



A Level German induction booklet



Why learn German?

- German is spoken by 120 million people in Europe as their mother tongue.
- German is the 2nd most commonly used language in the Internet.
- German is the 2nd most important language for scientists.
- German is the biggest economy in Europe and the 3rd largest in the world

What topics will I cover in Year 12 German?

A level German students follow the Edexcel syllabus which is divided into 4 broad themes. Each broad theme is divided further into smaller topics and taught over 2 years. You will probably find the course quite hard initially, as you need to progress very quickly from GCSE level.

You need to:

- spend a **minimum** of six hours a week in private study
- read a German magazine or newspaper regularly.
- watch German TV and films
- visit Germany, either under your own steam or on one of our organised trips

<p><i>Theme 1: The development of society in Germany</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nature and the environment</i> • <i>Education and training</i> • <i>The World of Work</i> 	<p><i>Theme 3: Immigration and German multicultural society</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Immigration and multiculturalism</i> • <i>The economic and social effects of immigration</i>
<p><i>Theme 2: Political and cultural development in German – Speaking countries and communities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Music</i> • <i>The Media</i> • <i>The role of festivals and traditions</i> 	<p><i>Theme 4 : The Reunification of Germany</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Society in the GDR (East Germany) before the Reunification</i> • <i>Germany since the Reunification</i>

What examinations will I have to take?

A Levels are fully linear, with students sitting their exams at the end of the two-year course. The A Level qualification will be graded on a six-grade scale from A* - E.

<p>Paper 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Listening</i>2. <i>Reading</i>3. <i>Translation into English</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hours• 40% of the qualification <p><i>No dictionaries</i></p>	<p>Paper 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Translation into German</i>2. <i>Written response about literary text</i>3. <i>Written response about film or second literary text</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 48 marks• 2 hours and 40 minutes• 30% of the qualification <p><i>No dictionaries or documentation relating to the books/film studied.</i></p>	<p>Paper 2 Speaking</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Discussion based on a stimulus containing two different statements</i>2. <i>Presentation and discussion of an independent research topic chosen by the student relating to German society and culture</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Internally conducted and externally assessed</i>• <i>Total assessment time: 21 to 23 minutes including preparation time for 5 minutes. No dictionary.</i>• <i>30% of the qualification</i>
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Prescribed Literary texts and Films

For paper 2, will study two works from the list below. These will be chosen by your teacher and can be either two literary texts or one literary text and one film. Watching or reading any one of these in your free time will be good preparation. Most are available on Amazon!

Literary texts

- Andorra, Max Frisch, 1961 (play)
- Der Besuch der alten Dame, Friedrich Dürrenmatt, 1956 (play)
- Der kaukasische Kreidekreis, Bertolt Brecht, 1944 (play)
- Der Vorleser, Bernhard Schlink, 1995 (novel)
- Die Entdeckung der Currywurst, Uwe Timm, 1993 (novella)
- Plenzdorf, 1972 (novel)
- Die Verwandlung, Franz Kafka, 1915 (novella)
- Die Verlorene Ehre von Katharina Blum, Heinrich Böll, 1974 (novel)
- Ich fühle mich so fifty-fifty, Karin König, 1994 (novella)
- Sansibar oder der letzte Grund, Alfred Andersch, 1957 (novel)

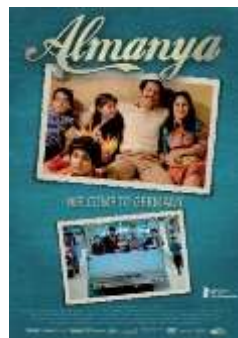


- Sommerhaus, später und andere Erzählungen, Judith Hermann, 1998 , (short stories)
- Tonio Kröger, Thomas Mann, 1903 (novella)



Films

- Almany, Willkommen in Deutschland, dir. Yasemin Samdereli (2011)
- Das Leben der Anderen, dir. Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (2006)
- Das Wunder von Bern, dir. Sönke Wortmann,(2003)
- Der Untergang,dir. Oliver Hirschbiegel (2003)
- Die Fetten Jahren sind vorbei, dir. Hans Weingartner (2004)
- Die Welle, dir. Dennis Gansel (2008)
- Good Bye Lenin!, dir. Wolfgang Becker (2003)
- Lola rennt, dir. Tom Tykwer (1998)
- Nirgendwo in Afrika, dir. Caroline Link (2001)
- Sophie Scholl, dir. Marc Rothemund (2005)



What grammar will I need to know by the end of Year 12/13?

