

THE SPANISH SCHOOL SYSTEM

Be prepared for the following:

- The teacher-up-front style classes are far more widespread than in other countries.
- In Spain, the learning content is very practical, but the teaching style is often very academic.
- Homework has to be done reliably like in your home country.
- You take all the exams. In the first trimester, however, the teachers are usually very generous with the assessment. They know that you have to get used to the Spanish language first.
- The relationship between students and teachers is usually very friendly and pleasant.

Information on the subjects offered in the different grades:

Please note that the choice of subjects, the possible combinations, and the possibility to arrange a personal timetable vary from school to school. The most frequently encountered variant is as follows (for information only).

3º E.S.O (15 years)

In 3º ESO, there are three types of subjects:

- a) **General compulsory subjects.**
- b) **Elective subjects** that must be taken in at least one of the three secondary school years (usually, the timing is determined by the school).
- c) **General elective subjects** of which ONE (or several additional subjects at some schools) must be taken in the course of the first three ESO years. These subjects differ from school to school!

3. E.S.O.	
General compulsory subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biology and Geology - Physics and Chemistry - Geography and History - Spanish - English - Two kinds of Maths: more academic or more for vocational training. - P.E. - Religion or Ethical Values.
Elective subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Classical Culture - Music - Entrepreneurship - Technology
General elective subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Second foreign language



4th ESO (16 years)

In the fourth year of the secondary level, there are three types of subjects:

- d) **General compulsory subjects.**
- e) **Elective subjects** of which TWO must be selected.
- f) **General elective subjects** of which ONE or several additional subjects must be selected.
These subjects differ from region to region and school to school!

4. E.S.O.	
General compulsory subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geography and History - Spanish - English - P.E. - Religion or Ethical values
Elective subjects (two subjects must be selected)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biology and Geology - Economics - Physics and Chemistry - Latin
General elective subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Classical Culture - Music - Philosophy - IT - Second foreign language, etc.

BACHILLERATO CLASSES

In Spain, the last two school years prepare for the "Bachillerato". At most schools, you can select between various itineraries.

Branches:

- **Sciences**
- **Humanities**
- **Social Sciences**
- **Arts**

The first three branches are offered at all schools. Arts are only offered by a limited number of schools and the access for foreign students is very difficult. Therefore, in the following we only list the first three branches.

The "Bachillerato" grades feature three types of subjects:

- a) **General compulsory subjects.**
- b) **Compulsory subjects of the respective branch**, of which you must select at least THREE.
- c) **Elective subjects**, of which you must usually select ONE (they are not enumerated here as they differ from school to school)



1º de Bachillerato – Sciences Itinerary	
General compulsory subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philosophy - Spanish - Maths I - English - P.E.
Two subjects to choose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biology and Geology - Technical Drawing - Physics and Chemistry

1º de Bachillerato – Humanities Itinerary	
General Compulsory subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philosophy - Spanish - English - Latin - P.E.
Two subjects to choose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economics - Ancient Greek - History of the Contemporary World - Universal Literature

1º de Bachillerato – Social Sciences Itinerary	
General Compulsory subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Philosophy - Spanish - English - Maths applied to Social Sciences - P.E.
Two subjects to choose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economics - Ancient Greek - History of the Contemporary World - Universal Literature

There might be other optional subjects that may vary from school to school.

Reports

At the end of every trimester (December, March, June), you receive a report before the vacation starts – an "evaluación". We send these reports to the partner organizations and parents. Success is measured in six grades from Sobresaliente to Muy Deficiente. The evaluation takes place in two ways:

- With numbers from 1 to 10, 1 being the lowest and 10 the highest grade.
- With letters

SB = Sobresaliente (9, 10)

N = Notable (7, 8)

B = Bien (6)

S = Suficiente (5)

I = Insuficiente (3, 4)

MD = Muy Deficiente (1, 2)



How a typical Spanish High School looks like:

A Spanish high school looks exactly like any other European public High School. It can be a recently built centre or rather a not very modern one.

Premises include:

- Classrooms.
- A chemistry lab.
- A gym.
- A library.
- A football field where P.E. is taught.
- A cafeteria or canteen where students can buy some food during breaks.

Among the staff you can find:

- Form teacher (*tutor* in Spanish).
- Principal.
- Director of studies (*jefe de estudios*).
- Counsellor (*orientador*).

