

THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PORT OF SPAIN

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS

Spanish 4

Approach

The approach to language teaching is communicative, that is, the focus of instruction is to help students to develop their proficiency in the Spanish language through meaningful communicative interaction with each other in realistic contexts. Grammar and Vocabulary are presented in context. All the four skills (speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing) are practiced in class. The course text is *En Español 4* with its associated audio and video programs and outline support. Spanish 1 is aimed at all students in the Upper School who may or may not have had previous exposure to the Spanish Language. For those who have had previous exposure this course is meant to enhance and to improve on the language skills previously acquired and to prepare the student more effectively for a higher level

Course Objectives

- Verbal communication in typical life situation
- Comprehension of written and listening material covering real life scenarios
- Have an ability to write short essays or letters on everyday topics
- Awareness of Hispanic Culture
- Command a broad base of vocabulary related to the themes studied
- Be aware of some of the major differences between English and Spanish with respect to pronunciation, grammar and spelling conventions

The approach is communicative and thematic. Some of the themes to be covered are as follows: Famous Latin Americans, Let's visit Spain, The subjunctive

Course Expectations

- Attend classes regularly and prepare well for their classes in advance
- Pay attention in class and participate cooperatively in class activities
- Use Spanish as much as possible in class activities
- Bring text and notebook to class
- Do homework and complete in-class assignments on time
- Ask pertinent questions when new subject matter is taught to clarify any doubts you may have. I am also available for help at break time, at lunch time, and after school.
- Revise work done in class at home to ensure that they have understood the topic well and be prepared to ask further questions in the next class.

- If you miss a class, inform yourself of the material studied and the assignments given. Seek teacher out to submit any assignment pending.

Course Routine:

- Review of work previously studied in class
- Use text, reading material, video or audio to present new vocabulary or structure
- Language practice using all four modes-reading, writing, speaking and listening
- Assignment of homework.
- One lesson per week is conducted in the Computer lab using Rosetta Stone or Web based language practice.

Grading

Students will be given a letter grade showing their achievement of the Course objectives, and an effort grade reflecting their level of academic responsibility.

Assessment is based on proficiency in the essential communication skills and is allocated as follows:

<i>Listening</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Speaking</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Quizzes, tests, and written assignments (Grammar, vocabulary, reading and writing)</i>	<i>40%</i>
<i>Integrated performance tasks (group and individual projects)</i>	<i>20%</i>

Academic responsibility: Students are evaluated weekly in the following areas in order to arrive at the Effort grade:

Timely completion of assignments, Preparedness, Active participation in class, Respect and Punctuality

The following rubric will be used to assess Academic Responsibility on an on-going basis and will be used to arrive at the effort grade:

	Consistently (2)	Sometimes (1)	Rarely or never (0)
HW and Written Assignments: Your homework assignments are complete, carefully done and handed in to the teacher on time.			
Preparedness: You come to class prepared with your textbook, notebook and other stationery.			
Punctuality: You are in class on time. You do not abuse bathroom or water breaks.			
Participation: You actively participate in class activities. You make an effort to use Spanish in class.			
Respect: You cooperate with your teacher and peers in a respectful manner.			

Performance Tasks

Each Unit of study will be assessed by one or more performance tasks which are designed to show how students are able to apply what they have learned in the real world. Lessons will be geared towards equipping them with the tools to carry out these performance tasks successfully. Typically students are given detailed rubrics to help them to work to a high standard. Below are examples of performance tasks which are used in the Spanish 1 programme.

Theme: Let's visit Spain

- Students will pretend that they are Christopher Columbus and will provide reasons for exploring an alternative route to the east
- Students will dramatize a situation in which they are making plans for the weekend. They are living in Madrid during the golden age. Mention various possibilities and choose one
- Students will write a letter to their parents explaining why they should be allowed to visit Spain this coming summer

Progress Reports:

I will be issuing progress reports in Grade Quick to all students periodically. I will inform any parent if their child has been performing poorly by phone or e-mail so that we can decide on a strategy for improvement. If a parent has any concerns please feel free to contact me by phone at 633-4777 ext. 220 e-mail at wthomas@isps.edu.tt or find me in Rm. 220 during break, lunch or after school.