context of Spain only.)

- ***La inmigración históricamente y contemporáneamente***
Los orígenes de la inmigración; los musulmanes en Al-Ándalus; la influencia de los inmigrantes del norte de África y América Latina.
- ***La integración y el multiculturalismo***
Los beneficios y los retos del multiculturalismo; las actitudes hacia las comunidades de inmigrantes.

Theme 4: *La dictadura franquista y la transición a la democracia*

(Theme 4 is set in the context of Spain only.)

- ***La dictadura franquista***
La Guerra Civil y el ascenso de Franco, la vida cotidiana bajo el franquismo: la opresión política, la censura, las divisiones en la sociedad.
- ***El paso de la dictadura a la democracia***
El papel del Rey Juan Carlos en la transición; el Gobierno de Suárez; el impacto de la dictadura en la sociedad actual.

1. Un poco de contexto

Where is Spanish spoken, then?

Look for a world map, colour the countries in.

Make yourself familiar with the names of the countries and their capitals. Look for promotional videos on each country and learn as much as you can.



A good start, Peru:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qug_DMq7KC0.

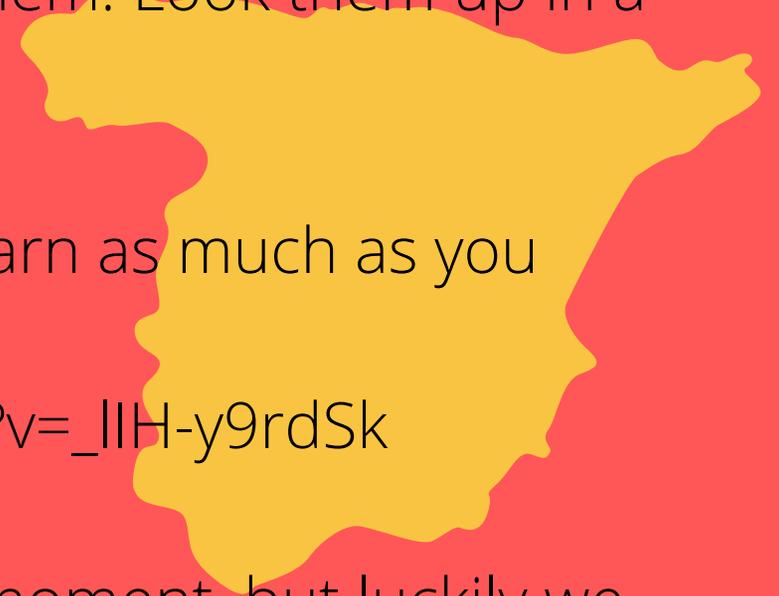
2. Las regiones españolas

Spain...*one* country?

You will be surprised to find out how different Spanish regions are from each other. There are 17 of them. Look them up in a map.

Look for videos of each of them and learn as much as you can! The Basque Country could a good start: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IIH-y9rdSk

We may be stuck in our homes at the moment, but luckily we are still allowed to travel with our eyes.



3. La familia en España

The **concept** of family in Spain

- How was it influenced by religion?
- How has it changed over the years?
- What steps has the government taken to make sure LGTB families' rights are respected?
- What are the next steps to make sure everyone feels happy, safe, included or respected?



4. La familia en Latino América

The **concept** of family in different Spanish-speaking countries

How was it influenced by religion?

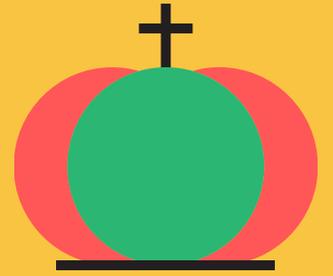
How has it changed over the years?

What steps have governments taken to make sure LGTB families' rights are respected?

What are the next steps to make sure everyone feels happy, safe, included or respected?



5. La religión



Influence of the Catholic religion in the Spanish-speaking world

From the Discovery of the Americas to the Spanish Inquisition. What role did religion play in these events?

How embedded is the Catholic religion in Latin America and Spain's culture? Are there other important religions?

