

BRIDGING THE GAP

Spanish AS Level



Summer Preparation Task Booklet

Name: _____

How to prepare for Spanish at AS Level

You have a few weeks in which to really prepare for your AS Level in Spanish. The leap from GCSE to AS Level is significant. This booklet contains links to a huge range of media, most of which is available for free online as well as tasks to complete before September. Little and often is better than cramming this all into the last two weeks of August! Try to build some of them into your daily routine...

Watch...

Television

Watch the latest news in Spanish <http://www.rtve.es/>, or even just the weather forecast <http://www.rtve.es/eltiempo/>. Take in some culinary delights with Spanish Master Chef <http://www.rtve.es/television/masterchef/> or some football <http://www.rtve.es/deportes/champions-league/>. Or watch some cartoons in Spanish with your baby brother or sister; you can both learn some Spanish <http://www.rtve.es/infantil/>. You will recognise some of the programmes – any guesses what *Sam el bombero* is <http://www.rtve.es/infantil/videos-juegos/#/videos/sam-bombero/todos/> or *La oveja Shaun* <http://www.rtve.es/infantil/videos-juegos/#/videos/oveja-shaun/todos/?>

You can also access the TV using:

- Your own TV. If you get Euronews, you can put it into Spanish by pressing the red button
- Look at <http://broadcast-live.com/television/spanish.html>. This website gives you access to the TV stations that are streaming TV including <http://www.canalsur.es/portada-2808.html>
- Another TV station is <http://www.antena3.com/>. This gives you access to loads of soaps and dramas etc as well as Downton Abbey in Spanish!
- BBC Website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z4dqxb>. If you have trouble bringing the website up, type in www.bbc.co.uk/education. Then select England GCSE and scroll down until you find Modern Foreign Languages. Behind both the Speaking and Listening tabs there are loads of great videos to watch that only last a few minutes and they are a great way to practice your listening skills.

Sign up to Twitter

Sign up to Twitter for authentic text that you can quickly flick through. We follow all of these and recommend you do the same! They will help you pick up the language even when lazily browsing twitter. Some ideas are:

TOP TIP: Sign up to Twitter and register to a feed that tweets a word or so a day

@Spain - The official Twitter for tourism in Spain

@LaFraseDelDia_ - 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.

@spanishaddicts – El español de la calle (typical spoken spanish). Esto no son simples traducciones literales, es mucho más que eso. Spanish phrases, vocab, articles and more.

@spanishxxx2 – Free Spanish Sentences Vocabulary Pronunciation Grammar Tests. Tweets vocab, articles, and quizzes.

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

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

@VamosSpanish— A word a day goes a long way! Use this online resource to enhance your Spanish learning and ask questions. Tweets words and phrases and translates them. Also tweets other facts and grammar.

@EduLearnSpanish – Learn 3 new words a day on Twitter!

@SpanishWords4U – Spanish Word A Day and computer programs to learn Spanish. Tweets a new Spanish word everyday with example sentences.

@LL_Spanish – Learn Spanish with words & phrases of the day from Living Language! Tweets Spanish phrases, words, articles and more.

Read...

Keep your own vocabulary book for new expressions you come across. You could order it alphabetically, by topic area based on what we are going to study or just use it as a diary and scribble away your Spanish development in it.

Newspapers and Magazines

Read a foreign language newspaper – El Pais in Spanish is available in larger paper shops. El Pais has its own website <http://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. Also look at <http://www.elmundo.es/>

This website gives you access to newspapers all over the world. Here is the link to a range of Spanish papers. <http://www.mediatico.com/en/newspapers/europe/spain/national/>

This website is a more lighthearted newspaper which covers global stories as well as gossip. <http://www.20minutos.es/> Also try <http://www.20minutos.tv/> . This is the TV Channel for this newspaper.

In Spain there is also a news website for young people: <http://primerasnoticias.com/>. It has sections on the Internet and Mobile Technology; Science and Wildlife; Education; Culture; Sport; Society and Health.

To catch up on the latest gossip and to see what the celebs are wearing, take a look at <http://www.hola.com/>.

Websites

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/spanish/a-level/spanish-2695> is the link to the specification and past papers for the syllabus we use at Malmesbury.

Look at the BBC website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/tv/onlinenews.shtml> for links to Spanish programmes available on line. And <http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/> takes you through to news in Spanish.

Quizlet is a fantastic site for testing your vocabulary <http://quizlet.com/subject/spanish/>. There is also an app you can download to your smartphone.

On-line dictionary

A good on-line dictionary is: <http://www.wordreference.com/>

TOP TIP: Don't look up every word you are not sure of when reading an article/ book

When you are reading articles try not to look up every word. Skim and scan the text to get the gist. Remember to use the context of the article, cognates 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 be able to translate it completely.

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

Grammar Practice

What should I know by now?

This is a common question asked by students about to start their AS level. You should be able to:

TOPIC	CONTENT
Recognise and use a range of tenses with regular verbs.	<u>Regular –AR, -ER, -IR verbs:</u> Tenses: Present Preterite Imperfect Near Future (ir + a + inf.) Future (eg. Sera) Conditional (eg. sería)
Recognise and use a range of tenses with irregular verbs.	<u>Common irregular verbs: ser, estar, tener, hacer, ir</u> Tenses: Present Preterite Imperfect Near Future (ir + a + inf.) Future (eg. Sera) Conditional (eg. sería)
Give opinions with reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A range of opinion expressions• Positive and negative reasons for opinions• To be able to agree and disagree

Links to Grammar Practice Exercises

The following websites are also very useful interactive sites for grammar and language based activities. Take a look at them. They wouldn't be on here if they weren't worth a look.

- Languages on line: The Grammar Revision resources on www.languagesonline.org.uk are great as you can then select what tense you want to revise, read the explanations and complete the exercises. You can do these as often as you like and it gives you a percentage. Another useful tactic is to translate the examples and exercises into English to ensure you understand the meaning of each tense.
- Lightbulb languages at <http://www.lightbulblanguages.co.uk/resources-sp-al.htm>
- <http://www.studyspanish.com/tutorial.htm>

Tasks

Complete the task log as you do any work over the holidays. You may have one week in which you are extremely motivated and one when you are not. Do not leave it all until the end of August!

1. When you look at a website/ link on here, highlight it and note the date and what you thought about it.
2. Complete any of the past reading or listening questions in your pack.
3. Look out for any items in the English or Spanish media relating to topics we will study – such as the Internet, advertising, healthy and unhealthy lifestyles, education so that you have points to make in a discussion and opinions to give.
4. Go onto www.languagesonline.org.uk. Complete 2 exercises a week. Each exercise takes less than 5 minutes. Note down the exercise you did and your score.
5. Read through the course overview so that you have an idea of what we will be studying.
6. If you find any other websites/ links/ twitter feeds that you think are worth sharing, note them down too.
7. And finally...Remember, you will take from the course what you put in. Students who put in plenty of independent work are always the most successful. Enjoy!

