

A LEVEL GERMAN



Course description

Awarding Body: AQA

Examinations :

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (including translation) (50% of A level)

Paper 2: Essay-writing (20%)

Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

Non Examined Assessment : n/a

Course content

Studying German at A level allows the students to not only improve their language skills in German, but also gain an invaluable insight into the culture as well as political and social life in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. This means that they will acquire knowledge in a variety of subjects (literature, film studies, politics, post-war German history) at the same time as developing a practical and given the economic strength of Germany a highly marketable skill.

Paper 1 assesses aspects of German-speaking society, artistic culture in the German-speaking world, aspects of political life, multiculturalism in German-speaking society and German grammar. We revise both basic grammar and study advanced, more complex, structures. Amongst the topics studied are contemporary German youth culture, technology, festivals, art and architecture, immigration and diversity, current social and political trends, German reunification and its consequences. The students acquire translation skills, which will be useful in any future career and help them to improve their written German and English as well as providing them with the competencies required to learn any other languages much more easily.

In order to prepare for Paper 2 the students learn how to write essays about a film and a book. They will study the highly acclaimed film "Das Leben der Anderen", by Donnersmarck which deals with the role of the infamous Stasi in East Germany and the play "Der Besuch der alten Dame" by a renowned post-war Swiss author, Friedrich Duerrenmatt. The in depth study of the film which is undertaken in year 12 also helps to prepare the topic of the German reunification.

The speaking exam (paper 3) comprises a discussion of one of the topics studied for paper 1 as well as the presentation and discussion of an individual research project that allows the students to focus on a topic of their choice. They may well wish to relate it to their other A Level subjects and research an author, a historical figure, composer, artist or scientist of the German-speaking world to name just a few options. All students have individual speaking sessions with the language assistant in order to support them in the development of their spoken German.

Entry requirements

Grade 7, 8 or 9 at GCSE

Future opportunities

Given the wide range of skills acquired by the students during their Sixth Form German studies, this A Level is highly regarded by universities (including Oxbridge) as well as employers. Increasingly our students go on to combine the study of subjects such as History, Law, Science, Politics or Engineering with German at university, thus really standing out from the crowd.

We are not only able to provide the students with plenty of individual attention during their studies, but they will also have a good chance to become a subject leader and help to promote languages across the school or mentor younger students. They can participate in day trips to cultural events, such as the German film study day at the British Film Institute. We have also been able to offer work experience in Germany.

Further information

Our results are consistently excellent with 66.6% achieving A*/A and 100% A*-B this year. We are a very committed department and always strive to improve our students' outcomes. German A level students have gone on to study a wide variety of subjects at top universities, including Cambridge.