

Spanish

The syllabus is communicative in its approach.

The course has **three** main objectives:

- Basic communicative proficiency
- Language awareness
- Cultural awareness

How is this subject examined?

Fifth year students will be assessed in the following ways:

- Continuous assessment throughout the academic year in all four skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing.
- Christmas examination will contain comprehension, translation, written and aural component.
- A common end of academic year examination will contain comprehension, translation, written, aural and oral component.

Sixth year students will be assessed in the following ways:

- Continuous assessment throughout the academic year in all four skills (which forms the basis of grade for the Christmas report).
- Mock examinations in February.
- Mock Oral examinations by external personnel where possible.

The chart below illustrates the difference between the marking system of both higher and ordinary level. The oral exam takes place in spring of Sixth year.

<u>Higher Level</u>			<u>Ordinary Level</u>		
Oral exam	25%	100 marks	Oral exam	20%	80 marks
Aural exam	20%	80 marks	Aural exam	25%	100 marks
Written exam	55%	220 marks	Written exam	55%	220 marks

Additional information:

The Spanish department recognises that importance of learning Spanish in a natural environment.

- Here at Loreto College, we offer Spanish conversation classes with native Spanish speakers to Fifth and Sixth Years every Friday at lunchtime. The teacher for 2017/18 is a fully qualified primary school teacher from Seville in Spain. She works very hard with the students to cover many of the Leaving Cert themes that come up in the Leaving Cert Oral exam: themes such as 'Pastimes', 'School', 'My area' and 'My family'. Students are immersed in the target language helping them to use it more independently which leads to increased confidence and better vocabulary. She provides an authentic teaching resource and listening experience for students and injects linguistic spontaneity into the classroom.
- We organise trips and exchanges to Spain.
- We use Spanish music, film and literature to further their knowledge of the language.