

A-Level Courses

Information



New AS and A levels [modern foreign languages (French, German, and Spanish)] will be taught in schools in England from September 2016. The first results for the new AS levels will be in 2017, and for the A levels in 2018.

The main features of the new qualifications are:

1. Assessment will be mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
2. AS and A levels will be assessed at the end of the course. AS assessments will typically take place after 1 year's study and A levels after 2. The courses will no longer be divided into modules and there will be no exams in January.
3. AS and A levels will be decoupled – this means that AS results will no longer count towards an A level, in the way they do now.
4. AS levels can be designed by exam boards to be taught alongside the first year of A levels.
5. The content for the new A levels has been reviewed and updated. Universities played a greater role in this for the new qualifications than they did previously.

This is the guidance from the government regarding the new AS and A-Level reforms. Here at ISLA we aim to be up to date with all exam boards in order to provide our students with courses that are tailored specifically to their needs.

In this document we will provide a summary of the requirements of each of the four main exam boards (AQA, CIE, Edexcel, and WJEC), along with other useful information, in order to help our students understand what they will be studying during their A-Level and what subjects they may cover during their time here with us in Salamanca.

AQA (Assistance and Qualifications Alliance)

A - Level

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and writing.

The paper lasts 2.5 hours and is worth 100 marks.

This includes Spanish-English and English-Spanish translations of minimum 100 words.

50% of the A-Level

Paper 2: Writing.

The paper lasts 2 hours and is worth 80 marks.

It includes two 300 word essays.

20% of the A-Level

Paper 3: Speaking.

The speaking test lasts between 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time) and is worth 60 marks.

Part 1 - a discussion of one sub-theme (chosen from a choice of 2 cards). This part lasts 5-6 minutes.

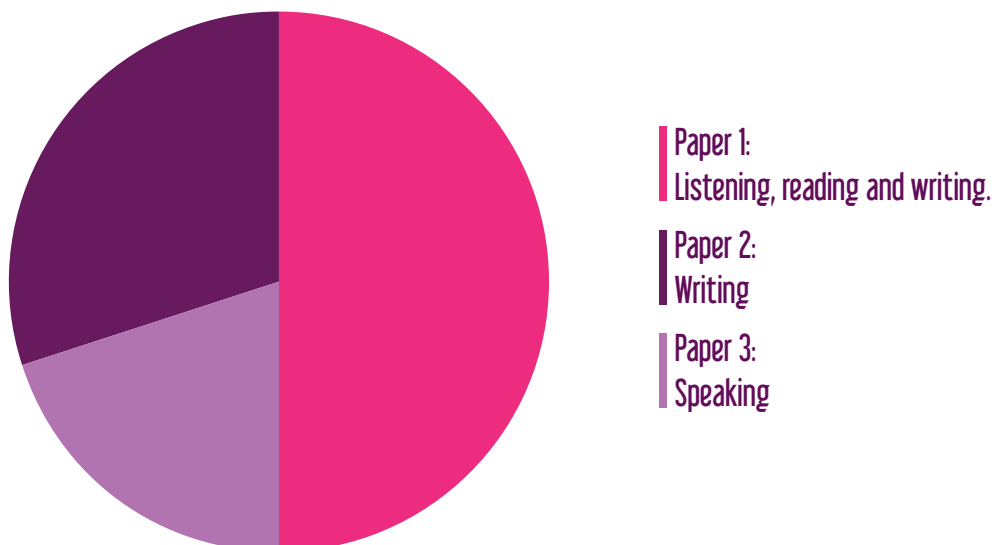
Part 2- a presentation, and discussion, of an individual research project.

30% of the A-Level

Total Duration: 5 hours

No dictionaries allowed

Weighting of each paper: A-Level



AS - Level

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing.

The paper lasts 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 90 marks.

It includes a Spanish-English Translation of minimum 70 words.

45% of the AS-Level

Paper 2: Writing.

The paper lasts 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 80 marks. It includes two 300 word essays.

