



A Level German

Why study German?

Studying German to A Level is a huge plus in our increasingly international world. It is the most spoken native language in Europe and it is one of the most useful languages to learn in the worlds of business and innovation. It is also famous for being the language of poets, musicians and thinkers – think of Beethoven, Mozart, Bach, Goethe, Brecht, Kafka, Marx, Nietzsche and Einstein, to name but a few. Over one hundred Nobel Prizes have gone to brilliant Germans for accomplishments in physics, medicine, chemistry, literature and other areas. Germany itself is also one of the most powerful economies in the world, and is renowned for its success in engineering and technology.

You will study a range of topics, including those that emphasise the cultural and social issues in German-speaking countries. You will continue to build on the solid foundations of grammar you have built at GCSE level, and will also explore some books and films in the language. You will enjoy the satisfaction of developing much greater fluency at A Level and will quickly notice that you are able to express yourself in a much broader range of situations than you could at GCSE. You will even find that you can access a range of authentic language on your own, including films, newspaper articles and novels.

If you choose to take A Level German, you will get a whole period every week with a native speaker to concentrate on conversation in addition to your timetabled lessons.

The German residential trip is still open to you, and you will get so much more out of it at this level. We can also help you to set up work experience placements abroad through the travel company Halsbury, and you will have the opportunity to take part in a range of competitions and extra-curricular activities.

Entry requirements

You need a minimum of a grade 7 in GCSE German to study German at A Level, though a grade 8 or 9 is preferable. You should also enjoy all aspects of language learning – a good linguist is comfortable with the idea of speaking as well as writing!

What does the course involve?

In Year 12, you will study the following topics:

Theme 1: Aspects of German-speaking society

The changing state of the family (Familie im Wandel)

The digital world (Die digitale Welt)

Youth culture: fashion and trends, music, television (Jugendkultur: Mode, Musik und Fernsehen)

Theme 2: Artistic culture in the German-speaking world

Festivals and traditions (Feste und Traditionen)

Art and architecture (Kunst und Architektur)

Cultural life in Berlin, past and present (Das Berliner Kulturleben damals und heute)

You also study one literary text (currently *der Besuch der alten Dame* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt)

In Year 13, you will study the following topics:

Theme 3: Multiculturalism in German-speaking society

Immigration (Einwanderung)

Integration (Integration)

Racism (Rassismus)

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

Germany and the European Union (Deutschland und die Europäische Union)

Politics and youth (Die Politik und die Jugend)

German re-unification and its consequences (Die Wiedervereinigung und ihre Folgen)

In addition to the text studied in Year 12, you will study another text (currently *der Vorleser* by Bernhard Schlink), and you will also do an individual research project which will then form part of your speaking exam.



Exam Board

Amherst follows the AQA course.

How is the course assessed?

At the end of Year 13, you will take the following exams:

Listening, reading and writing paper (50%) – this involves comprehension tasks, summaries and translation based on the topics you have studied in Year 12 and 13. An advantage at A Level is that you will have control of the audio in the listening part of the exam.

Writing paper (20%) – this involves writing 2 essays of approximately 300 words on the literature book and film that you studied.

Speaking exam (30%) – you will do a speaking card on one of the topics from Year 12 or 13, and then you will present the findings of your research project and discuss this in more detail.

What can an A Level in German lead to?

An A Level in German will go well with any combination of subjects at university. We have even had people use an A Level in a language as part of their package for medicine at university. It will also make it easier for you to consider studying abroad, which could be a much cheaper option to consider. Having an A Level in German will also open many doors to you after school and university and will be hugely valued by employers, whether or not you end up directly using your language skills. You are likely to earn more money, whatever job you do, and you may even get to travel or live abroad as part of your work. Germany is a world leader in many industries, including engineering, technology and manufacturing, and German is one of the three official working languages of the European Union.

If you do want to pursue languages as a career, there are lots of things you can go on to do. Here are just a few examples:

- translation and interpreting services
- marketing & sales
- journalism & broadcasting
- tourism & hospitality
- diplomatic services
- civil service
- international business & finance
- publishing



What skills will be developed in the German A Level course?

First and foremost, you will develop your communication skills, as learning a language involves the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will also develop a number of other skills:

You will develop research skills when doing independent reading and listening work for your speaking exam.

You will learn to work independently and to manage deadlines.

Learning new vocabulary will help you to improve your memory - this can even help to lower your risk of developing dementia in old age!

Analysing grammatical structures will help you to develop your problem-solving skills.

You will develop your creativity skills, as you will need to be able to think of different and creative ways to express yourself.

You will develop your multitasking skills as you are required to switch between more than one language.

You will even improve your knowledge of English, as you learn about the grammar of a new language.

