

# **Transition to Advanced Level Spanish**

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## The Benefits of Learning Spanish

Studying A Level Spanish will not only enable you to learn the Spanish language, but you will gain an in-depth insight into the cultural, social, political and artistic aspects of the Spanish speaking country/countries you will study.

**Follow these links to find out some of the benefits of learning Spanish!**

[https://ted.com/talks/john\\_mcwhorter\\_4\\_reasons\\_to\\_learn\\_a\\_new\\_language?utm\\_source=tedcomshare&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=tedsread](https://ted.com/talks/john_mcwhorter_4_reasons_to_learn_a_new_language?utm_source=tedcomshare&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tedsread)

<http://benefitof.net/benefits-of-learning-spanish/>

<https://flashacademy.com/benefits-of-learning-spanish/>

<https://www.quora.com/What-are-the-benefits-of-learning-Spanish>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/modern-languages>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMmOLN5zBLY>

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### Demonstrate your learning

1. Rank the benefits of learning Spanish in order of importance for you.
2. What is the most startling or surprising fact you have discovered from your research?
3. Prepare a five minute presentation promoting the benefits of learning Spanish. Create a PowerPoint and be prepared to deliver it to your classmates or as an assembly when you return to school.

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### Further research

Find out some basic facts about the geography, history, politics and culture of France and one other Spanish speaking country.



## Prepare for A Level

It's important to start preparing for A Level Spanish as soon as you've made the decision to study it. Here are 5 tasks that will help you familiarise yourself with the course and what it entails.

The exam board you will be studying is: Edexcel

1. Visit the exam board website and download the specification and look at the specimen assessment material. Don't panic, it will look daunting at first.  
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/spanish-2016.html#tab-1>
2. Having a good grasp of Spanish grammar is essential to the A level course. You could visit this website: <https://studyspanish.com/grammar>



## A Level Language Essentials

It's important to start Year 12 equipped with the essentials. Below are six tasks which aim to develop your knowledge of key verbs and more sophisticated language structures.

### High Frequency Verbs

**tener poder**

**ser deber**

Create a wall chart displaying these verbs in all their forms and in the following tenses:

- present tense
- preterite tense
- imperfect tense
- future tense
- conditional tense

### **Sentence Starters**

La verdad es que... - The truth is that...

Lo que más me sorprende es... - What strikes me the most is...

Me preocupo por el futuro... - I worry about the future...

Me gustaría enfatizar eso... I would like to emphasise that...

Memorise these verbs thoroughly and test yourself regularly.

**Write 3 sentences using each of these sentence starters. Give your opinion on:**

- Immigration and multicultural society
- Changes in society

### **Complex Connectives**

por otro lado... on the other hand...

puesto que... - as/since

gracias a (que)... - thanks to

**Write 3 sentences using each of these connectives.**

**Research other connectives online and create a list.**

### **Subjunctive mood**

Me molesta que no **tengamos** ... - It bothers me that we don't have...

Si yo **fuera** una persona rica ... - If I were a rich person...

Es una vergüenza que **vivamos** en un mundo - It is shameful that we live in a world...

No me extraña que **haya** problemas - It doesn't surprise me that there are problems...

Es bueno que **tengamos**... It's good that we have ...

Aunque **sea** difícil... - Although it's difficult

**Learn about other linking words from this website:**

<http://www.spanishbooster.com/SpanishConjunctions.htm>



## Book and Film Analysis

In Paper 2 of the A Level Spanish exam you will need to give a written response to a question on a literary text and a film or two literary texts. Complete the tasks below during the summer, before you start the course.

1. Choose **one text** and **one film** or **two texts** from this list:

### Fims:

Las Trece Rosas  
Bernarda Alba -Lorca

Land of Freedom  
about Las Trece Rosas

La Lengua de las Mariposas

El Laberinto del Fauno

### Books:

La Casa de

Research

Research about History of Spain 1931-1939

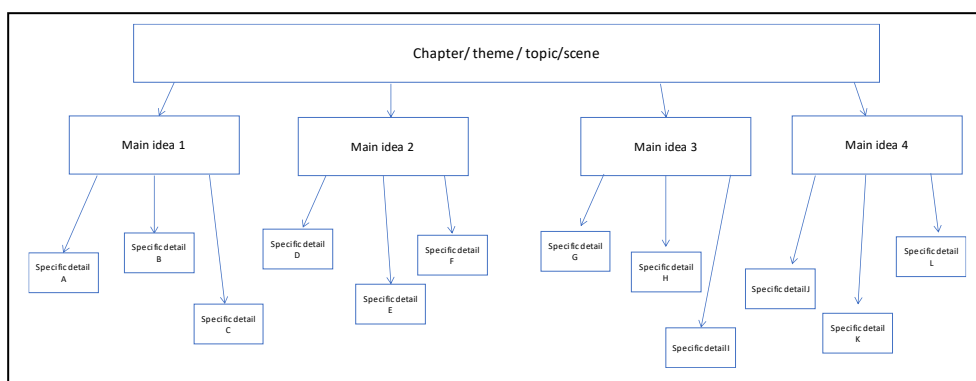
Bodas de Sangre by Federico García Lorca

Write 3 sentences using each of these subjunctive mood sentence starters.

Follow the link to this website and complete some research on subjunctive mood.

<https://www.thoughtco.com/when-to-use-the-subjunctive-mood-3079851>

2. Read the book/s at least twice and watch the film as many times as you can.
3. Annotate the text as you read. This will help you find important passages easily when you start writing an analysis. Translate words you don't know. Circle, highlight, or note anything that's confusing, important, surprising, or interesting.
4. In the same way, make similar notes as you watch the film. Rely on subtitles at first then watch without them.
5. Write down the main characters' names and a brief description of their personalities or major characteristics (in English and Spanish).
6. Use the organisation chart below to deconstruct the book. Start with chapters then do themes, characters, events, scenes and literary or cinematic devices.



7. Make a timeline of the major events that occur in the book, especially if the chronology is complicated or confusing. Keep multiple timelines if the story jumps back and forth between different plotlines.
  
8. Complete the ranking and prioritise activities below:
  - Choose the 3 most important chapters/scenes in the book/film. Explain why you have chosen them.
  - Rank the main themes of the novel/film in order of importance. Explain your rationale behind your decisions.
  - Choose the 5 most influential characters in the book/film and give reasons why.
  - Pick out three of the most powerful quotations in the book/scenes in the film which depict the main theme.



## Useful websites

Look at these websites. They will be invaluable during your A Level Spanish course. Visit each one and make notes on their usefulness and purpose.

<http://www.languagesresources.co.uk/SpanishA2Topics.html>

<http://www.spanishdict.com/>

<https://www.bbc.com/education/subjects/z4dqxb>

<https://mfl.jimdo.com/resources/spanish/>

<https://www.lightbulblanguages.co.uk/resources-sp-al.htm>

<https://spanish-resources.com/level/advanced>

<https://studyspanish.com/grammar>

[http://www.reverso.net/text\\_translation.aspx?lang=EN](http://www.reverso.net/text_translation.aspx?lang=EN)

<https://www.linguee.com/>

<http://www.espanish.org.uk/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/tv/>

<https://www.fluentin3months.com/listen-to-spanish/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/spanish/listeningh/>