

# A LEVEL SPANISH

2025-26



THE  
PORTSMOUTH  
GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL

# Course Outline

Pupils study four broad topics that comprise aspects of Hispanic Society, including social issues and trends, artistic culture, multiculturalism and aspects of political life. In addition, all pupils study a film and a book, both in the target language. Ahead of the oral exam, pupils complete an independent research project on a topic of their choice. This is underpinned by perfection of the grammar, to be able to work with the language longer term.

## A Level External Assessment

Pupils take the AQA A Level Examination. This consists of three papers:

Paper 1 – Listening, reading and translation (50%).

Paper 2 – Written response to a film and a book (20%).

Paper 3 – Speaking with IRP – Independent Research Project (30%)

## Entry Requirements

For A Level study, a Grade 7 at GCSE or equivalent is required, although we recommend a Grade 8 or 9. You should be keen to communicate in Spanish and want to learn more about the culture of Spain and Latin-American countries. The course will equip you with the necessary skills to discuss, debate and give justified viewpoints on a whole range of topic areas. It will, above all, give you an in-depth knowledge of the cultures of the Hispanic world.

## **Skills Required and Developed**

During the two-year course you will further develop the four language skills. By the end of the course, you will be able to read for pleasure, hold a conversation at normal pace, write analytical essays in formal Spanish and have sound translation skills. You can expect to be taught in small groups and your relationship with your teachers should be quite different from your previous experience. We aim to use Spanish in class as much as practicable and you will have a weekly session in the language laboratory for independent listening. In addition, you will have a weekly period with our Spanish Assistant, in pairs or individually.

## **Beyond the Classroom**

Study trips are organised regularly and in recent years there have been trips to Barcelona and Madrid. There are also several enrichment opportunities throughout the two years, including an Able Linguists Day at the University of Southampton and the Linguistics Olympiad. Finally, some A Level pupils choose to write an EPQ research essay in Spanish, considering an interesting aspect of the Hispanic world. Previous topics have included the demise of bullfighting, Tango for export and Latin American art.

# University Courses and Professions that require the Subject

All top UK universities offer Spanish as a full or joint honours degree course. Spanish, as with any modern language, is an essential skill to have in the modern, globalised world. Spanish is spoken in 20 countries, on 5 continents by over 450 million native speakers. The language is a popular subject choice and provides excellent preparation for a wide number of careers such as journalism, law and the diplomatic service. Each year pupils make successful applications to study Spanish at a range of top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. In recent years, pupils have gone on to study Spanish at university in combination with a number of other subjects, including Arabic, Business, Economics, Finance, Law, Politics, Portuguese, Philosophy and History.



## More Information

Contact our Head of Modern Languages, Mr. O Stone:

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You can also find more information on the exam board's website: [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)