

A LEVEL GERMAN



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Learning a language is fun and useful!

Confidence in a foreign language can open doors for you: the chance to meet people from other countries and explore their lives and cultures. It adds an international dimension to your profile which many employers and higher education providers want. It gives you opportunities to work and/or study abroad – or to work for companies in the UK with international links.

Learning a language gives you transferable skills useful across different subjects and careers: confidence in communicating, independent research and critical thinking, the ability to analyse and to present ideas.

Our study of German is based on four themes; we study Themes 1 and 2 in the first year and Themes 3 and 4 in the second year.

Theme1: The environment / Education / The world of work

Theme 2: Music / The media / Festivals and traditions

Theme 3: Immigration and Germany's multicultural society

Theme 4: The reunification of Germany

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Staff in our department are highly qualified and experienced at A Level teaching.

- Discussions in small groups and with the whole class
- 1 to 1 or 1 to 2 weekly oral conversations with a fluent speaker
- Pair work
- Presentations and lectures
- Individual and group research
- Using on-line resources and videos
- Comprehension and vocabulary
- Improving your note-making
- Devising arguments and debates
- Making links between texts
- Planning and writing essays
- Songs and Film Studies
- Cultural activities such as cooking, cinema trips and lectures
- Quizzes and learning games
- Effective revision

Students prepare lessons by reading and research; we have excellent resources. Our students say they love doing German!

We also offer an optional Exchange Visit or trip to Germany – this is a fantastic way to extend your confidence in the language!

A LEVEL ASSESSMENT

Paper 1 (Exam: 40%)

Based on vocabulary and structures learnt across all 4 themes.

- Listening: test of your comprehension of listening to spoken German
- Reading: tests your understanding of various texts from different genres
- Translate a passage from German into English

Paper 2 (Exam: 30%)

Written response to works and translation: based on study of a film (e.g. *Das Wunder von Bern*) and a literary text.

- Translate an unseen passage from English into German
- Write about a literary text studied
- Write about a film studied

Paper 3: Speaking (Oral test: 30%)

An oral assessment in which you talk about and discuss in German one of the 4 themes studied on the course and present a summary of independent research you have done followed by a discussion.



ENTRY AND SKILL REQUIREMENTS

We require at least a grade 5 at GCSE German and a minimum of level 4 at GCSE English or English Language (though we strongly recommend you have level 5/6 in English).

We aim to offer an optional exchange visit or trip and also other optional visits to the cinema and to lectures. (Students can apply for financial support to help with college trips.)

WHAT NEXT?

German goes well with a very wide range of other subjects, adding a valuable international dimension to your study programme.



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