

# GERMAN



## Course content

The A Level German course builds on the knowledge and skills gained at GCSE, focusing on language, culture and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to gain greater spoken and written proficiency, whilst learning about how German-speaking society has been shaped socially and culturally and how it continues to change. The specification has been designed to be studied over two years.

In Year 12, aspects of the social context are studied, together with the digital world, youth culture and aspects of the artistic life of German-speaking countries.

In Year 13, further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on matters associated with multiculturalism. Students also study aspects of the political landscape including the future of politics in the German speaking world and political engagement of young people.

## Assessment

### Paper 1

50% A level, 2 hours 30 minutes (100 marks) Listening, Reading & Writing

- Aspects of German Speaking society
- Artistic culture in the German speaking world
- Multiculturalism in German speaking society
- Aspects of political life in German speaking society
- Translation

### Paper 2

20% A level, 2 hours (80 marks), Writing

- Two essays, critically analysing one text (Der Besuch der alten Dame) and one film (Goodbye Lenin!)

### Paper 3

30% A level, 21 – 23 minutes (60 marks), Speaking

- Card on one of the social/cultural topics of a choice of two

### Individual research project

Students must also identify a subject or a key question which is of interest to them and which relates to a country or countries where German is spoken. They must select relevant information in German from a range of sources including the internet. Students will demonstrate their ability to initiate and conduct individual research by analysing and summarising their findings, in order to present and discuss them in the speaking assessment. Students may choose a subject linked to one of the themes or sub-themes or to one of the works. However, students must not base their research on the same text or film that they refer to in their written assessment.

## *What kind of skills will I develop whilst studying German?*

During the course you will learn to use language spontaneously to initiate communication;

- You will also be able to ask and answer questions; express thoughts and feelings; present viewpoints; develop arguments; persuade; analyse and evaluate in speech and writing;
- You will apply your knowledge of pronunciation, morphology and syntax, vocabulary and idiom to communicate accurately and coherently, using a range of expression;
- Both your listening and reading comprehension skills will develop as you follow the course and increase your range of vocabulary;
- Your translation and grammar skills will improve throughout the course.

## *What can I do with my A level?*

Many of our A level students go on to study German in some format at university, either as their main subject focus or at a subsidiary level, for example, alongside history or scientific based courses. There are many courses out there that offer German alongside another subject and there are also opportunities to gain a work placement in a German-speaking country.

## *What about my career?*

Apart from the more obvious choices of teaching, translating and interpreting, diplomatic service and working for the British Council, there is a wide range of career options available to you from journalism to marketing, law, advertising and many more in a wide range of industries where communication and language skills are essential. You will have skills in language manipulation, analysis, interpreting and research. These skills are highly transferable.

## *Students will have an opportunity to visit Germany or Austria to do work experience/a language course during years 12 and 13.*



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Reviewed Apr 2025