

Preparing for Spanish A-Level

Work for Year 11 students to prepare for the July induction day

English language at A-level is very different to English language at GCSE and you must expect to learn a wide range of new concepts, skills and, especially, terminology. English language is more scientific and technical; it will require a much more in-depth study of language and how it is used to communicate meaning.

¡Hola, Year 11! *Felicitaciones* for having finished all your assessments and survived Year 11. You really deserve una medalla! We are looking forward to welcoming you to induction for Spanish A-level in July and have put together the work below for you to complete in your own time between now and then. We expect you to have your GCSE grammar and vocabulary in really good shape, and to have started to explore cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking world.

In between now and induction day, aim to complete 30-45 minutes a day of the tasks.

GCSE Grammar

1. You must know the points below by heart. Go through the list and rate how confident you feel about each point, with 1 being least confident:

– Present tense	1 2 3 4 5
– Preterite	1 2 3 4 5
– Imperfect tense	1 2 3 4 5
– Future tense	1 2 3 4 5
– Conditional tense	1 2 3 4 5
– Present continuous tense	1 2 3 4 5
– Perfect tense	1 2 3 4 5
– Pronouns	1 2 3 4 5

For those you have scored lowest, spend time learning them.

2. Either complete the activities here: [BBC Bitesize: Spanish grammar](#) and/or use the relevant pages in your *Viva! Grammar and Translation Workbook*. If you don't have a copy, contact the Spanish department.

3. Practice verb formation under pressure: [Conjugemos: tenses conjugation practice](#)

Choose the tense and verb types, then use the drop-down menu to choose specific verbs.

4. Once you are 100% confident with the above, try the following:

[BBC Bitesize: revising Spanish grammar](#)

5. Work through the higher level grammar (different types of present tense verb, perfect tenses and subjunctive). Complete and self-mark any uncompleted translations in the workbook.

Listening and Reading Practice

Listen and read whatever you can, wherever you can! Spotify playlists, Netflix, the news, websites, following Spanish speakers on social media... anything!

The websites below have adapted activities to help you learn as you read. Work through the activities.

Complete the reading activities on a range of topics here:

http://www.spanishrevision.co.uk/a_level/reading/reading_index.htm

Complete the listening and reading activities here:

<http://personal.colby.edu/personal/b/bknelson/SLC/>

Watching TV is a brilliant way to practice listening and comprehension whilst also getting some cultural knowledge. Good historical dramas on UK Netflix include:



Gun City: 1920s Spain - a tough cop is sent from Madrid to Barcelona to locate stolen military weaponry



Spain in 1950s under Franco. The story begins with a young boy being asked by his parents to return to Spain to meet his fiancée. He returns accompanied by Lazaro, a mysterious ballet dancer.



1960s Spain. The birth of a music label and three characters fighting for their dreams inside the complex inside the music industry.



Crime/thriller, Columbia. When a young Bogotá-based detective gets drawn into the jungle to investigate four femicides, she uncovers magic, an evil plot and her own true origins.

Cultural Topic – Pan’s Labyrinth



In Year 12, we study the film *El Laberinto del Fauno*, a horror-fantasy film set in post-Civil War Spain, directed by Mexican director Guillermo del Toro.

It is available to stream on Amazon Prime and Now TV. If someone in your household has an account please watch it.

Watch the trailers for some of Guillermo del Toro’s films – can you see a common theme?:



El Espinazo del Diablo (2001) [YouTube: El Espinazo del Diablo](#)



Hellboy (2004) [YouTube: Hellboy](#)



El Laberinto del Fauno (2006) [YouTube: El Laberinto del Fauno](#)



The Shape of Water (2017) [YouTube: The Shape of Water](#)

Watch this interview with Guillermo Del Toro – how do you think his life has influenced his films?:

[YouTube: BBC Film 2010](#)

Read the review of *Laberinto* here – do you agree with the reviewer? If you haven’t seen the film yet, is it making you want to watch it? [The Guardian: review Pan's Labyrinth](#)

Cultural Knowledge

A key part of the course is understanding and debating cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking world. You will be completing and presenting your own research project into an aspect of it that interests you. Spend some time exploring the history and culture of Spain and Latin America, and start thinking about an area that you might like to cover.

Watch this (silly) 10-minute history of Spain: [YouTube: the animated history of Spain](#)

Watch one of these Netflix documentaries:



[Patria \(Mexico\)](#)



[Magical Andes \(South America\)](#)



[Barça Dreams \(Spain\)](#)



[Two Catalonias \(Spain\)](#)



[Camarón \(Spain\)](#)

Read/watch the news in Spanish daily:

[RTVE](#)

[20 minutos](#)

[BBC News Mundo](#)