25% of the AS-Level

Paper 3: Speaking

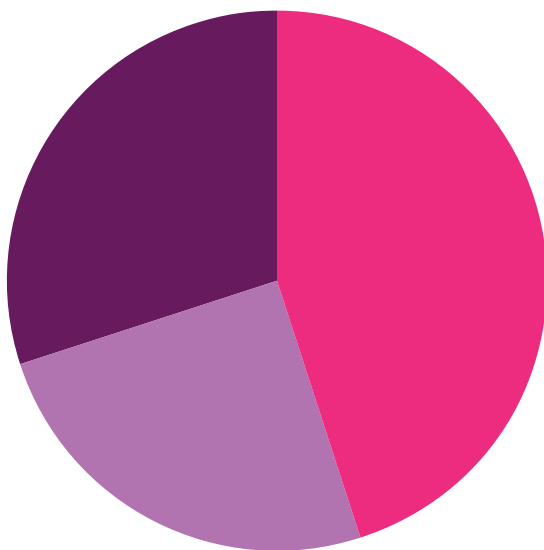
The speaking test lasts between 12-14 minutes (plus 15 minutes preparation time to study the cards) and is worth 60 marks. The test is a discussion of two sub-themes (6-7 minutes on each) with the discussion based on a stimulus card for each sub-theme.

30% of the AS-Level

Total Duration: 3,5 hours

No dictionaries allowed

Weighting of each paper: AS-Level



Paper 1:
Listening, reading and writing.

Paper 2:
Writing

Paper 3:
Speaking

Subject content

Those in pink can be studied at both AS and A level.

- Los cambios en la familia
- Actitudes hacia el matrimonio y el divorcio
- Influencia de la Iglesia Católica
- La influencia de Internet
- Las redes sociales, beneficios y peligros
- Los móviles inteligentes en nuestra sociedad
- La igualdad de los sexos
- La mujer en el mercado laboral
- El machismo y el feminismo
- Los derechos de los gays y las personas transgénero
- La influencia de los ídolos
- Cantantes y músicos
- Estrellas de cine y televisión
- Modelos
- Identidad regional de España
- Tradiciones y costumbres
- La gastronomía
- Las lenguas
- El patrimonio cultural
- Sitios turísticos y civilizaciones prehistóricas
- Arte y arquitectura
- El patrimonio musical y su diversidad
- Inmigración Beneficios y los aspectos negativos
- La inmigración en el mundo hispánico
- Los indocumentados – problemas
- Racismo las actitudes racistas y xenófobas
- Las medidas contra el racismo
- La legislación anti-racista
- La convivencia de culturas
- La educación
- Las religiones
- Jóvenes de hoy, ciudadanos de mañana
- El paro entre los jóvenes
- Su sociedad ideal
- Monarquías y Dictaduras
- La dictadura de Franco
- La evaluación de la monarquía en España
- Dictadores latinoamericanos
- Movimientos populares

- La efectividad de las manifestaciones y las huelgas
- El poder de los sindicatos
- Ejemplos de protestas sociales

Literary Texts and Films

- At A-Level: Students study either one text and one film or two texts from the list below.
- At AS-Level: Students study either one text or one film.

Texts

- Federico García Lorca - *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*
- Gabriel García Márquez - *Crónica de una muerte anunciada*
- Laura Esquivel - *Como agua para chocolate*
- Ramón J. Sender - *Réquiem por un campesino español*
- Carlos Ruiz Zafón - *La sombra del viento*
- Isabel Allende - *La Casa de los Espíritus*
- Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer - *Rimas*
- Fernando Fernán-Gómez - *Las bicicletas son para el verano*
- Luis de Castresana - *El otro árbol de Guernica*
- Gabriel García Márquez - *El coronel no tiene quien le escriba*

Films

- *El laberinto del fauno* - Guillermo del Toro (2006)
- *Ocho apellidos vascos* - Emilio Martínez-Lázaro (2014)
- *María, llena eres de gracias* - Joshua Marston (2004)
- *Volver* - Pedro Almodóvar (2006)
- *Abel* - Diego Luna (2010)
- *Las 13 rosas* - Emilio Martínez-Lázaro (2007)

Grammar (These expectations are similar across all boards)

Students are expected to have studied the grammatical system and structures of the language during their course (knowledge of the grammar and structures specified for GCSE is assumed).

