Southend High School for Girls
Sixth FORM

Course outline

Head of department:
Mrs Clare Vale

Minimum entry requirements:
Grade 6 GCSE Spanish

Spanish

What will you study in Year 12?

Students will develop an understanding of Spanish and communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language for a range of purposes. The topics to be studied are Aspects of Hispanic society (Modern and traditional values; Cyberspace; Equal rights) and Artistic culture in the Hispanic world (Modern day idols, Spanish regional identity, Cultural heritage). Students will also undertake a detailed study of a film during the first year of the A Level.

What will you study in Year 13?

The skills and knowledge acquired in Year 12 will be taken to a higher level through the study of the following topics: Multiculturalism in Hispanic society (Immigration; Racism; Integration) and Aspects of political life in the Hispanic world (Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens; Monarchies and dictatorships; Popular movements). Students will study a work of literature (El Coronel no tiene quien le escriba) which will be examined alongside the film (El Laberinto del Fauno) in the essay paper (paper 2). They will also undertake an Independent Research Project (IRP) on an aspect of the Spanish-speaking world that particularly interests them; this will be tested in the speaking examination.

How will you be assessed during the course?

Students will be tested regularly on their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and on their knowledge of grammatical structures. There are 3 examinations:

Paper 1 – Listening, reading and writing;

Paper 2 – Writing;

Paper 3 – Speaking.

Where will this course lead?

Spanish is the third most spoken language in the world and is becoming more widespread in its use in the United States. Of all academic subjects, languages lend themselves most readily to combination with other disciplines such as medicine, mathematics, international management, environmental studies, law and politics. It is possible to study one or two languages from scratch, such as Italian or Chinese, on the basis of an A level Spanish qualification. Job prospects are excellent for languages graduates and combine well with business and the legal profession.

Applicants with knowledge of languages are much sought after by companies operating in global markets, especially law, sales and marketing, commerce, finance, the media and travel and tourism. It is worth bearing in mind that, with increasingly flexible career patterns, a number of you may be offered work abroad at some time in the future.

Further information

There are opportunities to mentor younger students of Spanish and to carry out the role of Spanish Captain, organising MFL competitions in school and running support sessions for Y10/11 and a club for Y7. The Spanish Department has organised theatre and other relevant study trips to London in recent years, such as the Flamenco festival at Sadler's Wells and a study trip staying with a host family and attending a language academy in Salamanca. Students also have the opportunity to enter a prestigious translation competition, the Anthea Bell prize, run by Queen's College, Oxford.

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/spanish/a-level/spanish-7692/specification