

Welcome to A-Level Spanish!

Please complete the following two tasks, ready for your first day at New College.

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

You need to research and learn:

- How to form regular verbs in the imperfect tense (AR, ER and IR verbs following a common pattern)
- How the 3 irregular verbs in the imperfect tense are conjugated.
- When to use the imperfect tense and all the possible translations into English of the imperfect tense.
- What the subject pronouns mean: yo, tú, él, ella, usted, nosotros, vosotros, ellos, ellas, ustedes.

You will be tested on the Imperfect 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:

ir (yo) = iba – I used to go / I was going / I went (repeatedly in the past)

llevar (nosotros) = llevábamos – we used to wear / we were wearing / we wore (repeatedly in the past)

You will also be asked in this test to write or translate a paragraph into Spanish using common verbs you will have seen at GCSE so brush up your vocabulary knowledge of high frequency verbs.

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

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 and **most importantly to practise and learn it:**

<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=MCdRhJesiVw>

(6 mins) explanation of the formation of regular and some irregular imperfect tenses and possible translations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmnTX30VliE>

(19 min 40 secs) very thorough coverage of all uses of Imperfect tense and possible translations and also how regular and irregular imperfect verbs are formed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZSv3hfG01g>

(4 mins 20 sec) explanation of the use of the Imperfect compared to the Preterite (Simple past)

tense when telling a story.

Here are some links to help you practise your conjugation of the imperfect tense to check you know it thoroughly:

Languages on line – this link takes you straight to the Imperfect Tense section:
<https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Spanish/Imperfect/index.htm#gsc.tab=0>

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

Study Spanish link – takes you straight to the Imperfect Tense section:
<https://studyspanish.com/grammar/lessons/imp1>

2) Research of a Spanish-speaking country

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), which **MUST BE IN SPANISH, to show off your findings. 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!