In the exams students will be required to use, actively and accurately, grammar and structures appropriate to the tasks set, drawn from the following list. (A more detailed list can be found on the AQA website!)

Grammar (AS and A Level)

Nouns
Articles
Adjectives *
Numerals
Adverbs
Quantifiers/Intensifiers
Pronouns
Verbs *
Conjunctions *
Negation
Questions
Commands
Word order
"Other constructions" *
Discourse Markers
Fillers

(* Expected at a higher level at A2, see full list for details)

The A-Level Qualification will be graded: A*, A, B, C, D, and E. Students who fail the minimum grade for E will be recorded as U (unclassified)

For AS-Levels possible grades are A, B, C, D, E and U – there is no A*
Students can re-sit the qualification as many times as they wish.

EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)

With the exam board AQA; there is also the possibility to do an EPQ. The Extended Project is a Level 3 qualification first assessed in November 2008. It can contribute to programmes of study in two ways:

As a stand-alone qualification

Students may choose to take the Extended Project Qualification as an extension from studies for any other qualifications at Level 3 (GCE, BTEC, NVQ, other academic or vocational qualifications including Modern Apprenticeships)

As part of the AQA Baccalaureate and Technical Baccalaureate

The Extended Project Qualification is a compulsory part of the Level 3 AQA Baccalaureate and technical Baccalaureate. The Extended Project will develop and extend from one or more of the student's study areas and/or from an area of personal interest or activity outside their main programme of study. It will be based on a topic chosen by the student(s) and agreed as appropriate by the centre.

Delivery of the Extended Project Qualification in centres will involve some teaching of the necessary skills, supervision and assessment of the student's progress. It will involve extended autonomous work by the student. It will require in total 120 guided learning hours.

Students are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- Choose an area of interest
- Draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval by the centre
- Plan, research and carry out the project
- Deliver a presentation to a non specialist audience
- Provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment.

AS/ A - Level

Paper 1: Speaking Test.

The speaking test lasts 20 minutes and is worth 100 marks.

Section 1: Presentation on one of the topics (script of presentation not allowed). This should last no more than 3.5 minutes and is worth 20 marks.

Section 2: Topic conversation. The presentation leads into a conversation about the topic which should last 7-8 minutes and is worth 40 marks.

Section 3: General conversation. This section includes straightforward questions about your background and interests, and also a discussion of more abstract and/or current issues within the general topic areas. It lasts 8-9 minutes and is worth 40 marks.

20% of the A-Level / 29% of the AS-Level

Paper 2: Writing.

The paper lasts 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 70 marks.

In the paper you answer specific and general comprehension questions on two passages.

35% of the A-Level / 50% of the AS-Level

Paper 3: Essay.

The paper lasts 1.5 hours and is worth 40 marks.

Candidates choose one question and write an essay in the target language (250-400 words).

15% of the A-Level / 21% of the AS-Level

Essay

Set Topics for Examination in 2017

Comida y bebida
Igualdad de derechos
Deporte
Desarrollo social y económico
Protección del Medio Ambiente

Set Topics for Examination in 2018

Familia
Vida urbana y rural
Filosofía y creencias
Viajar y turismo
Vida cultural/herencia

Paper 4: Texts

This paper lasts 2.5 hours 30 and is worth 75 marks.

It consists of three questions (each on a different text) to be answered in the target language (500-600 words) which are worth 25 marks each.

Set Texts for examination in 2017

Section 1

<i>Misericordia</i> Benito Pérez Galdós
<i>Peribáñez y el Comendador de Ocaña</i> Lope de Vega
<i>Como agua para chocolate</i> Laura Esquivel
<i>Las bicicletas son para el verano</i> Fernando Fernán Gómez

Section 2

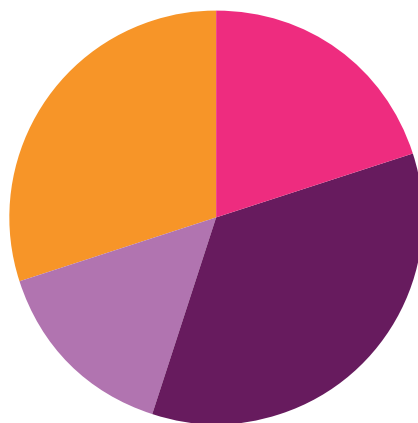
<i>El coronel no tiene quien le escriba</i> Gabriel García Márquez
<i>Eva Luna</i> Isabel Allende
<i>La casa de Bernarda Alba</i> Federico García Lorca
<i>En las orillas del Sar</i> Rosalía de Castro

Section 1: There is a choice of two questions for each text. You will be given a passage from each text and asked to comment on aspects of the passage or how it reflects the text as a whole.

