

## **E SUBJECT: SPANISH**

**If you are interested in studying this subject at A Level, please see below for a range of things that you can do to help you bridge the gap between GCSE and A Level, and make a flying start when you join us.**

<b>A Level Specification that we use</b>	AQA A-Level Spanish
<b>5 to Read - Recommended Reading</b>	<p>You can read online newspapers to be up to date regarding current issues in the Hispanic Speaking Word.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- El País, Spanish newspaper - <a href="https://elpais.com/">https://elpais.com/</a></li> <li>- El Mundo, Spanish newspaper - <a href="https://www.elmundo.es/">https://www.elmundo.es/</a></li> <li>- El Tiempo, Colombian newspaper - <a href="https://www.eltiempo.com/">https://www.eltiempo.com/</a></li> <li>- El Universal, Mexican newspaper - <a href="https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/">https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/</a></li> <li>- El Clarín, Argentinian newspapers - <a href="https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/">https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/</a></li> </ul> <p>You can read some famous novels in Spanish or in English and enrich your cultural knowledge of Hispanic society. The following list of novels have been awarded a Nobel Prize for Literature and therefore they are worth reading them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- La familia de Pascual Duarte by Camilo José Cela (Spain)</li> <li>- La fiesta del chivo by Mario Vargas Llosa (Perú)</li> <li>- Cien años de soledad by Gabriel García Márquez (Colombia)</li> <li>- El Señor Presidente by Miguel Angel Asturias (Guatemala)</li> <li>- Veinte poemas de amor y una cancion desesperada by Pablo Neruda (Chile)</li> <li>- El Laberinto de la soledad by Octavio Paz (México)</li> </ul> <p>If you prefer to read something less complex, such as fairy tales you can find a great variety at this website: <a href="https://www.mundoprimaria.com/cuentos-infantiles-cortos">https://www.mundoprimaria.com/cuentos-infantiles-cortos</a></p> <p>During your A-Level course, you will be studying a novel and a play. You can have a go reading them either in Spanish or in English. They are friendly books to read and understand because their main theme is about family values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The House of Bernarda Alba by Federico García Lorca</li> <li>- Chronicle of a Death Foretold by Gabriel García Márquez</li> </ul>
<b>5 to Watch - Documentaries and Films</b>	<p>The following list of films are part of the set of films that A-Level students will be studying across the country. It would be good if you can watch some of them to enrich class discussions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Volver by Pedro Almodóvar (Oscar Winner) – About the role of women and men in Spain.</li> <li>- María, llena eres de gracia by Joshua Jacob Marston – About drug trafficking in Colombia</li> <li>- El Laberinto del fauno by Guillermo del Toro - About Franco’s regime</li> <li>- Las siete rosas by Emilio Martínez – About Franco’s regime</li> <li>- Frida Khalo by Julie Taymor – About the interesting life of famous Mexican painter Frida Kahlo.</li> </ul>

- Como agua para chocolate by Alfonso Arau – About mexican family life
- Crónica de una muerte anunciada by Francesco Rossi - About honor in Colombia
- La casa de Bernarda Alba by Mario Camus - About women in Spain

Historical series and films you can watch in **Netflix** include:

The following are in Spanish with English subtitles. They are all age-appropriate (15+). Try to listen out for words you know and learn new ones while reading the subtitles.

- **Films**

- Vivir dos veces (Live twice, love once): drama/comedy: Emilio, his daughter, and his granddaughter embark on a crazy journey to find the love of his youth before he succumbs to Alzheimer's disease.
- Perdiendo el Norte (Off Course): comedy - Fed up with the uselessness of their degrees and swayed by a TV commercial, two Spaniards head to Berlin for work but find it not quite as advertised.
- Roma – drama: Cleo is one of two domestic workers who help a wealthy family take care of their four children in 1970s Mexico City. The film won 3 Oscars and many other awards.
- Soltera codiciada (How to get over a break-up) – comedy: A copywriter attempts to get over a painful breakup by writing a blog about the highs and lows of living life as a single woman.
- Maestros del Robo (Pickpockets) – drama: A trio of young, aspiring thieves learns what it takes to be successful pickpockets from a master in the arts of trickery and deception.
- 7 años – drama: After four friends become founding partners of a company, they are forced to find a solution that can save the company and themselves.

