



AS Level

Spanish

Spanish
AS Level

Introduction

Welcome to your AS Spanish Course!

The Specification (or Syllabus)

This course has been designed to give you a full and thorough preparation for the AS level or A-level Spanish specification, set by the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA).

The **Subject Code** for entry to the AS only award is **1696**.

The **Subject Code** for entry to the Advanced level award is **2696**.

Private Candidates

The AQA specification is open to private candidates. Private candidates should contact AQA for a copy of '*Information for Private Candidates*'.



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Arrangement of Lessons

Module One: Young People in Spain

Lesson One: The Spanish Language

- Present tense of regular verbs, *Ser, Estar, Tener*, Preterite of regular verbs, Reflexives (pronouns), Vowel-Changing/Radical Changing Verbs

Lesson Two: Family and Relationships

- Present Tense Irregular Verbs: *ser, estar, tener*, Main Irregular Verbs, Preterite of Irregular Verbs, Reflexive Verbs/Pronouns
- **¡Sigue! AS:** Unidad 1, *Las relaciones personales*
- AQA Topic Family/Relationships

Lesson Three: Sport and Exercise

- *Ser* and *Estar*, Reflexives (2), *Pero/Sino*, Present Subjunctive, Adjectival Participles
- **¡Sigue! AS:** Unidad 2, *Los españoles y el ocio*
- AQA Topic Healthy Living/Lifestyle
- Tutor-Marked Assignment A

Lesson Four: Fashion

- Preterite (2), The Imperfect Tense, The Perfect Tense, The Pluperfect, Object Pronouns
- This Lesson contains information and Activities on Fashion in today's Spain.
- AQA Topic Fashion
- Tutor-Marked Assignment B

Module Two: Food and Health

Lesson Five: Diet and Well-Being

- Adjectives, Articles, Interrogative Pronouns
- **¡Sigue! AS:** Unidad 4, *La Comida, La salud*
- AQA Topic Healthy Living/Lifestyle

Lesson Six: Health Risks: Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs

- Present Subjunctive, The Imperative
- **¡Sigue! AS:** Unidad 4, *La Comida, La salud*
- AQA Topic: Healthy Living/Lifestyle

Lesson Seven: *Los Medios de Comunicación*

- The Future and Conditional Tenses
- Familiar Imperatives
- Reading and Writing about the Media
- **¡Sigue! AS:** Unidad 7, *Los Medios de Comunicación*
- AQA Topic: Media
- Tutor-Marked Assignment C

Lesson Eight: Halfway House: Grammar Revision

- Adjectives, Present Subjunctive, Imperfect Subjunctive, Future/Conditional, Use of *lo*, Familiar Commands with Pronouns (Positive and Negative)
- Tutor-marked Assignment D

Module Three: Spanish Culture

Lesson Nine: Spanish Arts and Popular Culture

- Personal *a*, Present Continuous, Passive, Pluperfect Subjunctive
- **¡Sigue! AS:** Unidad 2, *Los españoles y el ocio*
- AQA Topic: Popular Culture
- Tutor-Marked Assignment E

Lesson Ten: Holidays

- Conditional Perfect, Comparatives and Superlatives
- **¡Sigue! AS:** Unidad 10, *Las Vacaciones*
- AQA Topic: Holidays
- Tutor-Marked Assignment E

Lesson Eleven: Mexico: History, Art and Culture

- Basic Grammar Revision, Adjectives, Infinitives, Relative Pronouns, Future Tense
- AQA (A2) Topic: Latin America (México)
- Tutor-Marked Assignment G

Module Four: Revision (CD Practice and Exam Revision)

Lesson Twelve: Revising Grammar Topics

- Conditional Tense, Direct and Indirect Speech
- A2 Set Book: *Como agua para chocolate* (Laura Esquivel)
- Tutor-Marked Assignment H
- Plus CD Track 2

Lesson Thirteen: Revision

- Present & Perfect Tenses
- CD Track 3 Listening Exercise for Examination Practice
- Tutor-Marked Assignment I
- Plus CD Track 4

Lesson Fourteen: CD Listening and AQA Examination Practice (1)

AQA Topics:

- Media
- Popular culture
- Family/Relationships
- Tutor-Marked Assignment J/ CD Listening Test

Lesson Fifteen: CD Listening and AQA Examination Practice (2)

- AQA Exam Practice Paper
- Media
- Popular Culture

- Family/Relationships
- CD Listening Test/ Tutor-Marked Assignment K (Speaking Test with Tutor)

Description of the AQA Specification's Units

The AS examination is divided into 2 Units. Unit 1 requires candidates to take a two-hour written exam. Unit 2 requires candidates to take a 35-minute speaking test. A more detailed breakdown is given here:

Unit 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (Unit code: SPAN1)

The Unit 1 Examination is in the form of a 2-hour written exam. There are 110 marks available in all (70% of AS-Level, 35% of A-Level).

