[](https://www.newallgreenhigh.manchester.sch.uk/)

**La transición al español para el año 12.**



How to prepare for Spanish at A Level

You may be considering taking an A Level in Spanish and this booklet with give you details on how you can prepare for this. The leap from GCSE to A 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 the start of term. In order to keep pace, it is vital that you work through the tasks. Little and often…

Watch…

The news. Click on [www.rtve.es/Noticias](http://www.rtve.es/Noticias) and then click on Telediario en 4 to watch four minute version of the news. Alternatively you can watch the entire news show which lasts 50 minutes.

MOVIES

Choose one of the following movies to watch over the summer:

* Volver (Pedro Almodóvar, 2006)
* Ocho Apellidos Vascos (Emilio Martínez-Lázaro, 2014)
* El Laberinto del Fauno (Guillermo del Toro, 2006)
* María llena eres de gracia (Joshua Marston, 2004)
* Abel (Diego Luna, 2010
* Las 13 Rosas (Emilio Martínez-Lázaro, 2007)

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 País is available in larger paper shops. El País has its own website [http://www.elpais.com/](http://www.elpais.com/%20) 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.

Websites

Switch to Spanish browsers such as and [http://es.yahoo.com/](http://es.yahoo.com/%20) or www.yahoo.es as well as www.google.es. This way, you will read Spanish every time you log on and it will become part of your everyday activity.

Look at the [www.bbc.com/mundo](http://www.bbc.com/mundo) for BBC reporting in Spanish. Click on Videos for clips and reports in Spanish.

For Daily News:

News.yahoo.com/

[www.abc.es](http://www.abc.es)

[www.terra.es](http://www.terra.es)

Go to [www.donbalon.com](http://www.donbalon.com) for football website and related articles.

Go to [www.hola.com](http://www.hola.com) for a Spanish celebrity gossip magazine (note that some content requires subscription). This also has short clips in Spanish.

Websites for research

Once you actually start your A Level in September, you will realise that you are almost completing a Sociology A Level in Spanish. It is fascinating and you will learn all about the history and culture of Spanish speakers across the world, not just in Spain.

If you are searching for information, try switching to the Spanish [www.es.wikipedia.](http://www.es.wikipedia.) Remember that anyone can write on Wikipedia so you

must validate your research elsewhere and never quote from it! It is a good place to start though.

British Council support available from <http://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/>

On-line dictionary

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

TIP When you look up a verb, click the Conjugation tab to see how the verb is conjugated in EVERY tense.

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

Yes… you read that right. When you are reading articles etc, try not to look up every word as it will take you forever. Skim and scan the text to get the gist. Remember to use the context or 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. Translation is a whole different ball game and you will learn it soon enough.

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

What should I know by now?

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TOPIC | CONTENT |
| Recognise and use a range of tenses with **regular** verbs. | Regular –AR, -ER and -IR verbs:  Tenses: Present  Preterite  Imperfect  Near Future (form of ir + infinitive) Future (eg. Será)  Conditional (eg. sería) |
| Recognise and use a range of tenses with **irregular** verbs. | Common irregular verbs: **ser,** **estar,** **ir,** **tener,** **hacer**  Tenses: Present  Preterite  Imperfect  Near Future (form of ir + infinitive) Future (eg. Será)  Conditional (eg. sería) |
| Give opinions with reasons | • A range of opinion expressions  • Positive and negative reasons for opinions  • To be able to agree and disagree |

Links to Grammar Practice Exercises 

* Languages on line: The Grammar Revision resources on

[www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://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.h some of the AS Resources.

Conjuguemos: a great website for practicing your verb conjugations. Find it here: <https://conjuguemos.com/>k here to access the Spanish verb exercises.

Tasks

Complete the task log, or make your own one up but you will need to go through it with your Spanish teacher in September so make sure that it is clear and useful to you.

When you look at a website/ link on here, highlight it and note the date and what you thought about it. You can then put a couple of notes in your task log.

1. Create a Memrise account – your name or something that is very recognisable as you. You should aim to achieve 100,000 points by the first lesson – prizes for those who achieve it! You could start by joining the A-level group. Log into Memrise using your new log in and then click on: <https://www.memrise.com/group/352141/> to join the group.

2. Summarise, in Spanish, 2 articles (that were in Spanish!) that you have read from one of the websites/ papers above and say why they interested you. If you cannot print the article, make a note of the website. Try and make these related to one of the topics we will study (listed below).