At A Level you will be required to build on grammar begun at GCSE and use actively and accurately grammar and structures appropriate to the tasks set, drawn from the following list:

Nouns: gender / singular & plural forms / the four cases / weak nouns / adjectives used as nouns

Articles: definite and indefinite / *kein*

Adjectives: adjectival endings / comparative and superlative / demonstrative (*dieser, jeder*) / possessive / interrogative (*welcher*)

Adverbs: comparative and superlative

Interrogatives: (*wann, warum, wo, wie, wieviel*)

Qualifiers: *sehr, besonders, kaum, recht, wenig*

Particles: *doch, eben, ja, mal, schon*

Pronouns: personal / reflexive / relative / indefinite (*jemand, niemand*) / possessive

Verbs: weak, strong, mixed and irregular forms of verbs / separable & inseparable verbs / reflexive verbs / modes of address (*du, ihr, Sie*) / impersonal / modal verbs / auxiliary verbs (*haben, sein, werden*) / infinitive constructions / negative forms / interrogative forms

Tenses: present / perfect / imperfect/simple past / future / conditional / future perfect (R) / conditional perfect (R) / pluperfect
passive voice / imperative / subjunctive

Prepositions

Clause structures: main clause word order / subordinate clauses (including relative clauses)

Conjunctions

Number, quantity and time

How can I develop my German skills to ensure I am successful in the examination?

Study Skills

The four traditional language skills are:

Listening: You will have at least one lesson per week in the Language Lab. You will become increasingly skilful at puzzling at the meaning of a text by re-winding the sound file and listening again and again. You will be expected to take sound files home to practise your listening skills.

Reading: You will learn very quickly how to decipher quite complex passages: we use material from books, newspapers and the Internet right from the start. Although you will not be able to use a dictionary in the exam, it is a vital tool during the year, enabling you to read very advanced work.

Speaking: You should use German as the normal language in lessons. You will also have a weekly lesson, either alone or in a pair, with a Language Assistant. This is a most valuable aid to developing fluency.

Writing: As you learn more grammar and vocabulary, your writing will become more accurate and interesting. You will need to write well in order to get a good grade.

Grammar

We shall be revising all aspects of grammar learnt at GCSE/IGCSE during the lessons and will build on existing knowledge of the skills.

By the end of Year 12 you should be able to formulate complex sentences accurately. During the course you will need to ensure you gain a sound understanding of the grammar covered.

Vocabulary learning

Right from the first lesson you will need to be disciplined in your learning of vocabulary so that you can extend your knowledge of German vocabulary. The course is divided into different topics and it is important that you ensure you know all the key vocabulary for each topic. You will be encouraged to listen and read a wide variety of German and you must get into the habit of writing down all new words in lessons and for homework. Your German teachers will show you the best way to keep vocabulary. Vocabulary must be learnt on a weekly basis and will be tested regularly by your teacher. It is important that you try to use as much new vocabulary as possible – the more you use the new words or phrases the more easily you will remember them. If you get into good habits in vocabulary learning (which can be tedious at times) it will pay dividends at A level.

Dictionary skills:

We all use online dictionaries but you should also be able to use a big dictionary, for checking spellings, meanings, and gender and for developing your German. (Collins is recommended) A good Christmas or birthday present! Use the dictionary to check meaning but also to learn how to use words and phrases. Read about linked words, read the examples of usage and idioms, and **learn** them. Whenever you look up a new word you should copy it down into your vocabulary note book.

