

# *A Level German*



REALLY

USEFUL

BOOKLET

## ORGANISING YOUR FILE

A well organised file is the key to success at A Level. If you keep to these guidelines, you'll have no difficulty in keeping yourself prepared for lessons and keeping up with what is expected of you.

Please label your file dividers as follows:

**A. COURSE INFORMATION (this booklet) / AQA SPECIFICATION**

**B. TOPICS TAUGHT:**

### 1) Social issues and trends:

#### **Aspects of German society (taught in 1<sup>st</sup> year)**

##### 1) relationships and problems within the family

- changing roles and expectations in partnership in recent times
- various forms of family life

##### 2) digital world

- how the internet is used
- benefits and dangers of social networks
- future developments in a digital society

##### 3) youth culture: fashion, music and television

- the importance of fashion and image
- different types of music
- different tv programmes

## **Multiculturalism in German-speaking society** (taught in 2<sup>nd</sup> year)

### 1) Immigration

- reasons for migration
- pros and cons of immigrants and the destination country
- issues with the country's migration policies

### 2) integration

- how integration is promoted by the government
- what prevents integration
- compare and discuss various experiences of refugees

### 3) racism

- the impact of racism on victims and support
- origins of racism
- how to resist racism and show moral courage

## 2) Political and artistic culture:

## **Artistic culture in the German-speaking world** (taught in 1<sup>st</sup> year)

### 1) festivals and traditions

- the roots and origins of festivals in Germany
- socio-economic importance of festivals and traditions
- diversity in different regions

### 2) art and architecture

- the role of art and architecture today
- the impact of contemporary art and architecture on everyday life
- developments in art and architecture

### 3) Berlin- before and now

- political events in Berlin and understanding its significance
- role of culture today
- challenges and aspects of the multicultural city

## **Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world (taught in 2<sup>nd</sup> year)**

### **1) Germany and the EU**

- how has the EU evolved and what is Germany's role within this
- pros and cons of EU for Germany
- impact of EU expansion on Germany

### **2) politics and youth**

- how to engage young people in politics
- priorities for youth politics in Germany
- the role of pressure groups

### **3) the reunification and its effects**

- events and developments which led to the reunification
- desired vs. actual outcomes of the reunification
- culture and identity of old and new federal states

**3) You will also study one text and one film from the list below (highlighted in green):**

#### **Texts:**

- Franz Kafka- die Verwandlung

#### **Films:**

- Von Donnersmarck: Das Leben der Anderen

**C. GRAMMAR**

**D. SUMMARIES**

**E. TRANSLATION**

**F. SPEAKING**

**G. EXAM PREP/TECHNIQUES**

**H. VOCABULARY, USEFUL EXPRESSIONS AND IDIOMS**

**I. FILM**

**J. BOOK**

**YOU WILL BE ASKED TO SHOW YOUR TEACHER YOUR FILE AT THE START OF THE COURSE COMPLETE WITH CLEARLY LABELLED DIVIDERS FOR THE ABOVE SUBSECTIONS A-J.**

**MAKE SURE YOU ALSO HAVE CLEARLY LABELLED DIVIDERS FOR EACH OF THE TOPICS TAUGHT (WITHIN SECTION B).**

You will sit 3 exam papers at the end of the 2 year course:

### **Paper 1**

Listening and responding to spoken passages.

All questions are in German, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in German (30 marks).

Reading and responding to a variety of texts.

All questions are in German, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in German (50 marks).

Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks). Translation into German; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks).

#### **How it's assessed**

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

100 marks

50% of A-level

\*Listening AND reading - For one question students will need to summarise in German what they have understood from the stimulus text they have read/heard and marks will be awarded for the quality of German used. Students must write in full sentences and use their own words as far as possible in this question.

### **Paper 2**

One text and one film from the list set in the specification.

One question in German on a set text from a choice of two questions and one question in German on a set film from a choice of two questions.

