

Welcome to A-Level Spanish!

Please complete the following two tasks, ready for your first day at New College. **The first one is compulsory. The second one is strongly recommended.**

1) Grammar task: your first task is to research and learn thoroughly the Present Tense in Spanish and produce a poster or leaflet or set of flashcards. (Compulsory).

You need to research and learn:

- Regular verb endings (AR, ER and IR verbs following a common pattern).
- Irregular verbs are verbs which do not follow the common pattern and in Spanish can be grouped into: stem-changing verbs (3 main types e-ie; e-i; o-ue), verbs with an irregular first person (such as salir – salgo) and complete irregulars (such as ser, ir etc).
- When to use the present tense
- What the subject pronouns mean: yo, tú, él, ella, usted, nosotros, vosotros, ellos, ellas, ustedes.

You will be tested on the Present Tense in September in the second or third lesson in the form of a list of verbs which you will have to conjugate and translate; for example:

estar (nosotros) = estamos we are

You also need to produce a poster or leaflet or set of flashcards to show off what you have learnt about the Present Tense.

You have been using the Present Tense since you started learning Spanish (vivo, tengo, soy, me llamo, veo, juego etc.) so you are already familiar with some forms of it. For A-level, you need to know it in much more depth before we progress to several other tenses.

Here are a few links to You tube videos to help you find out more about it for you to make notes and produce your poster / leaflet / set of flashcards:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PADpJ3rcwa4>

(3 mins 50 seconds) explanation of the subject pronouns – yo, tú, él, ella, vd. etc.

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

[Gw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPuZFvjUe) (5 mins) conjugation of regular AR, ER, IR verbs.

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

(3 mins 45) conjugation of regular AR, ER and IR verbs plus the irregulars of 'Ser' and 'Ir.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCouOk34gDk>

(5 mins 50 secs) the three types of stem-changing verbs with examples of each type.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRFoMwrM_0

[8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRFoMwrM_0) (4 mins) verbs with an irregular first person.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bhIqVDrFfw>

(9 mins 45) very irregular verbs in the present tense.

Once you have made your notes and produced your poster or leaflet or flashcards on them, the following links to interactive verb conjugation trainers will help you to thoroughly learn these verb conjugations by practising them:

[http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/Index.h](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/Index.htm)

[tm](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/Index.htm)

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

<http://studyspanish.com/grammar>

2) Research of a Spanish-speaking country (strongly recommended).

A-level languages are not just about speaking the language to a high level; it is essential to build up cultural, historical and political knowledge about Spanish speaking countries (not just Spain) as well as good research skills. Over the summer, for your second task, you are going to choose ONE Spanish-speaking country (not Spain) to research from this list: Argentina, México, Ecuador, Colombia, Perú, Chile or Venezuela. You need to produce a piece of writing (around 250 words), a scrap book, a powerpoint or prezzi (or something similar) so show off your findings which should be in SPANISH. Please avoid cutting and pasting from the internet or google translate!

You are going to find out about **some** of the following aspects of your chosen country (not all):

- population size
- geographical location and features (e.g. mountainous, on the coast, climate etc)
- any important historical events in the recent past (last 50 years) (e.g. wars, dictatorships etc)
- what is the current political situation in your chosen country (e.g. name of leader and party, left / right-wing and how long have they been in power)
- details of famous celebrities in the Spanish-speaking world from your chosen country (e.g. singers, actors, models, musicians, sports stars etc)
- what is your country famous for (e.g. food, dances, traditions, sports etc)
- what places of interest are there (e.g. World Heritage Sites, important tourist destinations, major cities etc)
- is there equality between males and females (e.g. in employment and salaries etc)
- is same-sex marriage legal and the adoption of children by same-sex couples
- what are the average literacy levels in the population and numbers in higher education
- is immigration to this country an issue or have people tended to leave this country
- are there any significant social problems in this country (e.g. high levels of crime, poverty, corruption etc)

This list just gives you some ideas about the sort of information you may find useful during the course but don't attempt to find out everything! Some suggestions here apply to some countries more than others.

¡Buena suerte y hasta septiembre!

