



# **PiXL Gateway: Progression**

## **Transition pack for A Level Spanish**

**Get ready for A-level!**

**A guide to help you get ready for A-level Spanish, including everything from language essentials to topic guides and online tools.**

### **Contents:**

- Why study Spanish?
- Preparing for A Level
- A Level language essentials
- Book and film analysis
- Essential websites to help you while you study

## Why study Spanish?

Learning Spanish is more advantageous than ever, because it is the second most natively spoken language in the world. There are countless reasons why people learn languages and it is important that we reflect on these before we start the course. It is also important to consider why you have chosen to continue your Spanish studies and how can this benefit you in the future. The following tasks will help you to do this and you will feedback to your teacher on your return to school.

**TASK: Research 9 benefits of learning Spanish. You may use the following links to help you or find your own sources. Write these as statements in the space provided eg. 1. Learning a language helps to improve your fluency in your native language.**

Examples of sources:

- [www.donquijote.org/es/cultura-espanola/](http://www.donquijote.org/es/cultura-espanola/)
- [https://www.ted.com/talks/john\\_mcwhorter\\_4\\_reasons\\_to\\_learn\\_a\\_new\\_language/discussion?ga\\_source=embed&ga\\_medium=embed&ga\\_campaign=embedT#t-114271](https://www.ted.com/talks/john_mcwhorter_4_reasons_to_learn_a_new_language/discussion?ga_source=embed&ga_medium=embed&ga_campaign=embedT#t-114271)
- <http://benefitof.net/benefits-of-learning-spanish/>
- <https://flashacademy.com/benefits-of-learning-spanish/>
- <https://www.realfastspanish.com/motivation/25-reasons-learn-spanish>
- [www.superprof.es/blog/lengua-y-cultura-espanolas/](http://www.superprof.es/blog/lengua-y-cultura-espanolas/)

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**List your 9 statements:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

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**TASK: On the following page, rank the benefits of learning Spanish that you have found in order of importance to you. The top being the most important and bottom being least important.**

**Further questions:**

1. What is the most startling or surprising fact you have discovered from your research?
2. Prepare a five minute presentation promoting the benefits of learning Spanish. You may create a PowerPoint or a poster and be prepared to deliver it to your classmates and teacher when you return to school.

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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.

**TASK: Find out some basic facts about the geography, history, politics and culture of Spain and one other Spanish speaking country. Use the activities on the next two pages to show what you have learned.**

**Here are two websites you could use as a starting point for your research**

**TASK: Come up with 10 questions to ask someone about Spain and one other Spanish speaking country. You must also provide the answers. (E.g. How many official languages are there in Spain? Answer - 4 (Castilian, Catalan, Basque and Galician))**

	Question:	Answer:
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

**Countries: Spain and ...**

**TASK: Categorise your learning into the following boxes:**

Box 1 - 5 things I did not know:

Box 2 - 5 things I understand better now:

Box 3 - 5 things I already knew:

## 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 is some information that will help you familiarise yourself with the course and what it entails.

### Course:

You will complete two exam papers assessing your listening, reading and writing and a speaking assessment.

### Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation: 40%

This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across four themes. The 4 themes are listed below along with their 3 sub-themes. The themes address a range of social issues and trends, as well as aspects of the political and artistic culture of Spain and Spanish-speaking countries.

### TASK: Can you translate the themes into English?

Español:	English:
<b><i>Tema 1: La evolución de la sociedad española</i></b>	<b><i>Theme 1: The evolution of Spanish society</i></b>
El cambio en la estructura familiar	The change in family structure
El mundo laboral	The world of work
El impacto turístico en España	The impact of tourism on Spain
<b><i>Tema 2: La cultura en el mundo de habla española</i></b>	<b><i>Theme 2: Culture in the Spanish-speaking world</i></b>
La música	Music
Los medios de comunicación	Means of communication
El papel de las costumbres y las tradiciones	The role of customs and traditions
<b><i>Tema 3: La inmigración y la sociedad multicultural española</i></b>	<b><i>Theme 3: Immigration and multicultural Spanish society</i></b>
El impacto positivo de la inmigración en la sociedad Española	The positive impact of immigration on Spanish society
Los desafíos de la inmigración y de la integración en España	The challenges of immigration and integration in Spain
La reacción social y pública hacia la inmigración en España	The public and social reaction to immigration

<b><i>Tema 4: La dictadura franquista y la transición a la democracia</i></b>	<b><i>Theme 4: The Franco dictatorship and the transition to democracy</i></b>
La Guerra Civil y el ascenso de Franco	The Civil War and the rise of Franco
La dictadura franquista	The Franco dictatorship
El paso de la dictadura a la democracia	The transition from dictatorship to democracy

**Paper 2: Written response to works and translation 30%**

This paper draws on the study of two discrete Spanish works: You will be studying one literary text and one film.