Section 2: There is a choice of two questions for each text. The focus of these is issues central to the text. You are expected to display detailed knowledge of the text and to show some awareness of how the author conveys the message of the work.

30% of the A-Level / NOT DONE at AS-Level

Weighting of each paper: A-Level



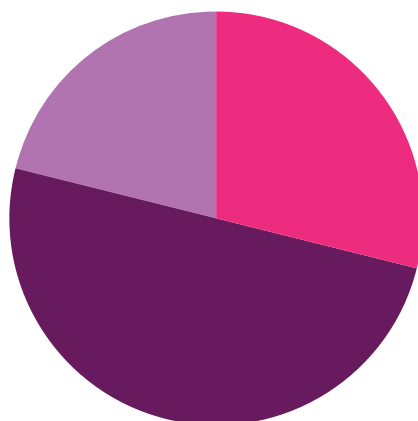
Component 1:
Speaking test

Component 2:
Reading and writing

Component 3:
Essay

Component 4:
Texts

Weighting of each paper: AS-Level



Component 1:
Speaking test

Component 2:
Reading and writing

Component 3:
Essay

Possible Future Topics

Relaciones interhumanas

Familia

Conflicto generacional

Juventud

La vida cotidiana

Vida urbana y rural

Medios comunicativos

Comida y bebida

Derecho y orden

Filosofía y creencias

Salud y fitness

Trabajo y ocio

Igualdad de derechos

Empleo y desempleo

Deporte

Actividades de ocio

Viajar y turismo

Educación

Vida cultural/herencia

Vida y Guerra

Desarrollo social y económico

Avances médicos y científicos

Innovación tecnológica

Medio Ambiente

Protección del Medio Ambiente

Contaminación del Medio Ambiente

Aspectos contemporáneos en los países hispanohablantes

A - Level

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and translation.

This paper lasts 2 hours and is worth 80 marks.

- Listening – 30 marks.
- Reading – 30 marks.
- Translation into English - 20 marks.

40% of the A-Level

Paper 2: Written response to works and translations.

This paper lasts 2 hours 40 minutes and is worth 120 marks.

- Translation into Spanish - 20 marks.
- Written response to Works (literary texts) - 50 marks.
- Written response to Works (films) - 50 marks.

(Either one literary text and one film or two literary texts)

30% of the A-Level

Paper 3: Speaking.

This lasts 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time) and is worth 72 marks.

Task 1 – you will discuss one Theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing two different statements.

Task 2 – you will present a summary of at least two of the written sources used for your research and give a personal response to what you have read.

Task 3 – you then answer questions about your presentation and have a wider discussion on your research.

30% of the A-Level

AS - Level

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and translation.

This lasts 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 64 marks.

- Listening - 24 marks.
- Reading - 28 marks
- Translation into English- 12 marks.

40% of the A-Level

Paper 2: Written response to works and translations.

This lasts 1 hour 40 minutes and is worth 60 marks.

- Translation into Spanish - 20 marks.
- Then EITHER
- Written response to Works (literary texts) - 40 marks.

OR

- Written response to Works (films) – 40 marks.

30% of the A-Level

Paper 3: Speaking.

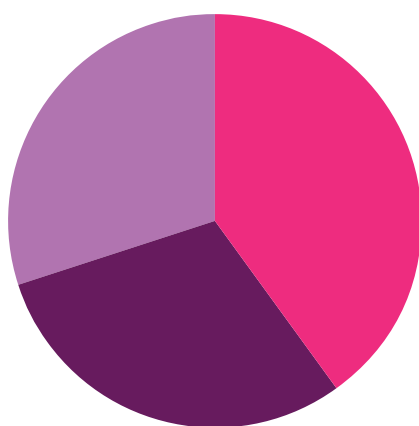
This lasts 27-30 minutes (including 15 minutes preparation time) and is worth 72 marks.

