

A LEVEL SPANISH

WHY SHOULD I STUDY SPANISH?

Spanish is one of the most spoken languages in the world, consequently an essential tool for business, trading, culture and tourism. Hence, A Level Spanish is a useful preparation for a wide variety of careers. This is a stimulating and challenging course, highly respected by all universities.

The A Level course will take you well beyond GCSE, giving you a thorough grounding in the Spanish language, grammar and structures so as to enable you to research and discuss a wealth of topics, debating all sorts of contemporary issues from technology, terrorism and immigration in the Spanish-speaking world. We also study the historical, cultural and social reality of Spain and the Hispanic world.



A Level Spanish is all that and much more in a course that combines linguistic skills with analytical thinking. It helps students develop confident, effective communication skills as well as a thorough understanding of the culture of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. It develops an interest in, and enthusiasm for, language learning and encourages students to consider their study of the language in a broader context. A Level Spanish is a highly rewarding and enjoyable course.

COURSE STRUCTURE & CONTENT

A Level Spanish is a two-year **linear qualification** and its content has been designed to be studied over two years. You will develop your language skills on various topics throughout the course and build up your ability to use grammatical structures and a wider vocabulary. **In the first year**, students will learn about technological and social changes in the Spanish spoken world including the arts, culture of the present and past. **In the second year**, students will explore the current political landscape of the Hispanic world, paying attention to those political systems that have played an important part in shaping their country. They will also have the opportunity to study a work of literature, a film and to conduct an independent research project of their choice. All of which will be part of the assessment for this course.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The A Level course is assessed at the end of the two years by 3 components, one of which is a speaking unit, whilst the other tests comprise of listening, reading, translation, and critical analysis of literature/film (writing) skills. This includes assessment of topics, your research, literary work and film.

COURSE COMMITMENT

You will have approximately 4½ hours of classroom time. We expect you to work outside of your timetabled lessons for at least an extra 4 hours per week, plus during two identified private studies periods within your college timetable. Speaking workshops will be arranged alongside timetabled sessions.

RESIDENTIAL STUDY VISITS TO SPAIN

At Prior Pursglove we organise educational study visits in Spain for year 2 students of Spanish. You will have the opportunity to visit the country of the language you are studying and work in a vocational area of your

interest, for educational purposes. Students find that these visits improve their language skills and extend their knowledge of the country in which they are staying. This project abroad continues being very successful and students can discuss it in their personal statement for university. Costs are generally around £600. Visits are optional, but it is very helpful if you can take part.

COURSE COSTS

You will receive the main course books on loan from the college.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

For entry on to this course you will need to meet the college standard entry requirements for Advanced Level study of 5 GCSE passes (grades 4 - 9) including Spanish and English Language.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

After A Level, you could then progress to university where Spanish can be studied as a main subject or in combination with a wide range of other subjects such as Business, Law, International relations, Sciences, Finance, Accountancy, etc.. We currently have ex-students at a wide variety of universities studying Spanish with another language or studying another degree with a Spanish to broaden employment opportunities.

Some of the students who studied this course at Prior Pursglove College progressed on to:

- St Andrews University – **Spanish / Arabic & Spanish**
- Cambridge University – **Architecture**
- Newcastle University – **International Business Management & Spanish**
- Sheffield University – **Economics & Spanish**

STUDENT COMMENTS

What our Spanish students say:

“Spanish at Prior is an intensive course that you will enjoy if you are prepared to put the hard work in. There are plenty of opportunities to expand and widen your knowledge of Spain with opportunities for exchanges and work experience. Learning a language is very attractive to any employer and Spanish is the second most spoken language; learning Spanish at Prior gives you every possible chance to learn it thoroughly and apply it correctly.”

“I love studying Spanish at Prior. It is by no means an easy subject but providing you work hard and complete all set homework, as well as doing extra studying in your own time, you'll be fine! It's the one subject where I always walk away from the lesson feeling like I've really learnt something new. The trips I've participated in have been fantastic, especially the work experience trip where we were able to spend a week developing our skills whilst also gaining first-hand experience in a career of interest to us. I would definitely recommend studying Spanish at Prior!”

“I really enjoy studying Spanish at Prior, it's challenging, and we cover a broad range of topics. The work experience in Spain, I found extremely beneficial and, as I went to a school, I found it very interesting to find out about the education system there. I have applied to do a joint degree at university, Spanish with English Language and Linguistics, and hope to teach Spanish or teach English in Spain!”

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact the subject leader, Francisca Guzmán-Speight

Please note that the information in this leaflet is correct at the time of publication, but circumstances may arise which cause us to revise our provision. March 2023