

A LEVEL GERMAN

Exam Board: AQA



Sixth Form

Where do I start from?

You will need to meet the School's minimum entry requirements. Please also refer to the Sixth Form Minimum Entry Requirements information sheet. For this subject you will need a minimum Grade 7 in GCSE German and Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature. Mathematics at a minimum Grade 4 is acceptable. You must demonstrate a keen desire to study the language and explore the rich cultural history of the country.

What will I study?

Apart from consolidating and developing your skills in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, you will learn about Germany and wider German-speaking countries. Topics will explore social issues and cultural developments as well as political life and artistic trends. You will also study grammar in depth, a literary text (TBC) and a film (Das Leben der Anderen). The A Level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research and creativity – all of which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or to further study, including a degree in Languages.

How will I be assessed?

There are termly assessments and internal examinations throughout the course. The final examination is comprised of the following elements:

Listening and Reading

What is assessed?

- "Aspects of German society"
- "Artistic culture in the German-Speaking world"
- "Multiculturalism in German society"
- "Aspects of political life in society"
- Grammar

How is it assessed?

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks in total
- 50% of A-level

Writing

What is assessed?

- One text and one film (see above)
- Grammar

How is it assessed?

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 80 marks in total
- 20% of A-level

Speaking

What is assessed?

- Individual research project
- One of the four themes listed earlier: "Aspects of German society", "Artistic culture in the German-speaking world", "Multiculturalism in society" or "Aspects of political life in society".

How is it assessed?

- Oral exam: 20 minutes approx. (including 5 minutes preparation time)
- 60 marks in total
- 30% of A-level

How will I study?

A Level is more than study. To do well at German it should become a hobby - a pleasure! You will take part in role-plays and discussions in class, do translations and write essays at home and master increasingly complex grammar and vocabulary. We study German films and TV programmes and use the IT suite for listening activities. We expect you to read current affairs magazines and newspapers in German (available from the department) and you may want to spend some time abroad during the 2 years of study to immerse yourself in the language and culture.

What does the subject combine well with?

The beauty of German and languages in general is that they are desirable for most jobs and combine with multiple disciplines. Many Science and Engineering courses, for example, include language study and universities often offer the opportunity for a year abroad to study their specialist subject and develop their language skills.

UK businesses suffer on an international level due to a lack of personnel with advanced language skills. With an A Level in a language, you will undoubtedly be a more attractive prospect both for universities and employers and ultimately could increase your earning potential.

Willkommen!