Task 1 – is based on Theme 1 (*La evolución de la sociedad española*). You are provided with two texts about this theme and have to respond to questions about them, followed by a wider discussion on the theme.

Task 2 – is based on Theme 2 (*la cultura política y artística en el mundo hispanohablante*). You will choose to discuss one sub-theme drawn from the main theme.

30% of the AS-Level

Weighting of each paper: AS/A-Level



- Paper 1:
Listening, reading and translation.
- Paper 2:
Writing response to works and translation.
- Paper 3:
Speaking

Subject content

Those in pink can be studied at both AS and A level.

- El cambio en la estructura familiar
- El mundo laboral
- Impacto turístico en España
- La música
- Los medios de comunicación
- Los festivales y las tradiciones
- El impacto positivo de la inmigración en la sociedad española
- Enfrentando los desafíos de la inmigración y la integración en España
- La reacción social y pública hacia la inmigración en España
- La Guerra Civil y el ascenso de Franco
- La dictadura franquista
- La transición de la dictadura a la democracia.

Texts

Those in pink can be studied at both AS and A level.

- *Bodas de Sangre* – Federico García Lorca, 1932 (play)
- *Como agua para chocolate* – Laura Esquivel, 1989
- *El Coronel no tiene quien le escriba* – Gabriel García Márquez, 1961 (novel)
- *La casa de Bernarda Alba* – Federico García Lorca, 1936 (play)
- *Nada* – Carmen Laforet, 1943 (novel)
- *Primera Memoria* – Ana María Matute, 1959 (novel)
- *Réquiem por un campesino español* – Ramón J. Sender, 1953 (novel)
- *Crónica de una muerte anunciada* – Gabriel García Márquez, 1981 (novel)
- *Eva luna* – Isabel Allende, 1987 (novel)
- *El túnel* – Ernesto Sábato, 1948 (novel)
- *Ficciones* – Jorge Luis Borges, 1944 (short stories)
- *La casa de los espíritus* – Isabel Allende, 1982 (novel)
- *Modelos de mujer* – Almudena Grandes, 1996 (short stories)

Films

Those in pink can be studied at both AS and A level.

- *Diarios de motocicleta* – Walter Salles (2004)
- *El laberinto del fauno* – Guillermo del Toro (2006)
- *La lengua de las mariposas* – José Luis Cuerda (1999)
- *La misma luna* – Patricia Riggen (2007)
- *Mar adentro* – Alejandro Amenábar (2004)
- *También la lluvia* – Icíar Bollaín (2010)
- *Volver* – Pedro Almodóvar (2006)
- *La historia oficial* – Pedro Almodóvar (2006)
- *Las 13 rosas* – Emilio Martínez-Lázaro (2007)
- *Machuca* – Andres Wood (2004)
- *Todo sobre mi madre* – Pedro Almodóvar (1999)
- *Voces inocentes* – Luis Mandoki (2004)

AS - Level

Unit 1: Speaking.

A non-exam assessment that lasts 12-15 minutes (plus 15 minutes preparation time) and is worth 48 marks.

Task 1 - Arguing a point based on a written stimulus card (5-6 minutes)

Task 2 - Discussion based on a second written stimulus card (7-9 minutes)

(Stimulus Cards - Set A are from theme 2, Set B are from theme 1).

12% of the A-Level

Unit 2: Listening, Reading, translation and critical response in writing

A written examination that lasts 2 hours 30 minutes and is worth 84 marks.

Section A - Listening

Section B - Reading

Section C - Translation - Spanish into English/Welsh (minimum 70 words)

Section D - A critical response in writing about one film from the prescribed list (essay of approx. 300 words)

28% of the A-Level

A-Level (includes the AS units)

Unit 3: Speaking.

A non-exam assessment that lasts 11-12 minutes and is worth 72 marks.