The exam itself is divided into three different sections;

1) Listening Section (35 marks)

- This section comprises a task involving a transfer of meaning from Spanish into English.
- Candidates listen to approximately 5 minutes of material which is within their individual control.
- Candidates answer all questions.
- It also has 2-4 questions which require short responses in Spanish or non-verbal responses (e.g. multiple-choice).
- Candidates are advised to spend approximately 30 minutes on this section.

2) Reading and Writing Section (40 marks)

- This section comprises 3-4 items which require short responses in Spanish or non-verbal responses.
- It also includes a 'cloze test'. The 'cloze test' comprises ten discrete sentences not based on any of the stimulus texts. In each case, candidates will be required to manipulate a given noun/verb/adjective.
- Candidates are advised to spend approximately 45 minutes on this section.

3) Writing Section (35 marks)

- Candidates respond to one question from a choice of three.
- There is one question on each of the four AS topic areas, which are described below.
- Candidates are advised to spend approximately 45 minutes on this section and must write a minimum of 200 words.

Unit 2: Speaking Test (Unit code: SPA2T/V)

The Unit 2 Examination requires candidates to take a 35-minute speaking test (including 20 minutes preparation). This is worth 50 marks (30% of AS-Level, 15% of A-Level). The speaking test itself is divided into two parts:

1) Part 1: Discussion of a stimulus card (5 minutes)

- Candidates have 20 minutes of supervised preparation time during which they should prepare one of two cards given to them by the examiner.
- The cards will be selected at random from a set of six provided by AQA. This is to ensure that there is no overlap with the candidate's choice of topic for discussion in Part 2 (see below).
- The cards will be based on the four topics prescribed for AS, i.e. *Media, Popular Culture, Healthy Living/Lifestyle and Family/Relationships*.
- At least one card will be set on each of these topics. Each card will cover one sub-topic within the four topics e.g. a card on *Television* from the *Media* topic.
- Candidates may make notes during their preparation time and can refer to these notes during this part of the test.
- There will be five questions printed on each card which will form the basis of the discussion. Candidates are also expected to respond to broader issues within the sub-topic area prescribed on the card.

2) Part 2: Conversation (10 minutes)

- The Conversation will cover three of the four AS topics.
- The first topic in the Conversation will be chosen by the candidate, and can be any topic of his/her choice. This conversation should last a maximum of 3 minutes.
- The remaining two topics in the conversation will be chosen by the Examiner from the topics prescribed for

AS, in order to avoid any overlap with the topic of the stimulus card discussed in Part 1 and with the candidate's chosen topic.

The Unit 2 Speaking Test will be conducted and recorded either by the tutor or by an AQA Examiner. All tests, however, will be marked by an AQA Examiner.

Mark Allocation in Unit 2: The Speaking Test

- Part 1: Stimulus Material (10 marks)
- Part 2: Conversation (25 marks)
- Overall: Knowledge of Grammar (15 marks)

Reading List

The following reading list is divided into three parts: 'Essential Reading', 'Optional Reading' and 'Recommended Background Reading' book should be used in conjunction with this course:

Essential Reading: Spanish Language Textbooks

- *¡Sigue! AS* by David Mort & John Connor, (Hodder Education) (ISBN: 978 0340 95023 4)
- Spanish/English, English/Spanish Dictionary (HarperCollins)

¡Sigue! AS

¡Sigue! AS should be studied in direct conjunction with your AS Course. The various grammar topics covered in *¡Sigue! AS* will be further explained throughout the Course, where you will be given the opportunity to practice them through completing Activities, Self-Assessment Tests and Tutor-Marked Assignments.

There are Ten Units (Unidades) in *¡Sigue! AS*, and those which are relevant to your AQA AS Spanish course correspond to the first Ten lessons in your course-folder. The remaining five lessons are devoted to Exam Revision. You should always have a copy of *¡Sigue! AS* to hand when working through your Course-Pack, as the course will frequently refer you to a passage or activity in the textbook which you should complete accordingly.

Optional Reading and Reference Works

- *AQA Spanish* (Nelson Thornes) (ISBN 978-0-7487-9810-0)

This is a basic AQA Spanish text book aimed specifically at your AS Spanish Examination. The information contained has been used as a supplement to *¡Sigue! AS*.

