

German

A Level – AQA

Course Leader: Miss N Perks

What's it all about?

A level modern languages are highly valued qualifications in today's world. The A level course in German gives you the opportunity to study the language and culture of German-speaking countries at a high level taking an in-depth look at current issues such as relationships, social trends, the law, politics and artistic trends.

More and more students go on to use languages in their career – you don't just have to become a language teacher or a translator! Universities offer a great variety of courses, and languages are often combined with other subjects such as law or business studies to make them particularly relevant. And you'll have acquired a very marketable skill!

In addition, having a language at A level will make your university application more attractive in today's highly competitive market, even if you choose not to continue with languages at degree level. Germany is the UK's second largest trading partner after America and German is deemed to be the most useful foreign language in the business world.

What are the entry requirements?

9-6 in GCSE German on higher paper.

Anyone who enjoys experiencing and learning about other cultures and/or wants to build on their communication skills or just loves languages! If you want to develop your language skills beyond just 'phrase book' German, as well as your knowledge of Germany and German culture, then this is the course for you. You will be encouraged to pursue topics of personal interest and to use German independently to express your own ideas and opinions. The focus is always on communicating and developing your cultural knowledge. An interest in current affairs would also be beneficial.

What will I learn on this course?

The topics include:

Theme 1: Aspects of German-speaking countries: current trends

- Changes in families
- Cyber society
- Youth trends, fashion and image

Theme 2: Artistic culture in the German-speaking world

- German heritage and culture
- Art and Architecture
- Berlin

Theme 3: Multiculturalism in German-speaking society: current issues

- Immigration
- Integration
- Racism

Theme 4: Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world

- The role of Germany in the EU
- Young people and their political involvement
- The effects of the reunification

Literature and Film:

- Film unit: Goodbye Lenin by Wolfgang Becker
- Literature unit: Der Vorleser by Bernhard Schlink

There is also a research project on a topic of students' choice which forms part of the final speaking assessment.

How will I be assessed?

In common with all other new A-Level specifications, the new German A-Level will be linear with all exams taken at the end of the course.

Standalone AS: AS is a standalone qualification at the same standard as the previous AS. Students who sit the AS cannot count this assessment towards their A-Level result. The final examinations are as follows:

Paper	Skills	Time	Weighting
1	Listening, Reading and Writing	2 hours 30	50%
2	Writing (Essays on film and literature)	2 hours	20%
3	Speaking	21-23 minutes	30%

What do your current students say?

- "I think studying a language is vital for my future career."
- "If you want to travel or work abroad, then you need a language."
- "The transition from GCSE to A Level isn't too big."
- "It's hard work, but it's worth it."
- "Learning about German speaking countries really broadens your perspective on the world."
- "The teachers are so supportive."

Is there anything else I need to know?

- Interested in politics, sociology, media, IT, history, geography? We do a bit of all those subjects too.
- You get to control the listening exercises and can pause and repeat as much as you want!
- Possibility to work with younger years to support and further experience and knowledge

Who can I contact for further information?

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