Task 1 - Presentation of an independent research project (2 minutes)

Task 2 - Discussion on the content of the independent research project (9-10 minutes)

18% of the A-Level

Unit 4: Listening, Reading, translation

A written exam that lasts 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 100 marks.

Section A - Listening

Section B - Reading

Section C - Translation English/Welsh into Spanish (min. 100 words)

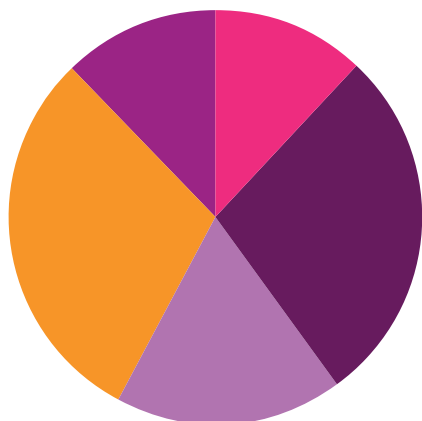
30% of the A-Level

Unit 5: Critical and Analytical response in writing (closed-book)

A written examination that lasts 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 40 marks. There is a choice of two essay based questions based on the study of one literary work from the prescribed list (approx. 400 words).

12% of the A-Level

Weighting of each paper: A-Level



Unit 1 (AS):
Speaking

Unit 2 (AS):
Listening, reading, translation and critical response in writing

Unit 3 (AS):
Speaking

Unit 4 (AS):
Listening, reading, translation

Unit 5 (AS):
Critical and Analytical response in writing (closed-book)

Themes

AS

“Asuntos sociales y tendencias”

THEME 1: Ser joven en un país hispanoparlante

- Estructura de las familias, valores modernos y tradicionales, amistades/relaciones
- Tendencias juveniles e identidad personal
- Oportunidades respecto a educación y empleo

“La cultura política, intelectual y artística”

THEME 2: Entendiendo el mundo hispanoparlante

- Culturas regionales, comunidades autónomas y países hispanoparlantes
- Literatura, arte, cine y música

A2

“Asuntos sociales y tendencias”

THEME 3: Diversidad y diferencia

- Migración e integración
- Identidad y marginación
- Enriquecimiento cultural y celebrando la diversidad
- Discriminación y diversidad

“La cultura política, intelectual y artística”

THEME 4: Las dos Españas: a partir de 1936

- El franquismo – origen, evolución y consecuencias
- España después de la Guerra – consecuencias históricas y políticas
- La Guerra Civil y la transición (reflejada en el arte: el cine, la literatura, las bellas artes y fotografía)
- ¿España se reconcilia con el pasado? “Recuperación de la memoria histórica.”

Films (AS-Level)

- *El bola* - Acheró Mañas (2000)
- *Volver* - Pedro Almodóvar (2006)
- *María llena eres de gracia* - Joshua Marston (2004)
- *Diarios de Motocicleta* - Walter Salles

Literary Works (A-Level)

- *El otro árbol de Guernica* - Luis de Castresana (1967)
- *Como agua para chocolate* - Laura Esquivel (1989)
- *La casa de Bernarda Alba* - Federico García Lorca (1936)
- *Réquiem por un campesino español* - Ramón Sender (1953)

Comparison of all Exam Boards

Films	AQA	Edexcel	WJEC
El laberinto del fauno - Guillermo del Toro (2006)	●	●	
Ocho apellidos vascos - Emilio Martínez-Lázaro (2014)	●		
María, llena eres de gracias - Joshua Marston (2004)	●		●
Volver - Pedro Almodóvar (2006)	●	●	●
Abel - Diego Luna (2010)	●		
Las 13 rosas - Emilio Martínez-Lázaro (2007)	●	●	
Diarios de motocicleta - Walter Salles (2004)		●	●
La lengua de las mariposas - Jose Luis Cuerda		●	
La misma luna - Patricia Riggen (2007)		●	
Mar adentro - Alejandro Amenabar (2004)		●	
También la lluvia - Icíar Bollaín (2010)		●	
La historia oficial - Luis Puenzo (1958)		●	
Machuca - Andres Wood (2004)		●	
Todo sobre mi madre - Pedro Almodovar (1999)		●	
Voces inocentes - Luis Mandoki (2004)		●	
El Bola - Achero Mañas (2000)			●

