

A level German

Introduction – an outline of the course

Willkommen!

Welcome to A level German. We are excited for you to join us in the A level German course. During your 2-year course in the Sixth form, the delivery will be based around;

- 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
- Grammar
- Study of a book and film.

Book – Mutter Courage und ihre Kinder, Berthold Brecht

Film – Good bye, Lenin!, Wolfgang Becker

You will build on your knowledge from GCSE, using all the skills developed in vocabulary and grammar and deepening your understanding of the Germanic world.

There are 3 exams at the end of Year 13;

1. Paper 1 – Listening, reading and writing (2 hours 30 minutes) – 50%
2. Paper 2 – Writing (2 hours) 20%.
3. Paper 3 – Speaking (18-23 minutes) 30%

In addition to the main teaching time, you will also have a session a week with the foreign language assistant. Throughout the year, we hope to offer other immersion experiences which will be guided by your input.

What will we be studying in the first half term?

In September, you will start with an intensive grammar focus, looking at grammar revision and new grammar to develop writing and speaking skills, in order to support and develop productive language skills (writing and speaking). Grammar will be linked to the sub themes within the themes of social trends and artistic culture.

The two main themes across the year will look at:

Aspects of German-speaking society

Students may study all sub-themes in relation to any German-speaking country or countries.

- The changing state of the family (Familie im Wandel)
 - Beziehungen innerhalb der Familie
 - Partnerschaft und Ehe
 - Verschiedene Familienformen
- The digital world (Die digitale Welt)
 - Das Internet
 - Soziale Netzwerke
 - Die Digitalisierung der Gesellschaft
- Youth culture: fashion and trends, music, television (Jugendkultur: Mode, Musik und Fernsehen)

- Mode und Image
- Die Bedeutung der Musik für Jugendliche
- Die Rolle des Fernsehens

Artistic culture in the German-speaking world

Students may study sub-themes Festivals and traditions and Art and architecture in relation to any German-speaking country or countries. Students must study the cultural life of Berlin in relation to Berlin.

- Festivals and traditions (Feste und Traditionen)
 - Feste und Traditionen – ihre Wurzeln und Ursprünge
 - Feste und Traditionen – ihre soziale und wirtschaftliche Bedeutung heute
 - Vielfältige Feste und Traditionen in verschiedenen Regionen
- Art and architecture (Kunst und Architektur)
 - Künstler und Architekten
 - Kunst und Architektur im Alltag
 - Kunst und Architektur – Vergangenheit, Gegenwart, Zukunft
- Cultural life in Berlin, past and present (Das Berliner Kulturleben damals und heute)
 - Berlin – geprägt durch seine Geschichte
 - Theater, Musik und Museen in Berlin
 - Die Vielfalt innerhalb der Bevölkerung Berlins

What can I do that will help me prepare for A level German?

One of the best ways to prepare yourself for A level German is to make sure you are familiar with all grammatical concepts and have a secure understanding of all grammatical topics covered at GCSE. We will then build on this throughout the first few weeks, to enable you to speak and write more freely and independently. Make sure that you keep your knowledge organisers, revision guide or exercise book as a reminder of the work that you have covered.

You may wish to use some of your summer to carry out some background reading and preparation. You could watch the film, or associated films by the director or read about the book. You would benefit from conducting some research on a topic or topics that would interest you for your independent research project (IRP).

Complete an on-line university course (Mook). Log onto Unifrog to find out more;

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/moocs/start>

Summer Gap Task and where to find this

The best way to prepare for your A level German is to complete the summer gap tasks that have been set.

If you read the booklet and complete the tasks over the summer then you will be using the skills that you have developed during your GCSEs. It is easy to let these skills lapse which will make the start of your A levels more difficult because you will be trying to remember what you did at GCSE and learn new knowledge and skills.

On the [school website](#), if you click on Sixth Form and follow the list until you see Year 11 into 12 Gap Tasks. Click on this and find the German link. It is best to complete this work in stages, so do a bit each week when you don't have much else planned.

We are really looking forward to working with you in September and to help achieve your future aspirations using all the skills that language study brings.

Glück auf! Herr Ratcliffe und Frau Davies