- *An Essential Course in Modern Spanish* by H. Ramsden (Nelson Thornes Limited, ISBN: 0-17-444685-3)
- *Palabra por Palabra: A New Advanced Spanish Vocabulary* by Phil Turk (Hodder Murray; ISBN: 978-0-3409-1521-9)

Palabra por Palabra is a valuable tool for widening your vocabulary in anticipation of your written, listening and oral exams. It provides key vocabulary for many of the topics prescribed by AQA and covered in your course which provide particularly useful preparation for your Oral Exam, when you will be expected to give your opinions on a number of the topics provided.

- *Spanish in Three Months* by Hugo (Dorling Kindersley)

Another excellent language book which, originally published in the USA, has proved extremely popular in Britain, is:

- *English Grammar for Students of Spanish* by Emily Spinelli (Hodder Headline, ISBN: 0-340-74198-8)

This is particularly helpful for those who have missed out on English grammar teaching, and it explains complicated-sounding terms such as 'intransitive verb' and 'preposition' in a clear and concise way.

Other Recommended Reading

Set Texts

Federico García Lorca	<i>Bodas de Sangre</i> (1933) <i>Yerma</i> (1934) <i>La Casa de Bernarda Alba</i> (1936)
Ramón Sender	<i>Réquiem por un Campesino Español</i> (1954 Manchester University Press)
Juan Goytisolo	<i>Campos de Níjar</i> (1960 Grant & Cutler)
Gabriel García Márquez	<i>El Coronel no tiene quien le escriba</i> (1958 Manchester University Press)
Laura Esquivel	<i>Como Agua para Chocolate</i> (1989 (Anchor Books Doubleday) (In English: <i>Like Water for Chocolate</i> , Black Swan/Transworld)

History Reference

Pierre Vilar	<i>Spain - A Brief History</i> (Pergamon)
Francisco J. Romero Salvadó	<i>Twentieth Century Spain</i> (Palgrave)
Hugh Thomas	<i>The Spanish Civil War</i> (Penguin)

Spanish Background

Laurie Lee	<i>A Rose for Winter</i> (Penguin) <i>As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning</i> (Penguin)
George Orwell	<i>Homage to Catalonia</i> (Penguin)
Gerald Brenan	<i>The Face of Spain</i> (Penguin) <i>South from Granada</i> (Penguin)
Seix Barral	<i>La Chanca Juan Goytisolo</i>
José Cela	<i>Viaje a la Alcarria Camilo</i> (Madrid)

Latin America

Gabriel García Márquez from Colombia is a world-renowned and much praised writer, whose works are widely available in English as well as Spanish:

No one writes to the Colonel (Penguin)

One Hundred Years of Solitude (Penguin, Nobel Prize Winner 1968)

Love in the Time of Cholera (Penguin)

Also well worth reading, in the mould of García Márquez, is:

Isabelle Allende *House of the Spirits* (Penguin)

Cuba

A glimpse of Cuba can be found in:

Alejo Carpentier *Explosion in a Cathedral* (Penguin)

Background Reading: Latin America

Ronald Atkin *Revolution: Mexico 1910-1920* (Panther)

Maurice Collis *Cortés and Montezuma* (New Directions)

Jean Franco (ed.) *Cuentos Americanos de Nuestros Días* (Harrap)

Richard Gott *Cuba: A New History* (Yale)
Guerilla Movements in Latin America (Penguin)

Victor von Hagen *The Aztec: Man and Tribe* (New American Library)

Marcel Neidergang *The Twenty Latin Americas* (Penguin)

W.H Prescott *The Conquest of Mexico* (Bantam)
The Conquest of Peru

Óscar Soto *El último día de Salvador Allende* (Santillana)

Recommended Suppliers

You may acquire textbooks through the Oxford Open Learning website (www.ool.co.uk). If you have trouble finding any of these books, we can recommend the following suppliers:

Blackwell's Extra,
International Mail Order Book Service,
50 Broad St.
Oxford OX1 3BQ
Tel: 01865 792792 Fax: 01865 261355

Grant and Cutler Ltd,
Modern Language Booksellers,
55-57 Great Marlborough St.
London W1V 2AY Tel: 0171 7342012

To enquire about exams and order past papers:

AQA Logistics Centre,
Unit Two, Wheel Forge Way,
Ashburton Park,
MANCHESTER,
M17 1EH
Tel: 0870 410 1036 Fax: 0161 953 1177
E-mail: publications@aqa.org.uk

General Advice
AQA
Devas Street,
MANCHESTER,
M15 6EX Tel: 0161 953 1180
Website: www.aqa.org.co.uk

Using the Internet

All students would benefit from access to the Internet, where you will find a wealth of information on all of the topics in your course. As well as the AQA website, you should get into the habit of checking the Oxford Open Learning site (www.ool.co.uk), where you may find news, additional resources and interactive features as time goes by. If you have not already done so, you may register for your free copy of *How to Study at Home*, our 200-page guide to home learning, or enrol on further courses. Put it on your Favourites list now!

The Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS) Level

Advanced Subsidiary Courses may be used in one of two ways;

- As a final qualification, allowing candidates to broaden their studies and to defer questions about specialism;
- As the first half (50%) of an Advanced Level (A-Level) qualification, which must be completed before an Advanced Level award can be made.

Advanced Subsidiary is designed to provide an appropriate assessment of knowledge, understanding and skills expected of candidates who have completed the first half of a full Advanced Level Qualification.

Grading and Shelf-Life

For AS level there is a 5-grade scale: A, B, C, D and E. Candidates who fail to reach the minimum standard for Grade E will be recorded as 'U' (unclassified). At A2 level, there is also an A* grade above A.

The shelf-life of an individual unit results, prior to the award of the qualification, is limited only by the shelf-life of the specification. As long as the syllabus stays in its present form, grades can therefore be carried forward indefinitely.

Steady Progress

From your own point of view, it is not a good idea to spread your course-time too thinly; your studies may seem to last forever, and it is likely that if you take too long to complete the qualification, you may have problems remembering the earlier lessons.

Ideally, you should take a total of two years to complete the two parts of these Examinations (AS + A2) but you can take as many as four (or more) if your personal circumstances prevent you from getting there earlier.

The Difficulties of AS/A-Level Spanish

It should be said right at the start that AS/A-Level Spanish is a difficult subject, with a wide programme. In comparison with GCSE, it represents a significant step forward, as the demands of each course are very different. You should approach the course as a challenge, and make sure that you

are willing to work hard on practicing your language skills over and over again in order to gain confidence.

To be successful in your AS and A-Level Spanish programme, you need to know your grammar. You must have a full understanding of nouns, adjectives and verbs, as well as the form and meanings of the different tenses. You will also need to acquire the basic knowledge of language that GCSE tends to bypass, but which is necessary for advanced study.

Grammar Content

You may have noticed that within the textbook *¡Sigue! AS* and the 'Arrangement of Lessons' in your course-folder, many of the grammar topics are presented several times, and that there is a mix of topics that are fairly easy, e.g. *adjectives*, with those that are more difficult to master, such as the *imperfect subjunctive*.

The reason for this is simple. The Spanish texts in *¡Sigue! AS* are quite advanced. The authors have identified the grammar within the passages and highlighted it in the exercises and activities. This can appear confusing, so on the next page all the language elements are presented alphabetically, with direct references to the Lesson from which each topic has been taken. In this way you will be able to find the particular points of language quickly and can study the same topic in different lessons of the course.

Within the course, all the language covered is explained, and there are activities and assignments to allow you to practice and improve your language skills. This way, the course fully covers the relatively difficult language found in *¡Sigue! AS*.

The advanced and technical vocabulary in *¡Sigue! AS*; some of it in Latin American as well as Spanish, may also present problems. Unfortunately, a full vocabulary in a Spanish course of this kind is not possible, and the vocabulary included in *¡Sigue!AS* is also limited. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you use a good Spanish-English/English-Spanish Dictionary to support your studies. You do not need a comprehensive dictionary for AS/A-Level; a medium-sized one in the region of £15-£20 should be sufficient.

Point of Grammar	Lesson
Adjectives (Descriptive)	5, 8, 12, 11
Adjectives (Demonstrative)	13
Adjectives (Possessive)	2
Articles	5
Comparisons & Superlatives	10
Conditional/Conditional Perfect	7, 8, 10, 12
Direct/Indirect Speech	12
Estar	1, 2
Future	7, 8, 10, 11, 15
Imperative	6, 7, 8
Imperfect	4, 7, 8
Infinitives	11
Interrogatives	5
Lo	1, 8, 10
Participles (Adjectival)	3
Perfect	4, 8, 13
Pero, Sino	3
Personal 'a'	9
Pluperfect	4, 8
Preterite	1, 2, 4, 7
Pronouns (Object)	4
Pronouns (Relative)	11
Reflexives	1, 2, 3
Ser	1, 2, 3
Subjunctive (Present)	3, 6, 7, 8
Subjunctive (Imperfect)	8, 10
Subjunctive (Pluperfect)	9
Superlatives & Comparisons	11
Tener	1, 2
Verbs (Passive)	9
Verbs (Irregular)	1, 2, 13
Verbs (Regular/Vowel Changing)	1
Verbs (Continuous)	9

The Oral Spanish CD



You have also been provided with an Oral Spanish CD, which you should use to improve your verbal language skills. You will find an index to all the listening comprehension materials at the end of your course folder. (N.b. The listening comprehension activities begin at lesson 11 (and *not* lesson 12 as stated on the CD.)

