**Spanish A Level Film Recommendations**

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| **Title**  **(Spanish)** | **Title (English)** | **Seen**  **(date)** | **Summary** |
| La Lengua de las Mariposas  (Jose Luis Cuerda) | Butterfly’s Tongue |  | Heartwarming story about a shy young boy (Moncho) and his kind school teacher (Don Gregorio) at the outset of the Spanish Civil War in 1936. Set in Galicia, the story centres on Moncho's ordinary coming-of-age experiences, but tensions related to the looming [Spanish Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_Civil_War) periodically interrupt his daily life. |
| Machuca  (Andres Wood) | Machuca |  | [A](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chile) chilean film set in 1973 [Santiago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santiago_de_Chile) during [Salvador Allende](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvador_Allende)'s socialist government until shortly after General [Augusto Pinochet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augusto_Pinochet)'s military [coup in 1973](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1973_Chilean_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat). The film tells the story of two pupils: Gonzalo Infante comes from a rich family with European background, while Pedro Machuca comes from an indigenous background and lives in very poor conditions. They meet at an elite, private Catholic school, where the forward-looking director, Father McEnroe, is developing a social integration project. |
| Volver  (Pedro Almodovar) | Volver |  | Revolving around an eccentric family of women from a wind-swept region south of [Madrid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madrid), Penelope Cruz plays Raimunda, a working-class woman forced to go to great lengths to protect her 14-year-old daughter Paula. To top off the family crisis, her mother Irene comes back from the dead to tie up loose ends.. |
| Ocho Apellidos Vascos  (Emilio Martinez Lazaro) | Spanish Affair |  | Rafa has never left his native [Seville](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seville) until he meets a [Basque](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basques) girl named Amaia who resists his seduction. Against his friends' advice, he tracks her down in the Basque Country, after she stays one night in his house and accidentally forgets her phone. A series of misunderstandings forces Rafa to impersonate a full-blooded Basque with eight surnames  and he gets more and more entangled in that character in order to please Amaia. |
| Las Trece Rosas  (Emilio Martinez Lazaro) | The Thirteen Roses |  | The true story of thirteen totally normal young women that suffered harsh questioning and were put in prison under made up charges of helping the rebellion against Franco in the 1940s. Despite their innocence, the thirteen were executed without even a trace of evidence of any wrong doing. |
| Diarios de Motocicleta  (Walter Salles) | Motorcycle Diaries |  | On a break before his last term of medical school, Ernesto "Che" Guevara travels with his friend Alberto Granado from Brazil to Peru by motorcycle. The two men witness great disparities in South America, encountering poor peasants and observing the exploitation of labour by wealthy industrialists. When they reach a leper colony in Peru, Ernesto's values have changed so much that his whole life is shaped by the injustices he sees. |
| Abre los Ojos  (Jose Luis Cuerda) | Open Your Eyes |  | Handsome 25-year-old Cesar had it all - a successful career, expensive cars, a swank bachelor's pad, and an endless string of beautiful and willing women. He is then thrown into a strange psychological mystery after a car accident scars his face and lands him in prison. |
| Maria, Llena Eres de Gracia  (Joshua Marston) | Maria, Full of Grace |  | 17 year old [Colombian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombia) girl Maria Álvarez works in terrible conditions at a flower plantation in order to support her family, including an unemployed sister who is a single mother. But after unjust treatment from her boss, she quits her job de-thorning roses. Maria discovers shortly afterwards that she is pregnant by her boyfriend and he suggests marriage, but she declines because she does not feel that they love one another. On her way to [Bogotá](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bogot%C3%A1) to find a new job, she is offered a position as a [drug mule](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mule_(smuggling)). Desperate, she accepts the risky offer, swallows 62 wrapped pellets of drugs and flies to [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City) with her friend Blanca, who has also been recruited as a drug mule. |

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