



ABINGDON

Spanish in 6th form

Why study Spanish?

- **Stand out** when you apply for jobs as fewer school leavers or graduates have this skill
- Develop **cultural awareness**, an essential soft skill in today's globalised world
- **Combines** very well with almost any university subject, including maths and science
- Develop highly sought after **transferable skills** (communication, problem solving)

Rank	Language
1	Spanish
2	Mandarin
3	French
4	Arabic
5	German

British Council report: Spanish = the most important language for British students to learn, based on a study that looks at:

- Current UK exports
- The language needs of UK business
- Future trade priorities (incl post-Brexit)
- Emerging high growth markets
- Diplomatic and security priorities
- Outward and inward tourism
- Levels of English proficiency in other countries

Why the Pre-U Spanish Course?

- **Immersion in authentic language and culture**
- **Highly regarded by universities:** a good number of 2017-2020 Abingdon leavers pursued a language degree (including 4 at Oxbridge)
- **Fair exam:** challenging exam but generous grade boundaries independent of the achievement of the rest of the cohort
- **Very strong results:** 91% A*/A over the last four years
- **Preparation for university:** independent study skills (oral is research-based), extensive knowledge
- **Interesting and challenging topics:** including current affairs - as they happen, along with engaging film and literature
- **Thorough grammar, oral sessions with native speaker**
- **Variety of skills tested:** speaking, reading, listening, writing (4 papers, equally weighted)
- **Study trip (Valencia), cinema/theatre/lectures, competitions (debating, Olympiads)**

An (interesting) world away from IGCSE....

Contemporary and cultural aspects of the country or countries where the language is spoken:

- Human relationships; family; generation gap; young people
- Patterns of daily life; urban and rural life; the media; food and drink; law and order; religion and belief; health and fitness
- Work and leisure; equality of opportunity; employment and unemployment; sport; travel and tourism; education
- War and peace; the developing world
- Medical advances; scientific and technological innovation
- The environment; conservation; pollution
- Film and novel

Recent quotes from leavers

"I can honestly say that I have enjoyed Spanish lessons more than any other subject".

"Sixth Form has been the best two years I've had at school. Spanish has been the lifeblood of this love".

"I have had so much fun in our Spanish lessons, something I never thought a few years ago that I would write about any subject!".

"The limits of my language are the limits of my world." – **Ludwig Wittgenstein**

"To learn a language is to live again" – **French proverb**