For one of your last Assignments, it will be necessary for you to contact your Tutor by telephone in order to practice spoken Spanish in line with the requirements of this examination. This is where the syllabus may be particularly useful to you; you should read through it carefully in the run-up to your final exams.

The Structure within each Lesson: How to Study

Front Page

The first page of every lesson shows:

- The **title**.
- **Aims** for the lesson. These set out the things that you should have learned after working through the lesson; keep these in mind while reading the lesson material.
- **Context**. This gives a very brief summary and shows how the lesson fits in with the rest of the course.
- **Textbook references** these give references to corresponding material in the textbooks, which you should study.

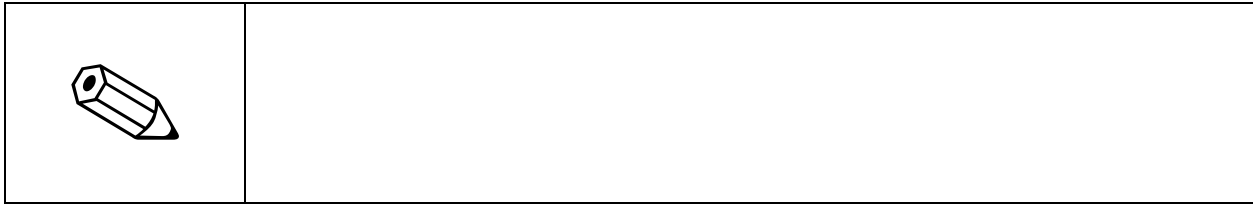
Activities

For most of this Course the work that you will be do will not be sent to your Tutor; it will consist of self-assessed activities. The important thing to remember is that none of the work that you do in these activities is wasted; all of it will help you develop those skills that will be assessed both in the examination. The Activities will give you necessary practice, and careful work on these will contribute more to your eventual performance and success than any other aspect of the course. Activities are indicated as follows:

Activity 1

Translate the following sentences **into Spanish**:

- a) How are you? (Do not use *¿Qué tal?*)
- b) Madrid is the capital of Spain.
- c) It is on a plateau 600 metres high (of height)
- d) We have our beer on the terrace.
- e) The people of Spain speak Spanish; in Brazil they speak Portuguese.



The pencil symbol indicates that you should make your own notes in the space provided (although, of course, you may prefer to make them separately).

Where do I find the Answers to Activities?

You will find suggested answers at the end of each lesson. These may not be the only 'correct' answers, but they will help you to see how you could improve your own work.

You may be tempted to peek at the answer to the activity before you have made a proper attempt at it. This is to be avoided at all costs. You must discipline yourself not to read the next section of a lesson until you have done the activity. Reading the answers too early is inadvisable for a number of reasons. The suggested answer tackles the problem in a certain way, and if you have not made your own attempt, you will tend to think that it is the only way. There are other methods, and it is best if you find one of your own. Remember that it is just a 'suggested' answer.

Tutor-marked Assignments

Lessons which are not followed by Tutor-Marked Assignments also contain Activities with a Suggested Answers section at the end of each lesson, and most contain Self-Assessment Tests. You can check your answers to these in the section at the end of the Course-pack. Some of the Activities include material or exercises from *¡Sigue! AS*.

When you attempt a Tutor-Marked Assignment, you should try not to look too much in the dictionary. TMAs are for 'A' level examination practice. The assignments will thoroughly check your understanding of the previous few topics.

Send your completed TMA to your Tutor, who will mark it and return it to you with a set of suggested answers. Make sure that you write your name and details very clearly on your test answers, and that all the sheets of your assignment are firmly attached together. To these you should attach one of the TMA cover slips which are supplied with this course, taking care to

fill in the relevant sections (note that some of these will be completed by your Tutor). Altogether this course contains eleven Tutor-Marked Assignments.

And finally...

Please read through the whole of the Lesson before trying any of the Activities (using your dictionary and any reference books that you have to hand). You will also need some paper to make notes and, if necessary, to write down questions for your tutor regarding anything in the Course or any of your books which is too difficult to master on your own.

Spanish at this level is not easy, and we are eager that you should do as well as possible in this Course, without too many problems. We wish you the very best of luck in your studies!

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