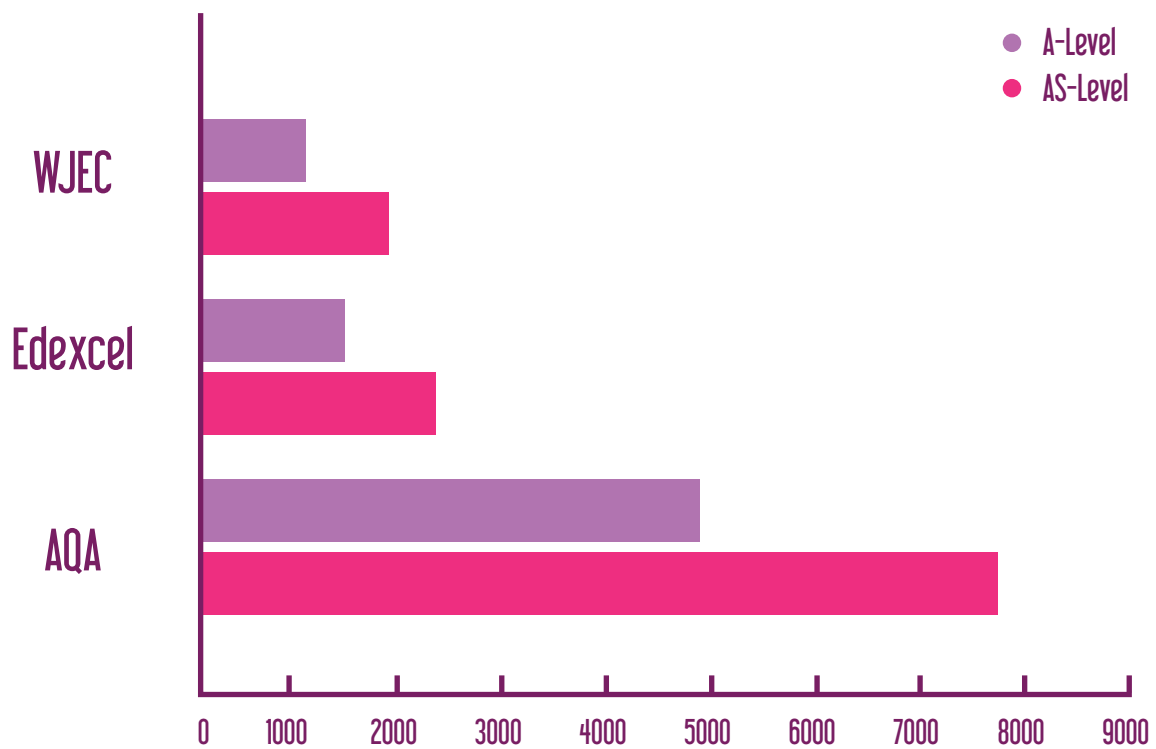
- Studied at both AS and A-Level
- Studied at AS-Level only
- Studied at A-Level only

Texts	AQA	CIE	Edexcel	WJEC
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	●			
La Casa de los Espíritus - Isabel Allende	●		●	
Rimas- Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer	●			
Las bicicletas son para el verano - Fernando Fernán Gómez	●	●		
El otro árbol de Guernica- Luis de Castresana	●			●
El coronel no tiene quien le escriba- Gabriel García Márquez	●	●	●	
Misericordia – Benito Pérez Galdós		●		
Peribáñez y el Comendador de Ocaña – Lope de Vega		●	●	
Eva Luna – Isabel Allende		●	●	
En las orillas del Sar – Rosalía de Castro		●		
Bodas de Sangre – Federico García Lorca			●	
Nada - Carmen Laforet			●	
Primera Memoria - Ana María Matute			●	
El túnel – Ernesto Sábato			●	
Ficciones – Jorge Luis Borges			●	
Modelos de mujer – Almudena Grandes			●	

- Studied at both AS and A-Level
- Studied at A-Level only

Number of students studying with each exam board (Statistics from June 2016 Spanish exams. No data available for CIE.)

Number of students with each number board





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