**Paper 3: Speaking 30%**

There are 2 tasks in the A Level speaking assessment. Task 1 draws on vocabulary and structures across the four themes. Task 2 is based on independent research selected and carried out by yourself. The research may be based on one of the themes or on your own subject of interest related to the society and culture of a Spanish speaking country.

**TASKS:**

1. Draw up a list of Spanish nouns, adjectives and useful phrases connected with the themes in bold and italics in the table above.
2. Start to think about and research some of these themes. Can you think of benefits/advantages or dangers/disadvantages connected with them? Make two lists.
3. Start to form your own opinions about them. How would you go about expressing these opinions in Spanish? Compile a list of opinion phrases to express what you think.

## A Level Language Essentials

It's important to start Year 12 equipped with the essentials. Below are 6 tasks which aim to develop your knowledge of key verbs and more sophisticated language structures.

### High Frequency Verbs

tener poder  
ser deber  
estar querer  
ir saber

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

Memorise these verbs thoroughly and test yourself regularly.

### 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...  
Primero, debo decir que... Firstly, I must say that...

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

- Immigration and multicultural society
- Changes in society
- Spanish culture

### Complex Connectives

por otro lado... on the other hand...  
puesto que... - as/since  
gracias a (que)... - thanks to  
por culpa (de)... - because of...  
así que... - therefore...  
a pesar de (que)... - despite/in spite of  
además de... - as well as...  
Por lo cual... - therefore...

Research other connectives online and create a list.

Learn about other linking words from this website:

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

### 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

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>



## A Level Language Essentials

**Task 1 Glossary:** Knowing the key grammatical terms will enable you to understand grammar concepts and apply your knowledge in the development of your listening, reading, speaking and writing. Complete the table, using the internet to help you if necessary. The first one is done for you:

Term	Translation and definition in English	Examples in English and in Spanish
Un artículo	An article. Specify grammatical definiteness of the noun	a, an, some, the un, una, unos, unas, el, la , los, las
Un sustantivo		
Un verbo		
Un adverbio		
Un pronombre directo/indirecto		
Un conector		
Un prefijo		
Una preposición		
<i>Verb tenses – Tiempos verbales</i>		
Conjugación		
Terminaciones verbales		
Raíz del verbo		
Verbo regular		
Verbo irregular		
Verbo reflexivo		
Presente		
Imperfecto		
Pretérito		
Futuro		
Condicional		
Subjuntivo		

**Task 2 Resource Use:** Analysing and interpreting resources is a key part of learning in Spanish. A common task you will be doing is summarising after reading and listening. Please read the following article and write a summarising PARAGRAPH providing the details required below. Maximum 70 words. Please read the instructions below in Spanish:

### **LAS NUEVAS TECNOLOGÍAS HAN CAMBIADO NUESTRAS VIDAS**

Vivimos ahora en una sociedad global, donde la comunicación es muy importante. Los recientes avances tecnológicos han cambiado totalmente nuestras vidas en el trabajo y las relaciones sociales. Hoy en día todo el mundo usa la tecnología: desde los niños más pequeños para jugar a videojuegos, hasta los adultos para hacer las compras y trabajar desde casa.

Hace veinte años no existía Internet – algo unimaginable para los adolescentes de hoy-, pero hoy en día dependemos de la fibra óptica: todo el mundo trabaja delante de la pantalla, vemos nuestras series favoritas en Netflix y hasta usamos diccionarios electrónicos para aprender español.

Si solo pensamos en el hogar, tenemos un montón de aparatos que funcionan gracias a la tecnología: podemos ver películas de cine en Amazon, nos conectamos por Zoom para hablar con nuestros amigos extranjeros e incluso podemos recibir las notas de nuestros GCSEs por correo electrónico.

No obstante, el acceso a la Red no es el mismo en todos los países. Por ejemplo, en Cuba está prohibido excepto en lugares especialmente designados por el gobierno central. De igual modo, en las zonas rurales de Perú, es muy costoso debido a la falta de aparatos digitales y la distribución de la red.

Escribe un párrafo en español de un máximo de 70 palabras resumiendo con tus propias palabras (todo lo que puedas) lo que has entendido según los estos puntos:

- Cómo las nuevas tecnologías han cambiado nuestras vidas (2 detalles)
- Sus ventajas para el uso personal (3 detalles)
- Un país donde no es tan accesible y la razón (2 detalles)

Hay cinco puntos adicionales por la calidad de tu español escrito, y ¡no te olvides que son sólo 70 palabras! (así pues, no podrás escribir todo).

**Task 3- Challenge** In GCSE, you have studied the basic verb tenses or regular and irregular verbs. These would be at least:

- Present regular and irregular
- Preterite regular and irregular
- Imperfect regular and irregular
- Future (with verb endings): regular and irregular
  - Conditional

**Instructions:** Prepare a factsheet, a revision sheet or revision cards to help another student in class revise these tenses.

