



A LEVEL GERMAN

What does the course involve?

The course aims to:

- Develop awareness of the culture and society of Germany and German speaking countries.
- Provide a range of stimulating and absorbing study topics with contemporary, literary and cultural content
- Extend students intellectually and develop general study skills.
- Provide an ability to communicate readily in German for a variety of purposes
- Prepare students to use their German for the purposes of work, further study, training or leisure.
- Be enjoyable, interesting and relevant to the students' needs.

Activities are varied and include role play, debate, group and individual presentations, plus more formal work such as text exploitation and translation. There is regular and varied use of ICT.

We encourage students to participate in the school's German exchange as a means of practising their German in a real setting and establishing contacts for the future. Students have always found this most beneficial.

Resources include textbooks, newspapers, magazines, films, vocabulary books, grammar notebooks, online resources, films and a whole range of online information and worksheets.

What exams are involved?

The course is examined at the end of year 13. All topics studied in years 12 and 13 will be examined at the end of year 13. Students will study a film and a set text with the guidance of their teachers. Students will be expected to conduct an independent research project which is examined as part of the speaking assessment. There is no coursework element.

Paper 1: Listening and reading questions plus translations and German 2hr 30 - 100 marks (50% of A level)

Paper 2: Writing – 2hrs - 50 marks (20% of A level)

Students write two essays, normally on one set text and one film.

Paper 3: Speaking - 21-23 mins including 5 mins prep time – 60 marks (30% of A level) Discussion of one sub theme prompted by stimulus card (5-6 mins; 25 marks).

Presentation (2 mins; 5 marks) followed by discussion of individual research project (9-10 mins; 30 marks).

YEAR 12

Topics include:

- the changing state of the family;
- the digital world;
- youth culture: (fashion and trends, music, television);

YEAR 13

Topics include:

- Germany and the European Union,
- Politics and youth,
- festivals and traditions,
- art and architecture,
- cultural life in Berlin,
- the study of a film.
- German re-unification and its consequences,
- Immigration, integration, racism,
- The study of a work of literature.

What are the entry qualifications?

- GCSE German and GCSE English Literature grade 5.
- A willingness to work and study independently and learn vocabulary.
- A willingness to join in discussions and be open to ideas.
- A keen interest in the German language and world affairs.

What could I do after completing the course?

The world is your oyster! Language skills are in demand and can be used in almost any career, particularly in businesses that trade internationally. Studying a language beyond GCSE enables students to develop their critical thinking skills, as well as their understanding of matters central to the society and culture of countries where German is spoken. The study of a language to A level provides the level of fluency and confidence that enables a student to use their skills as part of their work and travels or as a stepping stone to something else. Students equip themselves with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable them to proceed to further study or to employment. Studying languages fosters the ability to learn other languages. Most degree courses appreciate people who take a language. German complements science-based courses such as engineering particularly well. Many language graduates choose careers not directly related to their subject but where there is the opportunity to use their language skills, for example working for companies who trade or offer services internationally or to non-English speaking customers and suppliers. Language graduates work for a huge variety of employers and sectors, including: business services, charity work, media, museums and libraries, public administration, teaching, tourism, transport and logistics.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT MRS S DRAKE, MRS C CASWELL, OR MS P DICKINSON.