**GCSE Spanish Syllabus**

GCSE Spanish is designed to test your understanding of the language, as well as your ability to use it in a variety of situations. No matter which exam board your school uses, you will need to have command of essential verbs and vocabulary, and be extremely comfortable with core elements of grammar. Of course, this will be done through the study of specific modules, focusing on general topics such as ‘the environment’or ‘leisure activities’. In a nutshell, getting a good grade in GSCE Spanish will require an ability to respond to and express many ideas and opinions, with accuracy.

As you know, you will have a **reading** exam, a **listening** exam, and a **speaking** exam, as well as controlled assessments to test your **written communication** in Spanish.

So, being able to apply your knowledge of the module topics effectively, in a variety of mediums and contexts, is crucial for securing a high grade.

**The aims**

Undoubtedly, it would be extremely helpful to be aware of what the aims of the GCSE Spanish course are. The government has set out specific objectives to include in the syllabus, in order to ensure teachers and exam boards are assessing particular skills and knowledge required to obtain a GCSE in Spanish.

By providing a detailed outline of the course, teachers and exam boards are able to tailor their resources to equip their students with basic Spanish knowledge, which will ultimately add context and a clearer focus to learning and revision.

Here are the key aims and outcomes of GSCE Spanish according to the syllabus:

* *To enable students to communicate accurately, confidently, coherently, spontaneously and independently in Spanish, with an enriched vocabulary in a fluent manner and variety of contexts;*
* *To enable students to understand clearly articulated Spanish in standard speech, at near-normal speed, and to develop their ability and ambition to communicate with native speakers;*
* *To develop students’ ability to respond to a range of (appropriately adapted) authentic Spanish written material, including news articles and other literary texts;*
* *To encourage students to develop a wider awareness and understanding of Spanish culture, and see beyond the common clichés in relation to Spain.*

**The exams**

So, finally, how will it all be examined? Of course, you know that four elements of your language course will be assessed via a listening, reading, speaking and written assessment. Your performance in these four elements of language will be measured and calculated, and will then count towards your overall grade.

Luckily, major exam boards, including AQA, Edexcel and OCR, all have a similar way of calculating the overall grade based on the four exams.

In a full Spanish GCSE course from any of these exam boards, this is how you will be assessed:

**Listening:**

* You will be played extracts of Spanish speech, which will be of varying speeds, lengths and difficulty, and will be both formal and informal.
* The questions, presented in English, are designed to test your ability in identifying, understanding, and responding to information.
* Answers are in Spanish and English.

*(Examination result = 20% of your final grade)*

**Reading:**

* You will be presented with text in a variety of forms (e.g. emails, newspapers, brochures), which will be of increasing complexity.
* Questions are given in English and will test how well you identify, understand, and respond to information.
* Answers are in Spanish and English.

*(Examination result = 20% of your final grade)*

**Speaking:**

* You will carry out two tasks (e.g. debate/discussion) that require you to interact with another speaker, who will most likely be your teacher.
* You will be marked on your use of Spanish to present ideas and information, in multiple contexts and settings.
* It will also be marked by your teacher.

*(Controlled Assessment result = 30% of your final grade)*

**Writing:**

* You will carry out two writing tasks on different subjects, in exam conditions at your school.
* You will be marked on your ability to convey ideas and points of view clearly, which are relevant to the task.

*(Controlled Assessment result = 30% of your final grade)*