

A Level German

Exam Board: AQA

This recently revised A Level course in German is to enable students to communicate competently and accurately in German, both orally and in writing, and to understand the written and spoken word. The teaching also seeks to foster a positive interest in the language, culture and society of Germany and German speaking countries. German A Level develops a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity. Good linguistic skills are nurtured and the course is designed to be academically challenging and enjoyable as well as practical. German AS Level is available at the end of Year 12 for students who are only taking the AS.

The course is taught by two members of the Department, one of whom is a native speaker, in order to give both variety and a balanced approach. In order to study a foreign language at this level, students should normally have acquired the knowledge, understanding and skills for GCSE at higher tier (or IGCSE) in German.

Content

This is a linear qualification which incorporates the following topic areas:

- German-speaking society (family, digital world, youth culture)
- Artistic culture in German-speaking countries (art and architecture, cultural life in Berlin through history, festivals and traditions)
- Multiculturalism in German-speaking society (immigration, integration and racism)
- Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world (Germany and the EU, young people's political views, the reunification of Germany)
- Students will also be expected to study one literary text and one film or two literary texts over the course of the two years.
- In the second year of study, students also undertake an independent research task in which they identify one subject or key question which is of interest and which relates to a German-speaking country. This research task may be linked to one of the A Level topics or literary works or film.

Assessment

The German A Level assesses students in three examinations:

- Paper 1 (listening and reading tasks and short translations to and from the target language).
- Paper 2 (two essays in the target language requiring a critical appreciation of the set texts and/or film).
- The oral consists of a discussion of one of the topic areas based on a stimulus card in addition to a presentation and discussion of the student's individual research project.

General

We offer students a broad range of further language opportunities ranging from our annual MFL Quiz, visits to theatres, galleries and cinemas to smaller social activities. Students are strongly encouraged to undertake a period of study or work experience in the target country at some stage during the A Level course. The department has a wide range of learning resources available, including a range of online sites, DVDs, books, magazines and games.

