

## Course Description for GCSE Modern Languages in Spanish

**Syllabus:** WJEC Spanish 4520

### Course Outline

The GCSE qualification is a two year course which builds on work already covered in Years 8 to 9. Learners are expected to study a variety of topics which they will develop in a variety of skills areas.

The linear GCSE qualification is assessed in the following way:

**Component 1:** 25% final speaking assessment at the end of Year 11 that includes two unseen role-plays and a conversation on the topics covered during KS4;

**Component 2:** 25% final listening assessment that covers all the topics seen in the KS4 course;

**Component 3:** 25% final reading assessment that covers all the topics seen in the KS4 course and includes a translation exercise from French to English;

**Component 4:** 25% final writing assessment at the end of Year 11 that includes writing an extended piece of text and a translation exercise from English into French.

There is a particular focus in the new linear GCSE on using realistic and literary texts in the course content with songs and poetry being used as exemplar material.

### Themes and Topics

TOPIC	SUB-TOPIC
Identity and Culture	<b>Youth Culture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Self and relationships;</li><li>• Fashion;</li><li>• Technology and social media;</li><li>• Health and lifestyle;</li><li>• Sport and fitness;</li><li>• Entertainment and leisure.</li></ul> <b>Customs and Traditions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food and festivals.</li></ul>
Local, national, international and global areas of interest	<b>Travel and Transport</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Buying tickets;</li><li>• Making journeys</li></ul> <b>Holidays and Tourism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Characteristics of different holiday destinations;</li><li>• Local area and tourist attractions.</li></ul>
Current and future study and employment	<b>School and College Life</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School life and subjects;</li><li>• Work experience and part-time jobs;</li><li>• Skills and personal qualities;</li><li>• Preparing CVs and job adverts.</li></ul>

### Typical Activities

Typical lesson activities might include working with a partner. One learner asks the other a series of questions in the language to find out information. The partner uses an information card to give answers. They are involved in discussions, and must give their opinions about a variety of subjects in the language. They make up their own plays about a given subject. Learners also listen to recordings of

people speaking about different subjects and they fill in charts with information or answer questions about what they have heard.

Typical homework might include learning new words, writing summaries of an interview conducted in class, writing a letter, completing worksheets, reading different sorts of written information (notes, letters, signs, advertisements) and answering questions about them all in the foreign language.

### **How Parents/Carers Can Help**

You can help by testing your child on the words they have been asked to learn: you have the list of words in front of you; you say the English word and they tell you the foreign language word.

You can help by checking your child's school planner and by making sure that they have done the work set.

### **Reasons for Choosing This Subject**

The study of a Modern Language has many advantages:

1. Practical - for use during visits abroad or for personal contacts e.g. pen-friends, town twinning, team visits, to read foreign newspapers, books or magazines for pleasure or information, or for use in international commerce and industry.
2. General Education - studying a modern language develops clear thinking and breadth of view, and is valued as such by many employers. A language GCSE, combined with a Humanities subject, also makes learners eligible for the English Baccalaureate. This combination of subjects is valued highly by universities and employers as it shows that a learner has studied rigorous academic subjects, has a strong academic background and a wide skill set.
3. Linguistic Development - knowledge of a second language improves understanding and command of English.
4. Cultural Purposes - experience of books, plays, films, TV programmes in the foreign language and so on is greatly enriching. It encourages an understanding of others and tolerance towards them.
5. Further Education - a qualification in a modern language is an essential condition for entry to many courses in further and higher education. Some of the more popular universities expect learners to have a language to gain access to their degrees. It is also of ever increasing value in competing for many positions in commerce and industry.

These advantages are heightened if two languages are studied. Qualification in two languages forms an excellent basis for further study in languages or the arts, and is an increased asset in commerce and industry.

### **Post 16 Progression**

Learning and speaking a foreign language can be an ongoing and rewarding experience. Its importance is invaluable in today's multi-lingual world. Careers in education, manufacturing, public administration and defence, the world of finance, transport and communication, health and social services, the hotel, catering and retail industries and many more. Employers in general acknowledge the importance of being able to communicate in a foreign language and your entry to further education may be enhanced by a language qualification. We would recommend that learners who have already taken GCSE and who would like to develop their language skills at a higher level, should go on to study A/S and then A Level.