

Bridging Resources for Year 11 Applicants: Spanish



St John Rigby College

Preparing for Transition from Key Stage 4 to Key Stage 5



Subject

Qualification

Spanish

A Level

Recommended Reading materials

Having an awareness of current issues is especially useful for A Level languages. Get into the habit of checking the news, either online, television or newspapers.

Try these to start with:

- www.bbcmundo.es – This is a news site in Spanish from the BBC, with short videos as well as articles. Many different sections, including science, health and human interest.
- 20minutes.es – This free and fully downloadable newspaper is aimed at young adults and commuters. Also available as an app.
- www.primerasnoticias.com – News website written by Spanish-speaking young journalists aimed at teenagers. Great for short easy to read articles.
- www.holacandela.com – a new resource with A - level exam type questions, interactive and current topics for the new Linear curriculum.

Recommended websites

- [Wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com) – essential online dictionary for all budding linguists! Also available as an app.
- [Quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) – many of you will be familiar with this website from school – it is excellent for vocabulary learning. Also available as an app. You will use this every week at A Level.
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/spanish> - lots of grammar explanations and exercises.
- www.language-gym.com - a great website for drilling verbs in a range of tenses.
- www.conjuguemos.com – another option for practicing and learning Spanish verbs.

Preparation tasks

- Cultural knowledge is a big part of your Spanish A Level. Develop an interest in popular culture, such as films, TV series, music or sport. What's happening in Catalonia? Who is the Spanish prime minister? Who are the Spanish Royal Family?
- Revise as much grammar as you can – it will make things MUCH easier for you when you arrive. As a minimum, have a good knowledge of the present, perfect and future tenses and adjective agreements. You can use your own notes from GCSE or visit a website such as BBC Bitesize for thorough explanations and activities.
- Download Quizlet and Word Reference apps, and any others you find useful.

Recommended research

- Research the Spanish charts – find out what is Number 1 in Spain or a Spanish speaking country during your summer holidays. How many songs in the top 20 are in the Spanish language? Try to find a Spanish-speaking artist you enjoy and find out a bit about them or their music.
- Watch at least 1 Spanish film (with subtitles) – there are lots on Netflix and Amazon Prime. The Spanish series 'The Heist' is gripping, "Elite" or "la casa de papel".
- Follow the fortunes of the Spanish or other Spanish-speaking football teams in the upcoming World Cup.
- Research language-learning apps and try some out – we'd love to hear your recommendations in September!

Recommended trips or visits this summer

If you're lucky enough to visit a Spanish-speaking country – and speak the language whilst you're there – you'll really benefit from it, on both a cultural and linguistic level.

If we are able next year I would like to take you to Spain and experience the culture, taste the food and visit some wonderful places.

Tasks to complete

- Make sure you have any stationery you might need to start college: paper and pens etc.
- Think about any questions you may have for your enrolment interview or the start of the course.
- Develop your enthusiasm – the more you put into a language, the more you get out!
- I am very happy to answer any of your questions, here is my email address; nuria.monks@sjr.ac.uk

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