

German

AQA A-level German (7662)

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Introduction

Explore advanced grammar, literature, and the German-speaking world. Build your fluency, cultural understanding, and critical thinking skills across a broad content. Through the German A-level, you will give yourself an opportunity to gain a deeper insight into German-speaking countries through a wide range of topics which cater for all interests, while developing essential global communication skills. This A-level not only opens doors to a profound understanding of German, but also ensures you are well-equipped to compete in a multilingual world.

Subject Requirements

A Grade 8 in GCSE German is required. Students must have an excellent grasp of key tenses and grammar points to succeed at A-level, as well as being able to comprehend at speed. Understanding and finding success in the listening and translation sections at GCSE should be seen as an indicator of success.

Given the film and literary analysis paper at A-level, we recommend that candidates also have a Grade 7 or above in GCSE English literature.

Course Outline

Throughout the course, you are supported by two teachers from the German Department over seven lessons a week, as well as attending an individual speaking session with a native speaker in order to improve your fluency in the language and prepare for the speaking assessment at the end of the course.

The course content is divided into three key areas of work. Each contains a full review and deepening of grammatical knowledge.

1. Social issues and trends

Aspects of German-speaking society:

- The changing state of the family
- The digital world
- Youth culture: fashion and trends, music, television

Multiculturalism in German-speaking society:

- Immigration
- Integration
- Racism

Political and artistic culture - Artistic culture in the German-speaking world:

- Festivals and traditions
- Art and architecture
- Cultural life in Berlin, past and present

Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world

- Germany and the European Union
- Politics and youth
- German re-unification and its consequences

2. Film and literature

Analysis of two works, with at least one being a literary text. At Epsom, we currently study the film *Sophie Scholl: die letzten Tage*, and the play *Andorra* by Max Frisch.

3. Independent Research Project

Here students research any area of the German-speaking world they wish to present in their speaking component. Often, this relates to future ambitions and is an asset to university applications.

The final assessment is in three papers:

Paper 1 (50%) – Listening, Reading, Translation

Paper 2 (20%) – Literary and Cinematic Analysis (two 40-mark essays),

Paper 3 (30%) – Speaking (stimulus card on one of the topics covered for Paper 1, and the Independent Research Project)

Higher Education and Careers

German A-level studies offer a wide range of academic and career opportunities in the UK. At university level, students can specialise in modern languages through a single honours degree, focusing on language proficiency, literature, and cultural studies.

Alternatively, combined honours programmes provide interdisciplinary options. According to recent research, German is the most in-demand and highest paid foreign language in the UK, with the most popular careers for German speakers in the UK being in the business, tech and finance worlds. A joint honours degree with German is therefore highly recommended, with the following combinations often proving successful: German and business or marketing, German and politics, German and law. Additionally, German A-level lays the groundwork for careers in translation, interpreting, and international NGOs.

German study at university level will allow for opportunity to take a year abroad. This offers a unique chance to immerse oneself in the language and culture, refining linguistic skills and gaining cultural insight. Engaging in internships or employment in a German-speaking environment provides hands-on experience, builds adaptability, and enhances professional communication. This practical experience not only complements academic learning but also equips students with a distinct advantage in the competitive job market, highlighting their ability to thrive in diverse and international settings.

What should I study alongside German?

German A-level complements most combinations, and previous candidates have studied German alongside both the sciences and the arts. Other subjects which look at language analysis and communication transfer their skills to the study of German well.

The diversity of German A-level means you will look at the science of the language through linguistic study as well as the history and art of the language with literary and cinematic analysis.

Amongst others, complementary subjects include other modern languages, Latin, English literature, history, politics, geography, business studies, and economics.

Is there anything else I should consider?

The overwhelming majority of the global workforce speak two languages or more. While English is often a key language to speak, most speakers will be proficient in at least one other language. A modern language at A-level ensures you can compete on an equal footing.