Wider reading:

An advanced level language student needs a good awareness of the world. You should therefore try to read a **quality** English newspaper once a week and use an English dictionary to help you understand what you are reading. Also read about German and the Germans in English. You should also read any German literature in an English translation: try reading some of these famous German authors in translation:

Heinrich Böll, Hermann Hesse, Friedrich Dürrenmatt, Thomas Mann, Patrick Süskind, Bertholt Brecht, Franz Kafka, Christa Wolf, Günter Grass and Max Frisch.

Organisation:

Keep your notes tidy! We will use the coursebook 'Edexcel German for A level', but you will also be provided with lots of photocopies. I will advise you on how to divide up your folder, e.g. vocabulary, grammar notes, grammar exercises, articles on individual topics, listening exercises, past papers. You **must** file and date things after each lesson. Make sure that you always have all the material needed for the next lesson at the front of the folder and not put somewhere in the bottom of a bag.

Punctuality and attendance:

If you miss school you will not get the work covered. Attend every lesson and be on time. If you do have to miss a lesson, ensure that you catch up the work.

Homework:

You will be given homework after all lessons. This will sometimes be learning vocabulary which will always be tested the next lesson or it may be written. It is essential that you complete and submit your homework on time.

Resources and background reading and private study

German TV

You can get German TV and radio online.

www.ard.de

www.zdf.de

www.rtlnow.de

www.dw-world.de

www.voxnow.de

www.slowgerman.com

German films

We will watch some in class as part of the course. You may also borrow films from my collection to watch at home. Just ask if you want to borrow a film. You can use the English subtitles to help your understanding.

DVDs

Sophie Scholl	Das Wunder von Bern
Good Bye Lenin	Die Edukators
Das Leben der Anderen	Lola Rennt
Das Neue Berlin	Mamma Mia:der Film
Kein Ohrhasen	Kein Ohrküken
Der Vorleser	Tintenherz
The Baader Meinhof complex	Goethe
Das Tagebuch der Anne Frank	The Nasty Girl
Valkyre	Downfall
Der grosse Traum	Barbara
Allamanya	Sonnenallee

Organisations:

a) The Goethe Institute

<http://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/lon/enindex.htm>

<http://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/lon/pro/alevel/enindex.htm>

(information for A level students)

b) The German Embassy in London

<http://www.german-embassy.org.uk/>

c) The British Embassy in Berlin

www.britischebotschaft.de

Using the Internet

You will be encouraged to use the internet at home or at school to extend your reading and listening skills. A useful way to help you in both your

language and cultural development is to regularly listen to / watch / read short news items on the Internet and write up a few new words each time. Here are a few useful websites to start you off:

Edexcel German A Level website

www.edexcel.org.uk/quals/gce/mfl/as/8230/

Edexcel German A level Syllabus

www.edexcel.org.uk/VirtualContent/215875.pdf

Kerboodle

www.kerboodle.co.uk

Websites for young people:

www.blindekuh.de / www.pixelkids.de / www.kindernet.new-webnet.de

German speaking news

www.zdf.de / www.ard.de / www.euronews.net / www.wdr.de/radio
www.german-embassy.org.uk/nachrichten / www.germannews.com/news
[e.asp](http://www.germannews.com/news)

Some German-speaking search engines

www.lycos.de / www.dino-online.de / www.yoodle.ch / www.search.ch
www.aeiou.at / www.aeiou.online

Some German websites for research

www.spiegel.de
www.goethe.de
www.revisiontime.com/aGer.htm
www.sueddeutsche.de
www.welt.de
www.zeit.de

Sommeraufgaben

- 1) Schreibe 7 Sätze über dich selbst, aber nur 5 davon sind wahr und die anderen 2 sind falsch.



- 2) Recherchiere und mache eine kurze Präsentation (3 Minuten) zu irgendetwas, was dich an Deutschland interessiert. (Person, Geschichte, Produkte, Film oder Musik).

