

We are really looking forward to developing your enjoyment of Spanish and are so pleased you have chosen to join us at Penistone Grammar School. There are 3 main things you can be doing before the A level course begins to get a good head start:

- 1) It will be helpful if you can refresh your memory on the main verb tenses:
  - Present
  - Preterite
  - Imperfect
  - Perfect
  - Future
  - Conditional
  - Present subjunctive

[www.conjuguemos.com](http://www.conjuguemos.com) is a valuable website which will help you to gain confidence in how to form and when to use these tenses.

- 2) Acquiring vocabulary, as at GCSE, is vital in gaining understanding of the language. If you join the memrise group following the link below, you will have access to vocabulary modules for each of the units we will study during the 2-year course:

<https://www.memrise.com/group/399950/>

- 3) Cultural awareness plays an important role in the study of Spanish at A level. As an introduction to the course, it would be beneficial if you could do some background reading on the topics outlined on a separate document called “Projects for Year 11 – Preparing for Spanish A level”.

Good luck! ¡Buena suerte!

Modern Foreign Languages Department

Penistone Grammar School





**11 PROJECTS  
FOR YEAR 11  
PREPARING FOR  
A LEVEL SPANISH**

# 1. Un poco de contexto

Where is Spanish spoken, then?

Look for a world map, colour the countries in.

Make yourself familiar with the names of the countries and their capitals. Look for promotional videos on each country and learn as much as you can.



**A good start, Peru:**

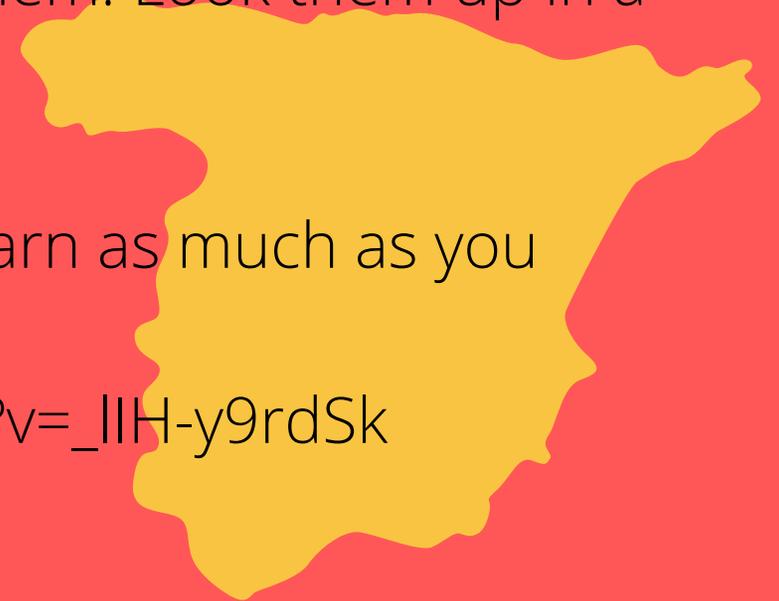
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qug\\_DMq7KC0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qug_DMq7KC0).

## 2. Las regiones españolas

Spain...*one* country?

You will be surprised to find out how different Spanish regions are from each other. There are 17 of them. Look them up in a map.

Look for videos of each of them and learn as much as you can! The Basque Country could a good start: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_IIH-y9rdSk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IIH-y9rdSk)



# 3. 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 are the next steps to make sure everyone feels happy, safe, included or respected?



# 4. La familia en Latino América

The **concept** of family in different Spanish-speaking countries

How was it influenced by religion?

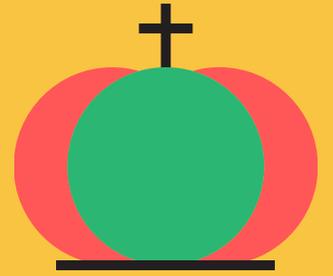
How has it changed over the years?

What steps have governments taken to make sure LGTB families' rights are respected?

What are the next steps to make sure everyone feels happy, safe, included or respected?



# 5. 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!

# 6. Las dictaduras

## Dictatorships in the Spanish-speaking world in the 20th century.

Conduct research on the (sadly) most well-known military dictatorships in the past and how they have shaped today's societies in these countries:

- a. **Spain**: Francisco Franco.
- b. **Chile**: Augusto Pinochet.
- c. **Cuba**: Fidel Castro.
- d. **Argentina**: Jorge Rafael Videla.

You will remember this information much better if you look for videos and photos to illustrate your work.

When you start your research, look for:

- what the situation in their countries were like when the dictators intervened
- what they did to come to power
- what life was like for the population of these countries
- how their dictatorships finished
- what the situation is like in their countries now.

# 7. La pobreza en Latino América

## Inequality and poverty in Latin America.

- a. Inequality between the rich and the poor in the same Latin American countries. Look for videos and photos and reflect about what you see. What could be the possible causes?
  
- b. What are the poorest countries in Latin America? List them and look for possible causes (e.g. war conflict, lack of natural resources).
  
- c. What are the richest countries in Latin America? List them and look for reasons (e.g. attracts more tourism, better international relations).



# 8. La música y el baile

## Cultural and historical reasons for diversity

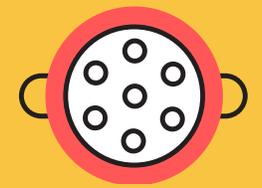
Diversity has been key for each Spanish-speaking country to develop their own tunes and types of music, such as flamenco, pasodoble, bolero, sevillanas, salsa, merengue, bachata, cumbia, vallenato or samba.

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, as there are so many tutorials online, too.

# 9. 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!



# 10. 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!



# 11. 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?**