

German A Level

Board: AQA

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We live in a multi-lingual, global society. Whether it is for pleasure, travel or opening job prospects, the knowledge of a language is a valuable skill in its own right, and an asset when combined with another specialism. German, French and Spanish are currently the languages most sought after by UK employers.

The course

This course aims to:

- Build on the knowledge you gained at GCSE, furthering your languages skills in reading, listening, speaking and writing. You will become fluent, independent and confident when interacting.
- Explore key issues in the context of German-speaking countries which will inspire cultural curiosity. You will be able to develop your own views and express them in German.
- Analyse German literary and cinematographic work.
- Enable you to consolidate a range of general and language specific study and communication skills through research, group work, oral presentations, essay writing, use of ICT etc.

The emphasis in Year 12 is on developing your language proficiency through the study of a variety of themes rooted in German-speaking countries. You will start by consolidating the foundations laid at GCSE during a carefully devised bridging programme. We then build on those skills gradually.

Given the nature of foreign language study, we work very hard to provide you with a variety of opportunities for foreign travel: study visits, work experience, trips to university, conferences for Sixth Formers and, when appropriate, theatre and cinema visits.

Course content and assessment

In year 12, the course will focus on the following themes:

Aspects of German-speaking society:

- The changing state of the family.
- The digital world.
- Youth culture: fashion and trends, music, television.

Artistic culture in the German-speaking world:

- Festivals and traditions.
- Art and architecture.
- Cultural life in Berlin, past and present.

In Year 13, you will carry on developing your languages skills and study the following themes:

Multiculturalism in German-speaking society:

- Immigration
- Integration
- Racism

Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world:

- Germany and the European Union
- Politics and youth
- German reunification and its consequences

Over the course of the 2 years, you will study a book and a film. You will also have the opportunity to pick your own area of interest and research it independently.

Examination

The A Level examination content will cover the themes, book and film studied in years 12 and 13. The exam will include:

Paper 1: Listening and reading tasks and translation into English and translation into German

Paper 2: Essays on the book and film studied
Speaking: A discussion about your independent research project, and one of the sub-themes studied in class.

WhereNext?

What do you need to study German at A Level?

You need at least a grade 6 at GCSE German. You should also have a genuine interest in language and foreign culture, with a desire to communicate in German as much as possible.

Time spent in a German-speaking country is also invaluable and you are encouraged to spend some time abroad during Years 12 and 13.

Why studying German will be an advantage?

There are many well-worn yet valid arguments why language study is important. Remember that many in your generation will not have taken a foreign language to GCSE, even fewer at A Level and you will have an advantage on the job market having studied languages.

'Working with languages' is no longer just about translating, teaching or being a travel representative! Employers from all sectors and university admissions tutors from all subject areas respect and value language qualifications, for both the skills and the personal qualities they represent. A post-16 language qualification could give you the edge!

What can you do with languages at Higher Education?

This may seem a long way off, but it is worth thinking about, even at this early stage. Language courses at university are varied and interesting. A language is a subject which you can study with almost anything to make an exciting and marketable combination, e.g. finance, law, media, IT, engineering, business studies, English etc.