**Aspects of Hispanic Society:** Modern and traditional values (changes in family, marriage and divorce, influence of the Catholic Church); Cyberspace (influence of the internet, risks and benefits of the internet, smart technology in our society); Equal rights (women at work, Machismo and feminism, LGBT rights)

**Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society:** Immigration; Racism; Integration

**Artistic Culture in the Hispanic World:** Modern Day Idols; Spanish regional identity; Cultural Heritage

3. Translate the blurb for *Volver* before watching it. Bring this along with you on paper to your first lesson:

*Volver es la premiada película de 2006 sobre dos hermanas y su viaje para descubrir su pasado tras la muerte prematura de sus padres. La película era la obra cinematográfica número 16 del director español Pedro Almodóvar, y cuenta con un buen número de grandes actrices españolas como Penélope Cruz y Carmen Maura.*

*La película está ambientada en la región de La Mancha en España, donde nació almodóvar, y trata temas como la muerte, la soledad y la tradición. Aunque menos desmesurada que algunas de las obras anteriores de Almodóvar, Volver contiene varios de sus marcas de estilo cinematográficas: farsa, comedia, tragedia, melodrama, y realismo mágico.*

4. Choose a Hispanic country and prepare a short presentation on an aspect of culture – this should last no longer than 5 mins. You can create a PPT if you want, but try and use headings rather than too much prose on the slide. This will be good practice for your IRP (Independent Research Project).

5. Look out for any items in the English or Spanish media relating to topics we will study – as above so that you have points to make in a discussion and opinions to give.

6. Go onto [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/) . Complete 10 exercises. Each exercise takes less than 5 minutes. Note down the exercise you did and your score.

7. Complete the grammar review (Appendix 1) so that you can target any areas you feel weak on and feel good about the areas you know.

8. Complete the tense worksheet (Appendix 2) to practice your tenses.

9. Read through the AQA A-Level Spanish course overview so that you have an idea of what we will be studying. This will also help you with task 4 above.

10. If you find any other websites/ links/ twitter feeds that you think are worth sharing, note them down too.

11. Each time you pass a second hand shop, pop in and see whether they have any large dictionaries or any Spanish books – either fiction or grammar. You can find old Spanish dictionaries worth £35 on sale for less than £5!

Task Log

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Website** **/** **source** | **Comments** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Appendix 1: Grammar self-assessment

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | | | |
|  |  | **I** **DO** **NOT** **KNOW** | **NEED** **TO** **LEARN** | **QUITE** **CONFIDENT** | **FULLY**  **CONFIDENT** |
| **Nouns**: gender, singular and plural forms |  |  |  |  |
| **Articles**: definite (el, la...), indefinite (un, una) |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Adjectives**: agreements (fem, pl...) |  |  |  |  |
| Position/word order |  |  |  |  |
| comparative and superlative (más, menos, el más.) |  |  |  |  |
| comparative and superlative irregular (mejor...) |  |  |  |  |
| indefinite (*cada*, *algunos, algunas*) |  |  |  |  |
| possessive (mi ti...) |  |  |  |  |
| interrogative (¿*qué?, ¿cuál?, ¿cuáles?...*) |  |  |  |  |
| **Adverbs**: comparative and superlative |  |  |  |  |
| interrogative (*¿cómo? ¿cuándo?*) |  |  |  |  |
| **Quantifiers/intensifiers** (*muy*, *bastante*...) |  |  |  |  |
| **Pronouns**: Subject (yo, tú...) |  |  |  |  |
| object: direct and indirect (lo, las, les...) |  |  |  |  |
| position and order (te veo) |  |  |  |  |
| reflexive (me, te...) |  |  |  |  |
| relative ( *que,*) |  |  |  |  |
| relative: *lo que, la que* (R) |  |  |  |  |
| **object**: direct and indirect |  |  |  |  |
| indefinite (*alguien*) |  |  |  |  |
| possessive (*el mío, la mía...*) (R) |  |  |  |  |
| interrogative (*¿Quién? ¿quiénes?*) |  |  |  |  |
| interrogative (*¿qué?*) (R) |  |  |  |  |
| **Verbs**: modes of address (*tú, vosotros, usted*) |  |  |  |  |
| verbs + infinitive |  |  |  |  |
| verbs + infinitive + preposition |  |  |  |  |
| Verbs + - me gusta/me interesa etc |  |  |  |  |
| Verbs + de ( acabo de) |  |  |  |  |
| negatives (no, nunca, jamás...) |  |  |  |  |
| Present (regular) |  |  |  |  |
| Present (irregular) |  |  |  |  |
| Perfect |  |  |  |  |
| Perfect with **reflexives** |  |  |  |  |
| Imperfect |  |  |  |  |
| Near Future (voy a + infinitive) |  |  |  |  |
| Future |  |  |  |  |
| Conditional |  |  |  |  |
| Future perfect (habrá hecho...) (R) |  |  |  |  |
| Conditional perfect (habría salido...) (R) |  |  |  |  |
| Pluperfect (había llegado..) |  |  |  |  |
| Present participle (comiendo...) |  |  |  |  |
| Subjunctive mood (how to form it) |  |  |  |  |
| Subjunctive mood (which expressions trigger it?) |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | | |

**My** **notes/comments**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | | | |
|  |  | **I** **DO** **NOT** | **NEED** **TO** **LEARN** | **QUITE** **CONFIDENT** | **FULLY**  **CONFIDENT** |
| **Indirect** **speech** |  |  |  |  |
| **Inversion** **after** **speech** (R) |  |  |  |  |
| **Prepositions:** a/al/ a la... |  |  |  |  |
| with countries, towns, places |  |  |  |  |
| with month, dates, time |  |  |  |  |
| Desde hace, acabar de |  |  |  |  |
| **Number,** **quantity** **and** **time** |  |  |  |  |
| **Conjunctions** |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | | |

**REFERENCES:** **Internet**

**My** **notes/comments**

[www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/) <http://www.languagesresources.co.uk/SpanishALGrammar.html>

**Reference** **books**

**Palabra por palabra**

**Practice** **in** **Spanish** **grammar**

(R) recognise only

general site with an A Level section & GCSE revision (grammar very good) good site for grammar

Hodder

Nelson Thomas

Appendix 2: Grammar workout

**Ejercicio 1**

1. Cuando llegué a casa, mi prima había \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

a) salir b) salido c) saliendo d) salía

1. ¡Qué tiempo maravilloso! ¡Está \_\_\_\_\_\_ !

a) nevar b) nevando c) nevado d) nevó

1. ¿Qué quiere \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ este niño?

a) dice b) decir c) diciendo d) dicho

1. Álvaro, ¿cuándo vas a \_\_\_\_\_\_ el ruido?

a) terminar b) terminando c) terminas d) terminado

1. No quiero \_\_\_\_\_\_ porque está lloviendo.

a) salgo b) salir c) saliendo d) sale

1. ¿Quién ha \_\_\_\_\_\_ el premio?

a) ganado b) ganando c) gana d) ganó

1. Este profesor me habla como si \_\_\_\_\_\_ un niño.

a) soy b) fuera c) fui d) fue

1. Sí, sí. Yo he \_\_\_\_\_ con ella.

a) hablando b) hablado c) hablo d) hablé

1. Yo se lo explicada a Juan para que lo \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

a) comprender b) comprende c) comprenderá d) comprendiera

1. ¡Ojalá que \_\_\_\_\_\_ los niños mañana!

a) vienen b) vendrán c) vengan d) vendrían

**Ejercicio 2:** Change the following Present tense verbs into the Preterit.

1. (Yo) hablo = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. (Yo) voy a casa = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. María y José comen = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. (Yo) oigo la música = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. El perro muerde = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. Juana juega = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. (Ellos) piensan = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. (Yo) estoy en casa = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. Cristiana viene = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
10. (Tú) tocas el piano =\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Ejercicio 3**

Find the meanings of the following verbs.

1. pedir = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. gozar de algo = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. fiarse de alguien = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. quejarse de = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. tropezar con = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. carecer de = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. rebajar = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. acrecer = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. denegar = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
10. concebir = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Ejercicio 4**

Change the verbs from the Future Tense into the Conditional Tense.

1. (Tú) beberás = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. (Yo) me lavaré = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. (Ellos) pondrán = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. (Ud.) tendrá = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. María querrá = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. (Yo) estudiaré = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. Los chicos comerán = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. (Nosotros) seremos = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. Alfonso leerá = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
10. (Ella) cantará = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Ejercico 5:**

Change the verbs in the following sentences to the Present Continuous.

1. El hombre vende manzanas en el parquet.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Corremos a la parada de autobuses.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Yo leo el libro de inglés.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. ¿Regresas a casa?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. ¿Quién bebe gaseosa en el jardín?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Ejercicio: 6**

Make the adjectives in the following agree with the noun…

1. La hermana de Enrique es muy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . (simpático)
2. Hay un estanque \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ en el Retiro. (famoso)
3. El profesor tiene muchos amigos \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . (inglés)
4. Compramos manzanas en un puesto \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (azul)
5. Estamos estudiando unos libros muy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . (fácil)
6. El padre de Manuel tiene árboles \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ en el jardín. (espléndido)
7. Hay \_\_\_\_\_\_ botella de gaseosa en la sala. (otro)
8. La madre de Mercedes compra flores \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ en la calle. (bonito)

**What** **I** **need** **to** **revise**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_