How is this reflected in festivals and other celebrations?

The more videos you find, the better!

6. Las dictaduras

Dictatorships in the Spanish-speaking world in the 20th century.

Conduct research on the (sadly) most well-known military dictatorships in the past and how they have shaped today's societies in these countries:

- a. **Spain:** Francisco Franco.
- b. **Chile:** Augusto Pinochet.
- c. **Cuba:** Fidel Castro.
- d. **Argentina:** Jorge Rafael Videla.

You will remember this information much better if you look for videos and photos to illustrate your work.

When you start your research, look for:

- what the situation in their countries were like when the dictators intervened
- what they did to come to power
- what life was like for the population of these countries
- how their dictatorships finished
- what the situation is like in their countries now.

7. La pobreza en Latino América

Inequality and poverty in Latin America.

- a. Inequality between the rich and the poor in the same Latin American countries. Look for videos and photos and reflect about what you see. What could be the possible causes?

- b. What are the poorest countries in Latin America? List them and look for possible causes (e.g. war conflict, lack of natural resources).

- c. What are the richest countries in Latin America? List them and look for reasons (e.g. attracts more tourism, better international relations).



8. La música y el baile

Cultural and historical reasons for diversity

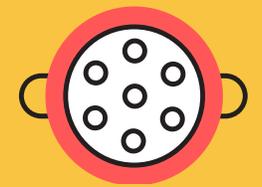
Diversity has been key for each Spanish-speaking country to develop their own tunes and types of music, such as flamenco, pasodoble, bolero, sevillanas, salsa, merengue, bachata, cumbia, vallenato or samba.

Each of these genres is usually danced in a particular way and are central to social gatherings (alongside with food, of course). Nowadays, there are many dance schools around the world specialised in teaching them.



Do some research on the origins of each of them, look for the most representative musicians or songs and how they are danced. You could try to learn some of them, as there are so many tutorials online, too.

9. La gastronomía

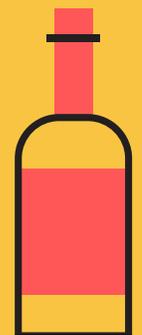


Social life in Spain and some Latin American countries has food at heart

Many business meetings take place when sharing a *comida de negocios* ("business meal") and it is very common for friends to meet at each other's houses and cook for each other (in a lovely way of showing you care for someone by cooking for them).

As there are so many countries where Spanish is spoken and each of them has different local specialities, look in depth into:

- Spanish regional dishes
- Mexican cuisine
- Argentinian food



What are their influences? What are their main recipes based on? What are the typical day meals like? All three are extremely different. Look for photos or recipes, but not when you are hungry!



10. El arte



Literatura, arquitectura, pintura...

Researching on centuries and centuries of art do not seem like a fair task to set!

This is a selection of some of the most influential artists and architects in the Hispanic world.

Frida Kahlo

Salvador Dalí

Fernando Botero

Pablo Neruda

Diego Rivera

Diego Velázquez

Antoni Gaudí

Federico García Lorca

Pablo Picasso

Francisco de Goya

Santiago Calatrava

María Zambrano

Look for information on their work, life and influence.

As usual, videos and photos will help you make this information more memorable!



11. Los idiomas

¿Castellano o español?



Many people get a bit confused when they hear people refer to the Spanish language as *castellano* and *español*. They are actually the same language, but some people believe it is more accurate to refer to Spanish as *castellano* because there are other languages that are spoken in Spain. *Castellano* refers to the region in Spain, Castilla, where the Spanish that is spoken worldwide today was born.

Everyone in the Hispanic world speaks castellano and can understand each other, however, many other languages are spoken and many people are bilingual. **Research:**

- basque or euskera
 - catalán
 - gallego
 - quechua
 - guaraní
- **Where are these languages spoken?**
 - **How many people speak them?**
 - **Is it prestigious or powerful?**
 - **Are they popular or disappearing? Why?**
 - **What do they sound like?**
 - **Which one do you find most interesting?**