THE WORTHGATE SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

COURSE DESCRIPTOR

GCSE SPANISH

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

The GCSE Spanish course allows students to develop key language skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking with accuracy and fluency. Throughout this course students will also learn about the culture of Spanish speaking countries.

To develop the receptive skills, students will be exposed to different authentic sources such as magazines and newspapers articles, video clips and songs.
Regarding the productive skills, students will learn to communicate in written Spanish using different formats such as messages, letters, emails and blogs used in everyday life. Trips to local Spanish restaurants and to the theatre to see a play in Spanish can be organized depending on numbers.

PRIOR LEARNING REQUIRED

An interest in and a desire to study Spanish are essential. Students who are willing to spend time studying in advance will have an advantage. We aim to instil a deep interest in the subject and this can be maintained in courses of further education and beyond. It is recommended that students begin learning vocabulary before the course commences by using websites such as Quizlet and Memrise to familiarize themselves with the spelling and sound of Spanish.

EXAM BOARD

AQA

COURSE CONTENT

Core content

- Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- Theme 2: Popular culture
- Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Theme 1 covers the following three topics:

- Topic 1: Identitiy and relationships with others
- Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle
- Topic 3: Education and work

Theme 2 covers the following three topics:

- Topic 1: Free-time activities
- Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations
- Topic 3: Celebrity culture

Theme 3 covers the following three topics:

- Topic 1: Travel and tourism, inclding places of interest
- Topic 2: Media and technology
- Topic 3: The environment and where people live

Year 1	Year 2
THEME 1: People and lifestyles - Identitiy and relationships with others, healthy living and lifestyle, and education and work.	**THEME 3: Communication and the world around us** – travel and tourism, inclding places of interest, media and technology and the environment and where people live.

THEME 2: Popular culture - Free-time activities, customs, festivals and celebrations and celebrity culture.	

ASSESSMENT

Formal internal assessments take place regularly about once every half term and homework is set on a regular basis.
Grades are determined by final examinations, which take place in May/June at the end of the 2-year course.
An end of year exam must be passed for entry to year 2 and a mock exam must be passed for entry into the public exams.

Students will be tested in **listening, reading, speaking and writing** and will develop transferable skills relevant to further study and the world of work. The range of topics within the specification aims to inspire students who are interested in Spanish culture and Spanish speaking countries. There is also an element of translating from Spanish into English and vice versa.

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

Paper	Length of paper	Weighting
Paper 1 – Listening (Section A – question in English	40 marks (Foundation Tier) 35 minutes 50 marks (High Tier)	25% of GCSE

Section B – questions in Spanish)	45 minutes	
Paper 2 – Speaking (Role-play, Photocard and General conversation)	Role-play: 15 marks, 2 minutes (Foundation and High) Photocard: 15 marks, 2 minutes (Foundation)/3 minutes (High) General conversation: 30 marks, 3-5 minutes (Foundation)/ 5-7 minutes (High)	25% of GCSE
Paper 3 – **Reading** (Section A – question in English Section B – questions in Spanish Section C- Translation)	60 marks (Foundation Tier) 45 minutes 60 marks (High Tier) 1 hour	25% of GCSE
Paper 4 – Writing	50 marks (Foundation Tier) 1 hour 60 marks (High Tier) 1 hour and 15 minutes	25% of GCSE

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TEXTBOOKS/REVISION GUIDES

Title	ISBN	Author
GCSE Spanish AQA Revision Guide - for the Grade 9-1 Course (with Online Edition)	9781782945468	CGP Books
GCSE Spanish AQA Complete Revision & Practice (with CD & Online Edition) - Grade 9-1 Course	9781782945482	CGP Books

Materials will be provided; however, students are encouraged to buy some materials to assist them in continuing their studies outside of class time. Relevant items can be discussed with the teacher at the start of the course.

Students have access to a variety of books and materials in school as well as websites such as
www.bbc.co.uk/languages
www.linguascope.com
www.studyspanish.com
www.lingua.com
www.spanishboom.com

HIGHER EDUCATION PATHWAYS

Spanish is useful for both personal development and future careers in a wide range of fields such as Translation, Tourism, Business, Law, Public Relations, Journalism, Advertising, International Marketing, Economics, Teaching and Administration.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS OF STUDY

Spanish can be studied alongside a variety of other subjects such as the humanities and social sciences. Spanish will enhance skills in communication, problem solving, critical thinking and interpersonal skills. These skills are highly valued by universities and employers. Spanish is highly esteemed by universities due to its status as a facilitating subject, which enables students to broaden their access to a diverse array of degree programs.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

Ms. Jemma Jones