#### **How it's assessed**

Written exam: 2 hours

80 marks in total  
20% of A-level

### **Paper 3**

#### **What's assessed?**

Individual research project  
One of four sub-themes

#### **Questions**

Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5-6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks).

Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9-10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks).

#### **How it's assessed**

Oral exam: 21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)

60 marks in total

30% of A-level

\* Research project - 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 literary text or film that they refer to in their written assessment.

\*\* Students are advised on the front of the card to consider during their preparation time two questions which arise from the material and to ask the teacher-examiner these questions at an appropriate point during the discussion.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- When you are given hand-outs, please ensure that they are filed in the appropriate section of your folder. If you miss a lesson for any reason, it is your responsibility to get a copy of anything handed out.
- It is essential that you bring your file to every lesson.
- It is your responsibility take good care of the textbooks you are given. They must be returned to school at the end of the course in the same state that they were given to you, so you may wish to cover them. The textbooks are:

- You will see your teacher for speaking practice once a week. This is a compulsory lesson and if you know that you are going to be away you must inform him / her, just as you would inform your teacher in normal lessons.
- Use your private study time to develop your independent study skills (not just to complete homework!). Use online resources for explicit exam practice, or for more general information read German newspapers or blogs.

**MY BOOK NUMBERS :**

\_\_\_\_\_

**MY LANG SPEAKING TIME :**

\_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT: ENSURE THAT YOU KNOW THE FOLLOWING TENSES BEFORE YOU START THE A LEVEL COURSE:**

- PRESENT
- PERFECT
- IMPERFECT
- FUTURE
- CONDITIONAL

**IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SYSTEMATICALLY WORK THROUGH THE GRAMMAR SECTION OF:**

**[www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk)**

# REALLY USEFUL GERMAN WEBSITES and how to best use them!

## TO WORK ON YOUR LISTENING:

You should select a short audio or video clip from the Internet. Play the clip at least three times and write a brief summary in German (it needn't be any longer than 50 words) with a vocabulary list of at least 10 words. These could be key words or they could be words that are new to you and had to be looked up. Video clips are ideal as they are easier to understand.

Another good idea is to listen to Euronews and transcribe (write down in German what you hear) a minute or so of a news bulletin. This will be really good preparation for the A Level course as well as improving your German comprehension. You can read the transcript below the video to check your work and see if you have heard it correctly. Be mindful that sometimes the odd word or two can differ slightly from what is said in the video footage.

## German News

[www.euronews.com](http://www.euronews.com)

Select language 'deutsch' and then choose from a wide variety of news videos. [www.20min.ch](http://www.20min.ch)

[Swiss news in 20 min chunks](#)

## German TV channel websites:

[www.ard.de](http://www.ard.de) or [www.zdf.de](http://www.zdf.de)

Choose from the menu for the topic area you are interested in and then browse for video clips.

**Spanish Radio on-line:** [www.wdr.de](http://www.wdr.de)



## TO WORK ON YOUR READING:

Select an article which interests you, read it carefully and select at least 10 new pieces of vocabulary to look up. The choice of topic area is limitless. It is a good idea to vary the topic area and to choose articles related to the syllabus topics so that you encounter a variety of vocabulary.

The best place to start is the BBC's languages web-pages:

[www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/news](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/news)

Some of them include audio clips so you can base your listening task on the same topic.

Other useful websites:

### [Bild.de](http://www.bild.de)

German daily newspaper. The website gives you access to all of the day's news articles.

### [Süddeutsche Zeitung](http://www.sueddeutsche-zeitung.de)

German daily newspaper. The website gives you access to the day's news articles although you may require a subscription to view the majority of the articles in full.

### [Deutschland.de](http://www.deutschland.de)

On-line daily news.

### [die Bunte](http://www.diebunte.de)

German celebrity gossip magazine. Subscription required to view some of the articles.

### [Sport1.de](http://www.sport1.de)

Sport.