

Spanish A Level Preparation

This booklet contains links to a huge range of media, most of which is available for free online as well as tasks you can complete to keep up with your Spanish before September. The leap from GCSE to A Level is significant so try to build some of these tasks into your daily routine.

What should I know by now?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender of Nouns | <input type="checkbox"/> Common irregular verbs (tener, hacer, ser, ir, estar) | <input type="checkbox"/> Preterite tense (regular verbs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plural Forms of Nouns | <input type="checkbox"/> Present tense (-ar, -er, -ir) | <input type="checkbox"/> Preterite tense (irregular verbs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Def. & Indef. Articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Present tense (stem changing verbs) [o:ue - e:ie - e:i] | <input type="checkbox"/> Imperfect tense |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 31 – 100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Reflexive verbs | <input type="checkbox"/> Use of preterite and imperfect |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subject Pronouns | <input type="checkbox"/> Comparative structures | <input type="checkbox"/> Conditional tense |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adjectives | <input type="checkbox"/> Superlative structures | <input type="checkbox"/> Simple future (regular verbs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ser and estar | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct object pronouns | <input type="checkbox"/> Simple future (irregular verbs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Negation | <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect object pronouns | <input type="checkbox"/> Perfect tense |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Possessive adjectives | | <input type="checkbox"/> Present subjunctive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Verbs like gustar | | |

A strong knowledge of **grammar** is key for success at A Level so revising what you have learned so far is important. A good language learner is proactive & uses a range of resources (online / printed) for consolidation.

Online grammar practice:

1. StudySpanish. This website is great for both grammar explanations and quizzes.

<https://studyspanish.com/grammar/lessons>

2. Spanishdict. It's worth signing up to access all the resources they have (including e-mails with word of the day!).

<https://www.spanishdict.com/>

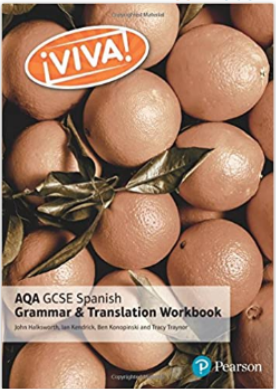
3. Conjuguemos – Be the boss at conjugating 😊

<https://conjuguemos.com/teacher/library>

Grammar workbooks

We highly recommend that you buy this book! It has good explanations and is great for practising all the grammar and key structures that you are expected to know. It is also a great place for you to keep all your progress in one place and will serve as a useful reference when you begin the A Level course. We can provide you with an answer booklet for you to check your work as well – just let us know as this needs to be downloaded from the Teachers area on the Pearson website.

AQA A Level Spanish: Grammar & Translation Workbook - AQA A Level Spanish (Paperback)



Look inside ↴

Viva! AQA GCSE Spanish Grammar and Translation Workbook Paperback – 31 Aug 2016

by Tracy Traynor (Author)

★★★★☆ 53 ratings

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£5.99 ✓prime

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8 New from £4.00

A dedicated workbook to support and consolidate grammar learning and translation skills for AQA GCSE Spanish for first teaching in 2016. Includes:

- explanations of key grammar points, verb tables, and exercises to embed grammar knowledge
- translation exercises and strategies for translation both into Spanish and into English
- a bank of revision translations bringing together grammar and vocabulary learning from throughout the course
- clear links to the Viva! Student Books from the same series.

< Read more

See all 2 images

Read

Keep your own vocabulary book for new expressions you come across. You could order it alphabetically, by topic area, type of word or just as a notebook /diary where you scribble away your Spanish development in it.

Newspapers and magazines

Read a foreign language newspaper – El País in Spanish is available in larger paper shops or via its own website www.elpais.com so that you can read the paper online. You do not have to read the paper cover to cover (!), just scan the headlines and pick out ONE article that grabs your attention.

This website is a more lighthearted newspaper which covers global stories as well as gossip (www.20minutos.es). Also try www.20minutos.tv. This is the TV Channel for this newspaper.

<https://verne.elpais.com/> explores what's trending on the Internet (the latest memes, Internet challenges, etc.).

In Spain there is also a news website for young people www.primerasnoticias.com. It has sections on the Internet & Mobile technology, Science and Wildlife, Education, Culture, Sport and Society and Health.

Look at the BBC website

www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/tv/onlinenews.shtml for links to Spanish programmes available on line. And www.bbc.co.uk/mundo takes you through the news in Spanish.



Sign up to Twitter

Sign up to Twitter for authentic texts that you can quickly flick through. Here's a list of recommended Twitter accounts for you to follow

@Spain - The official Twitter for tourism in Spain

@LaFrasedelDía - Más que palabras. A Spanish site which tweets inspirational sayings for each day.

