

Spanish

Subject Group: Humanities

These subjects explore the ways in which humans live and communicate in the world. Human life is examined by looking at our past, our present and into our future. These subjects help people to express themselves clearly and develop their reasoning ability.



What is Spanish?

Spanish as a Leaving Cert subject aims to bring students closer to fluency in the Spanish language, as well as developing a good knowledge of literature, culture, and geography to provide a context for communication. As the second most natively spoken language and studied language on the planet, it has widespread use in international business and makes travel to Spain, Mexico, and most of South America more accessible.

What kind of student might Spanish suit?

Anyone with an interest in Spanish culture, history, and language.

Students interested in travelling the world.

Students who are considering working in Spain (or other Hispanic countries) or international relations in the future.

Career Possibilities

These are broad and include the IT industry, teaching, business, translation, the hospitality industry and tourism.

Leaving Certificate Exam Tips:

(1) Oral Examination (25%) the Spanish oral exam consists of two parts, personal questions and role-plays and typically last between 12 and 15 minutes depending on the student.

Part 1: The examiner will use personal questions to assess knowledge of tenses in the following order; present, past and future and/or conditional tenses. Make sure you respond in the correct tense. If you make a grammatical mistake or mispronounce something don't just keep talking. If you realise your mistake say sorry (Lo siento) and then what you meant to say. You will less likely be penalised for mistakes.

Part 2: this comes after the personal questions when the examiner asks a student one role-play from five prepared. Have fun with this and try to avoid monotony, let the examiner know what you are

feeling what you are saying by using intonation in your speech and eye contact. Don't spend the whole time looking at the sheet, rather try to enjoy it and leave a positive impression.

Practice speaking with classmate Spanish friend. Record yourself speaking about topics for the oral exam.

(2) Listening Examination (20%) to do well in this the most important thing is to be prepared. A segment on the weather forecast always appears. Make this an area you know inside out. If you know the vocabulary these are easy marks. Do the listening comprehensions of previous years, this will help you get used to the process. Learning as much vocabulary is always useful to all parts of the Spanish exam. (Numbers, time references –ordinary level)

Be adventurous and watch Spanish daily news report on RIVE telediario en 4 minutes, or tune into '40 principles' radio station.

(3) Written exam (55%) you will need a lot of vocabulary for the written exam. Make a note of the words that come up frequently and learn them off. Also, learn all the tenses and become familiar with the endings of different verbs, especially the irregular ones.

In this exam you will be asked to look within a comprehension piece for a Spanish sentence/phrase/word that is similar to a phrase they have given you. Have a look at the phrase and the tense it is written in - the phrase you are looking for in the text will normally be in the same tense so this will narrow down your search.

In the exam you will be asked to give your opinion on a current affairs topic so listen to Spanish radio/ watch TV and read real Spanish texts. Rtve.es, elpais.es