Before you hand it in ask yourself: *“Is my resource accessible, comprehensive and a good basis to start the A Level? Have I checked it is accurate and detailed? Have I made it appealing to another student?”*

Present your information in a creative and appealing manner to make the revision easy. We will be using this resource in class when you join the A Level, so make a good first impression!

## Translation into English

When translating, you need to maintain a balance between carefully conveying the original Spanish, and ensuring it makes sense in good English. Remember word for word translation rarely works. Try to:

1.  **maintain the unity of the original text**
2.  **match the style of presentation**
3.  **imitate the register of language**
4.  **make sure the final translation flows as a whole**

### Do's & Don'ts

- ☆ Do focus on the whole sentence, not individual words
  - *No hay que dar vueltas al asunto. Todos tenemos que ponernos a buscar una solución.*
  -
- ☆ Don't gloss over shades and nuances of individual words
  - *Su contribución es importantísima. Sufrió unos 500 incendios forestales.*
  -
- ☆ Do pay attention to the value of little words
  - *¿De qué te quejas? Lo hicimos sin que se dieran cuenta de qué pasaba.*
  -
- ☆ Don't translate them literally
  - *De no hacer nada, terminaremos por destruir el planeta.*
  -
- ☆ Do respect verb tenses
  - *El gobierno requirió mejoras.*
  -
- ☆ Do take care with sequencing tenses that do not always follow a similar pattern in English as they do in Spanish
  - *Hace varios años que esto viene desarrollándose.*
  -
- ☆ Don't write nonsense when Spanish works in a different way to English
  - *La nueva planta se ha inaugurado. Genera electricidad desde hace tres meses.*
  -
- ☆ Do make use of cognates of knowledge of word families
  - *La energía solar ofrece una solución alternativa.*
  -

☆ Don't use a cognate when it's not the word you would use in English

- *El incremento de los gases invernadero amenaza el planeta.*

-

☆ Do watch out for concepts that can't be translated or technical terms which may need explaining

- *El Anfac ha pedido que el gobierno retome el plan Prever.*

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**1. Translate all the examples in the do's and don'ts list.**

**2. Here are some more examples of 'false friends' or tricky words.**

**Translate them, then add more to the list and learn them by heart:**

1. comprensivo =

2. actual =

3. asistir a =

4. particular =

5. la crítica =

6. consciente =

7. sensible =

### 3. Learn to identify endings of Spanish words which have a similar ending in English.

Example: -ción/-sión are similar to the English -tion/-sion.

estación, extensión = station, extension

Find examples for the following in Spanish and write down its equivalent in English.

	Examples in Spanish	English equivalent
-dad		
-mente		
-aje		
-ancia		
-encia		
-ería		
-aría		
-or		

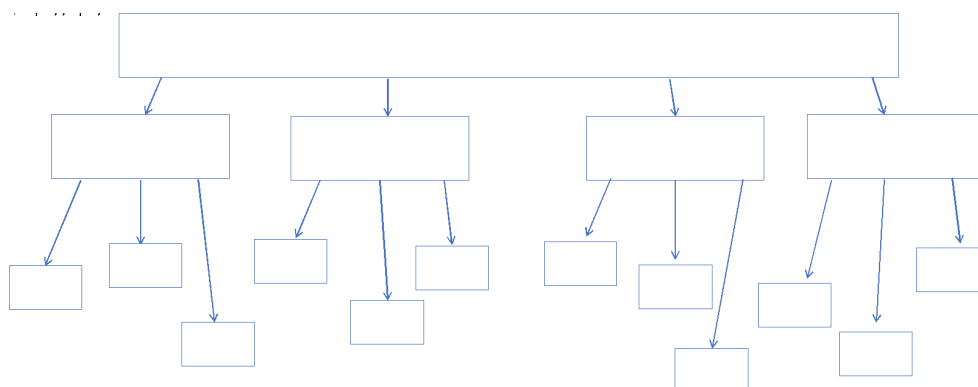
**4. Translate the following text into English. Look out for examples of the endings from task 3.**

La futura instalación del primer parque eólico en la sierra de Javalambre no ha sido bien recibida por todos. Mientras que los ayuntamientos de los tres pueblos afectados se muestran satisfechos con estas instalaciones energéticas, los ecologistas han mostrado su rechazo por considerar que tienen un “fuerte impacto paisajístico”. Aun defendiendo el sistema para la producción de energía, los ecologistas piensan que “se debería usar más el sentido común a la hora de aprobar la instalación de los aerogeneradores, que comienzan a proliferar excesivamente”.

## 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 the list set in the specification. (Consult with your teachers first.)
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.

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

<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)

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

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