



Pre-entry Preparation, Requirements and Recommendations

Welcome to A-Level Spanish at Comberton Sixth Form.

Preparation

We would like you to complete some 'bridging work' before you start the course in September. This consists of the following:

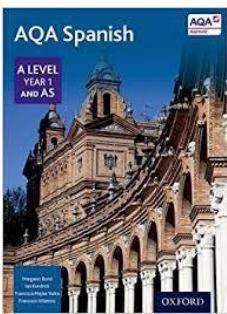
- 1) A **transition activity** to help you revise the key grammar from GCSE. Each sentence is designed to make you think about key verb forms, tenses and structures. It is important that you feel confident with grammar, so do take time to look up explanations, where necessary, and revise anything you feel you need more practice with and then translate into Spanish:
 - a) I like to watch TV but my parents prefer to listen to music.
 - b) My twin brothers go to a little primary school in the village
 - c) I always used to buy a sandwich for lunch, but now I tend to have salad.
 - d) It was sunny so I ate a picnic in the park
 - e) My mum and dad went to Scotland during the holidays. It rained the whole time!
 - f) I'm going to buy some books and a few DVDs, then I will go home.
 - g) When I am older, I think I will go to university and then I would like to travel around the world.
 - h) My dad only works in the office on a Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday to Friday he looks after my brothers.
 - i) I don't have any pets. Do you have any pets?
 - j) When did you start playing football?
 - k) You should not smoke because it is bad for you.
 - l) I have been studying Spanish for 5 years. I love it because I find it really interesting.

- 2) A **personal information project**: You need to fill a large piece of card/paper with a collage of information about yourself and things that you are interested in. You will need to bring this to your first session with the Foreign Language Assistant in September. You could include photos, pictures, speech bubbles, written text, headlines, short articles or drawings. You could provide information on the following:

- You (and your family if you wish)
- What you do in your free time
- Your summer break
- Your career plans/ where you see yourself in the future
- 2 short articles or leaflets/brochure that you have found in Spanish that you have found interesting and would be happy to discuss a bit further. You could google some key words in the foreign language to bring up articles or you may find the following website useful for news items: <http://www.euronews.net/> (you will just need to change the language at the top).

Recommendations

The course book that we use in the first year is detailed below. You will be provided with a copy of the book in September, for which we will require a deposit of £20. If the book is returned in good condition at the end of the course, this deposit will be returned to you. Alternatively, you may wish to purchase your own copy in order to be able to write in it.

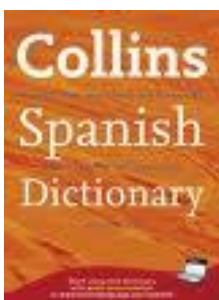


Paperback

Publisher: Oxford University Press

ISBN: 978-0-19-836690-4

The most important thing to get is a good dictionary. The one we recommend is the big Collins Complete and Unabridged Spanish Dictionary:



Hardcover

Publisher: Harper Collins; Ninth edition 2011

ISBN: 9780007382385

You may have made do with a smaller, 'beginner' dictionary for GCSE and/or used www.wordreference.com. These will still have a use at times, but more often than not, you will need to gain more information about the usage of the word you are looking up than either of these (or indeed most online dictionaries) can offer.

We also strongly recommend 'Palabra por palabra' by Phil Turk:



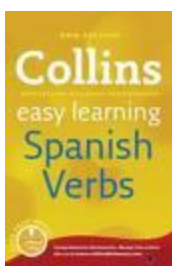
Paperback:

Publisher: Hodder Education; 5th edition 2010

ISBN: 9781444110012

It is divided up into topic areas and lists the sort of language you will need to be able to use in the oral and written exams.

A verb table reference book is also invaluable for AS and A Level and we would strongly recommend the following:



Title: Collins Easy Learning Spanish Verbs

Paperback

Publisher: Harper Collins 2011

ISBN: 9780007369751

There is a strong emphasis on achieving high levels of accuracy in your verbs and tenses so this little book is a good companion.

You will also need the following equipment: **a folder, section dividers, pens, highlighters, pencil and a block of A4 lined paper**. You will not be given an exercise book and will be expected to hand in work on either lined paper (double spaced) or typed (double spaced).

Other than the books/dictionary mentioned above, the following suggestions are also good ways to ensure you achieve as highly as possible in your exams and are really able to speak and understand as much Spanish as possible.

Current Affairs

- <http://www.euronews.com/> - This is a brilliant news site that has the news in a variety of languages so you just need to select Spanish. The beauty is that you can watch the news clip and it also has the transcript below.
- <http://www.elpais.com> - These are excellent short audio bites on up-to-the-minute topics, literally on the day they happen
- <http://rtve.es> - Spanish TV. Type 'cuatro minutos' into the search box and you will get a link to the most recent Telediario newsitem. Listen/watch and try to pick out the main stories
- <http://www.20minutos.es/> This is another very useful news site with text and video
- <http://www.spanishlanguage.co.uk> This link is a portal to several Spanish newspaper and radio sites or here is the El Mundo newspaper site: <http://www.elmundo.es>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/> Easy to navigate because it looks like the BBC website, just in Spanish!

Vocabulary and grammar

- Work on the GCSE and A level vocabulary on www.quizlet.com (You should do this regularly and re-test yourself on word lists as often as possible.)
- This website has lots of practice of language and grammar. Choose 'español' and then 'AS resources' www.languagesonline.org.uk
- The BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/> has a huge range of activities aimed at all levels.
- www.studyspanish.com has a wide range of grammar practice exercises, along with explanations.
- www.spanishdict.com for grammar explanations and exercises

And finally.....

- Get back to primary school! Keep a box with word cards in it so you can write your new words down as you learn them (Spanish on one side, English on the other) and test yourself or get tested.

If you have any queries about your course preparation please contact Mrs Gill Heathcote (Head of KS4 & KS5 Spanish) gheathcote@combertonvc.org

¡Hasta pronto!