THE WORTHGATE SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

COURSE DESCRIPTOR

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

SPANISH AB INITIO

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

The Spanish Ab Initio course is a foreign language-learning programme designed to be studied by students who have little or no previous experience of the language. In this programme students will be expected to demonstrate the communicative skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in everyday situations.
Throughout this course students will also learn about the culture of Spanish speaking countries. This has become an important element of the course, and it will help students to develop their command of the language.

The course will help students to develop all the different skills to communicate effectively in Spanish:

- Receptive skills (reading and listening).
- Productive skills (writing and speaking).

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

IB

COURSE CONTENT

The Spanish ab initio syllabus is organized into five prescribed themes: identities, experiences, human ingenuity, social organization and sharing the planet. The course syllabus prescribes four topics for each of the five prescribed themes making a total of 20 topics that must be addressed in the language ab initio course.

Only available at standard level (SL).

Throughout this course students will:

- Acquire knowledge of vocabulary and grammar which will be reinforced and extended by understanding the audience, context, purpose, meaning and variation.
- Be exposed to a variety of authentic text types in relation to the prescribed themes and topics, as well as the content contained within the language-specific syllabi.
- Produce a wide variety of oral and written texts for audiences, contexts and purposes associated with academic and personal interest.

Year 1	Year 2
THEME 1 – Identities: - Personal attributes (name, surname, nationalities, physical appearance and personality, clothing and colours). - Personal relationships (family and friends). - Eating and drinking (foods, time, meals and beverages). - Physical wellbeing (sports, food/meals, diet, healthy lifestyle, illness and wellbeing). **THEME 2 – Experiences** - Daily routine (daily activities, meals, time, and habits).	**THEME 2 – Experiences** - Holidays (activities for the holidays, accommodation and travel). - Festivals and celebrations (traditional celebrations in different Spanish speaking countries). **THEME 3 – Human ingenuity:** - Transport (means of transport). - Media (newspapers, TV and social media). **THEME 4 - Organisation social:** - The workplace (jobs and places of work).

- Leisure (pastimes and sports). - Festivals and celebrations (Birthdays and traditional celebrations in different Spanish speaking countries) **THEME 3 – Human ingenuity:** - Entertainment (TV programmes, movies, music and games). - Technology (computers and mobile phones). **THEME 4 - Organisation social:** - Neighbourhood (country, region, house, facilities in town). - Education (school, higher education and plans for the future).	- Social issues (youth and work, women at work). **THEME 5 - Sharing the planet:** - Climate (weather and regions/countries). - Physical geography. - The environment (problems and solutions). - Global issues {poverty and immigration).

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.

Paper	Length of paper	Weighting
Paper 1 - **Writing** (productive skills): Two written tasks – each from a choice of three.	Writing: 30 marks 1 hour	25%

Paper 2 - Listening and Reading (receptive skills): Separate sections for listening and reading.	Listening: 25 marks Reading: 40 marks 1 hour	25% 25%
Individual oral assessment.	Speaking: 30 marks 15 minutes preparation 10 minutes duration	25%

TEXTBOOKS/REVISION GUIDES

Title	ISBN	Author
Spanish ab initio for the IB diploma/ Textbook by Hodder Education.	9781510449541	Angel, J. Rafael
Spanish ab initio for the IB Diploma Grammar and Skills/	9781510454347	Monia Voegelin

Workbook by Hodder Education.		

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 are also encouraged to read about Spanish culture and to watch films in Spanish.

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 will enhance skills in communication, problem solving, critical thinking, human relations. These skills are highly valued by universities and employers.
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. Previous students have studied Economics, Public Relations, and International Law at university level.

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 human relations. These skills are highly valued by universities and employers. Spanish is a subject well regarded by top universities as it is considered a facilitating subject and therefore helps students to gain access to a range of degree courses.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

Ms. Jemma Jones