**🌟 ¡Bienvenidos a Español A-Level en The Holt School! 🌟**



¡Hola! We are delighted that you’ve chosen to continue your Spanish journey with us at A-Level. You’ll soon discover that studying a language at this level is like stepping into a whole new world — one where history, culture, politics, literature, film, music, society, and language all come together.

This transition work is designed to ignite your curiosity, build your confidence, and start shaping your personal interests — especially as you’ll eventually complete an IRP (Independent Research Project), where you choose a topic that fascinates you. Think of this work as your launchpad!

💡 Try as many of these suggestions as you can — you never know what might spark a passion or new perspective!

**Saludos cordiales,
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**📚 Transition Work Suggestions**

**🎧 Música del Mundo Hispano**

Explore artists from Spain and Latin America — reggaetón, flamenco, indie rock, rap, folk, pop, you name it!
Ideas:

* Create a Spotify playlist of Spanish-language music from different countries.
* Dive into the lyrics of songs by artists like Rosalía, Bad Bunny, Carla Morrison, Vetusta Morla, La Oreja de Van Gogh or Calle 13.
* Use [www.lyricstraining.com](http://www.lyricstraining.com) to improve listening + vocabulary at the same time.

**🎬 Cine y televisión**

Films and TV shows are powerful tools for improving comprehension while immersing yourself in culture.
Suggestions:

* Watch Spanish-language series like *Élite*, *La Casa de Papel*, *El Jardinero* or *Merlí* (Catalan, with subtitles).
* Try Spanish cinema classics (*Volver*, *Mar Adentro*, *Campeones*), or Latin American gems (*Roma*, *Motorcycle Diaries*, *Coco y Encanto* — yes, really!).

Use subtitles wisely — Spanish with Spanish subtitles is best, English is fine to start!

**🧠 Gramática y vocabulario**

Success at A-Level depends on a strong grammar foundation and an ever-expanding vocabulary.
Resources:

* Duolingo, Memrise, or Quizlet for vocab.
* Work through Palabra por Palabra and the AQA AS Grammar Workbook.
* Create a grammar log of tenses and structures you struggle with and revise them weekly.

**🗞️ Actualidad y cultura**

The AQA course dives into real-world issues in Spanish-speaking countries — from youth culture to immigration to political movements.
Challenge yourself:

* Follow BBC Mundo, El País, or DW Español for articles.
* Summarise one news article per week in Spanish.
* Watch YouTube channels like "Easy Spanish" or "SpanishPod101".

**🔍 Investigación independiente**

Noticed a topic that intrigued you? Start digging deeper now — this could inspire your IRP in Year 12/13.
Try exploring:

* Regional identities (e.g. Basque Country, Catalonia, Andean culture)
* Gender roles in Hispanic society
* Dictatorships in Latin America (Chile, Argentina, Spain)
* Environmental challenges in Latin America

**🎨 Sé creativo/a**

Learning is more than textbooks — get creative!
Ideas:

* Start a Spanish-language blog or vlog.
* Make a poster or infographic about a Spanish-speaking country.
* Write a short story or diary entry in Spanish.
* Record yourself summarising a news story or film review in Spanish.

**📖 AQA A-Level Literature and Film Set Texts (Choose from these in Year 13)**

**You’ll study one book and one film from AQA’s list. Here are the options you might explore:**

**📚 Set Texts (Books)**

* ***La casa de Bernarda Alba* — Federico García Lorca ✅**
* ***Crónica de una muerte anunciada* — Gabriel García Márquez**
* ***Como agua para chocolate* — Laura Esquivel**
* ***Réquiem por un campesino español* — Ramón J. Sender**
* ***La sombra del viento* — Carlos Ruiz Zafón**
* ***El otro árbol de Guernica* — Luis de Castresana**

**🎬 Set Films**

* ***Ocho apellidos vascos* ✅**
* ***Volver* — Pedro Almodóvar**
* ***El laberinto del fauno* — Guillermo del Toro**
* ***Mar adentro* — Alejandro Amenábar**
* ***También la lluvia* — Icíar Bollaín**

**✅ These are the ones we are currently studying at The Holt, but there is the option to change each year.**

**📌 Practicalities**

**📘 What you’ll need by September:**

* **AQA Spanish Year 1 Student Book (ISBN: 978-0-19-836690-4)**
* **A large ring binder with 17 dividers**
* **Palabra por Palabra Vocabulary Book (5th Ed.) – ISBN: 978-1-4441-1001-2**
* **AQA AS Spanish Grammar Workbook – ISBN: 978-1-4085-2013-0**
* **A-Level Spanish Writing Skills Book – ISBN: 978-1398311985**

**Optional resources:**

* **Copies of some of the texts above.**
* **Collins Spanish-English Dictionary (or use** [**wordreference.com**](https://www.wordreference.com)**)**
* **501 Spanish Verbs**