@spanishlanguage – Official Twitter account for Transparent Language Spanish. Learn the language with free resources, social media, and research-based software that works. Tweets expressions, phrases, words and articles in Spanish.

@muyinteresante – Revista de ciencia, historia, tecnología, salud, psicología, innovación y curiosidades. A Spanish news organisation that tweets in Spanish only. Great for practising your reading skills.

@SpanishDict – Learn Spanish on the web. Tweets a random Spanish word frequently with the translation.

Watch

Television / Netflix

Watch the latest news in Spanish www.rtve.es, or even just the weather forecast www.rtve.es/eltiempo.

Take in some culinary delights with Spanish Master Chef www.rtve.es/television/masterchef.

Or some football www.rtve.es/deportes/champions-league.

Watch some cartoon in Spanish with your baby brother or sister; you can both learn some Spanish www.rtve.es/infantil.

Another TV station is www.antena3.com. This gives you access to loads of soaps and dramas as well as Downton Abbey in Spanish (also available on Netflix!).

Netflix

Series:

- Las Chicas del Cable
- Velvet

- Siempre Bruja
- Gran Hotel
- 45 RPM
- Alta mar
- Como caído del cielo
- Paquita Salas

Películas:

- Gente que Viene y Bah
- Vivir dos Veces
- Ocho Apellidos Vascos
- Ocho Apellidos Catalanes
- Perdiendo el Norte

Other recommendations

- El Ministerio del Tiempo (Available via www.rtve.es)
- Cuéntame (Available via www.rtve.es)

Top tip: Download the Google Chrome Language Learning extension and build your listening comprehension with thousands of hours of authentic language in context. After installation, you will have additional features for language learning when you watch videos on the Netflix website.

- Subtitles are shown in two languages, allowing you to compare the original audio and text with a translation in your language.
- The extension allows you to listen to subtitles one at a time, and to change the playback speed.
- There's a pop-up dictionary, and the extension suggest the most important words for you to learn.

Listen to music & podcasts

Lyricstraining Enjoy learning languages for free playing with the music videos and filling in the lyrics of your favorite songs. You can select the level of difficulty too. www.lyricstraining.com

If you discover a song you particularly like, explore the artist profile on Spotify.

Spotify playlists & podcasts.

Hoy Hablamos – Podcast to learn Spanish on Spotify

Top 50 Spain – playlist with the most recent Spanish music releases, updated every week.

Listen to the radio

You can do this whilst getting on with something else at the same time (tidying your room?).

- Radio Nacional de España (www.rtve.es).
- Los 40 Principales <https://los40.com>. Keep up to date with the musical trends in Spain.

Extra listening online practice

www.videoele.com

www.spanish-resources.com/skill/listening

www.newsinslowspanish.com

www.spanishlistening.org

Online dictionary

A good online dictionary is www.wordreference.com

Top Tip: Don't look up every word you are not sure of when reading an article / book.

Skim and scan the text to get the gist. Remember to use the context or the article, cognate and common sense to figure out what the article is saying. Pick out a couple of words that you like the look of, that you feel may be real hurdles to getting the idea of the text, look them up carefully and add them to your vocab booklet. The aim at this stage is to get the gist of the article, not to be able to translate it completely. Translation is a whole different ball game and you will learn it soon enough.

You will be surprised how much more enjoyable reading will be if you really pay attention to this tip.

Find out about Spain and/or Spanish-speaking countries

Throughout the A-Level course, you will be learning about the history, society, politics and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Choose a country, region or one of the areas mentioned here to develop your knowledge and understanding further and see where Google takes you! If you have a love of art – investigate Spanish or Latin American art! If you love a good debate – find out what is in the news in Spanish speaking countries and decide what you think about that. Anything which you already enjoy or just want to know more about – find out more about it! A fairly relaxing and fascinating read (in English) which gives a good insight into Spain itself is:



The New Spaniards
by John Hooper
★★★★☆ ~ 96

Kindle Edition
£4.99 ~~£10.99~~

Paperback
£6.60 ~~£10.99~~

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And finally.....

You are not expected to do absolutely everything on this list! Grammar is really important, and would be a great place to start, perhaps with one of the media options that you like the look of, adding in other options as you gain in confidence. We would love to keep in contact with you and hear about your progress, and can answer any questions that you may have, or if you just want to discuss anything further - we are always just at the end of an email 😊

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¡Hasta pronto!

Sra Heathcote & Sta Vázquez

