

TRANSITION WORK
FOR YEAR 11
PREPARING FOR
A LEVEL SPANISH

With thanks to
Samantha Brown

The Spanish A Level course is immersed in Spanish and Latin American culture.

You need to have clear understanding of Spanish society and its changes over the last century.

The next few slides will guide you to research background information on the units we will study in year 12.

Use a different sheet for each topic. You will then need to insert them in your folder when we study them in class.

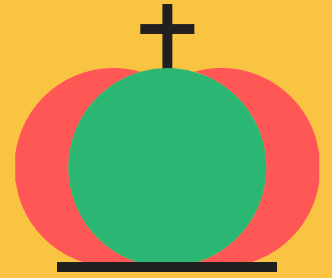
La familia en España

The **concept** of family in Spain

- How was it influenced by religion?
- How has it changed over the years?
- What steps has the government taken to make sure LGTB families' rights are respected?
- What is happening with birth rates and what does the government do about it?



La religión



Influence of the Catholic religion in the Spanish-speaking world

From the Discovery of the Americas to the Spanish Inquisition.
What role did religion play in these events?

How embedded is the Catholic religion in Latin America and Spain's culture? Are there other important religions?

How is this reflected in festivals and other celebrations?

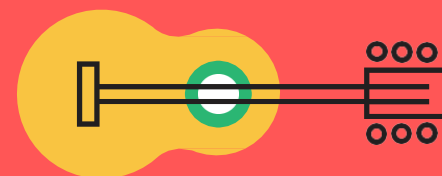
The more videos you find, the better!

La música y el baile

Cultural and historical reasons for diversity

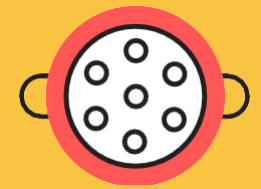
Diversity has been key for each Spanish-speaking country to develop their own tunes and types of music, such as flamenco, pasodoble, bolero, sevillanas, salsa, merengue, bachata, cumbia, vallenato or samba.

Each of these genres is usually danced in a particular way and are central to social gatherings (alongside with food, of course). Nowadays, there are many dance schools around the world specialised in teaching them.



Do some research on the origins of each of them, look for the most representative musicians or songs and how they are danced. You could try to learn some of them - There are so many tutorials online!

La gastronomía



Social life in Spain and some Latin American countries has food at heart

Many business meetings take place when sharing a *comida de negocios* ("business meal") and it is very common for friends to meet at each other's houses and cook for each other (in a lovely way of showing you care for someone by cooking for them).

As there are so many countries where Spanish is spoken and each of them has different local specialities, look in depth into:

- Spanish regional dishes
- Mexican cuisine
- Argentinian food



What are their influences? What are their main recipes based on? What are the typical day meals like? All three are extremely different. Look for photos or recipes, but not when you are hungry!



El arte



Literatura, arquitectura, pintura...

Researching on centuries and centuries of art do not seem like a fair task to set!

This is a selection of some of the most influential artists and architects in the Hispanic world.

Frida Kahlo

Salvador Dalí

Fernando Botero

Pablo Neruda

Diego Rivera

Diego Velázquez

Antoni Gaudí

Federico García Lorca

Pablo Picasso

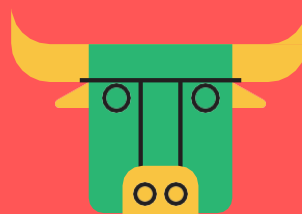
Francisco de Goya

Santiago Calatrava

María Zambrano

Look for information on their work, life and influence.

As usual, videos and photos will help you make this information more memorable!



Los idiomas

¿Castellano o español?



Many people get a bit confused when they hear people refer to the Spanish language as *castellano* and *español*. They are actually the same language, but some people believe it is more accurate to refer to Spanish as *castellano* because there are other languages that are spoken in Spain. *Castellano* refers to the region in Spain, Castilla, where the Spanish that is spoken worldwide today was born.

Everyone in the Hispanic world speaks castellano and can understand each other, however, many other languages are spoken and many people are bilingual. **Research:**

- basque or euskera
 - catalán
 - gallego
 - quechua
 - guaraní
- **Where are these languages spoken?**
 - **How many people speak them?**
 - **Is it prestigious or powerful?**
 - **Are they popular or disappearing? Why?**
 - **What do they sound like?**
 - **Which one do you find most interesting?**