- **TV series**

- La Reina del Flow (The Queen of Flow)- soap opera: Colombian musical series based on the reggaeton genre.
- Paquita Salas – comedy: One of Spain's best talent agents in the '90s, Paquita now finds herself searching desperately for new stars after suddenly losing her biggest client.
- Tiempos de Guerra (Morocco: Love in the time of war) – period drama: Occurring during the Rif War (1911-1927), the series revolves around a group of nurses from Madrid (Spain) who are sent to Morocco by Queen Victoria Eugenia to open a hospital in the war-torn region of North Africa. The nurses learn first-hand the cruelty of war, but still find time for romance.
- Fugitiva – drama: a woman tries to save herself and her three children from their violent, criminal father.
- Bolívar – historical drama: The story of the hero before he became a legend. Simón Bolívar, who helped liberate several Latin American countries from Spain, became a symbol of leadership, justice and passion that led him to form an army of soldiers and common people that believed in the ideal of a free land.

**5 to Browse  
- Useful  
Websites for  
general  
research**

**To practice your grammar:** The following websites are quite interactive and will help you to brush up your grammar and to have a more accurate Spanish. Some of them include reading and listening exercises about the A-Level topics you will be studying:

- [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk)
- <https://personal.colby.edu/~bknelson/SLC/>

- [https://neiljones.org/?fbclid=IwAR1r3DgtftVUkRP8S9nmg\\_G11t2cgSjBYHUosv5d4xKmgfwxs3FC3Nzq3CM](https://neiljones.org/?fbclid=IwAR1r3DgtftVUkRP8S9nmg_G11t2cgSjBYHUosv5d4xKmgfwxs3FC3Nzq3CM)
- <https://holaquepasa.com/spanish-grammar/>
- <https://studyspanish.com/grammar>

You can read the daily news and watch short videos in Spanish at these sites:

<https://www.rtve.es/television/>  
<https://www.noticiarcn.com/>  
<https://noticias.caracol.com/>

## **Other Suggestions**

To improve more your listening skills and knowledge of Hispanic culture you can listen to songs. After you listen to a track, you can look up the lyrics and translate them to expand your vocabulary. It does not need to be written, but please look up new words.

- **Music**

**Álvaro Soler (Spanish artist – Spanish lyrics)**

<https://soundcloud.com/asolermusic/sets/eterno-agosto-4>  
<https://soundcloud.com/asolermusic/sets/mar-de-colores-3>

**Jarabe de Palo (Spanish artist – Spanish lyrics)**

<https://soundcloud.com/jarabedepalo/sets/orquesta-reciclando>

**Malena Zavala (London-based artist with Hispanic origins - mix of Spanish and English lyrics)**

<https://soundcloud.com/malenazavalaofficial/sets/la-yarara>

**Fishlights (Mexican band – mix of Spanish and English lyrics)**

<https://soundcloud.com/fishlights/tracks>

**Tonina Saputo (American artist with Hispanic origins - mix of Spanish and English lyrics)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpc9DnY7ucQ>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=us4-4FrKa-c>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXFyLhodryM>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xDAX64ufek>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPSM9z-Q93E>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okiflpyCw6I>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZGQd4epoLc>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZJ1dTUsNy4>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80VCIL3IgfY>

**Manu Chao (French artist with Spanish origins, mix of Spanish, French and English lyrics)**

<https://soundcloud.com/manuchao/sets/proxima-estacion-esperanza-1>  
<https://soundcloud.com/manuchao/sets/clandestino-bloody-border-1>