



St Mary Redcliffe  
and Temple School

# German



# German



Exam board: AQA

Specification no: 7661 (AS) / 7662 (A Level)

**This is a two year linear A level course** - The AS content forms the first half of the A level content and can be assessed at the end of Year 12 to provide an AS Level qualification if the student is dropping the subject and wishes to secure a grade at this point. Otherwise the two years of content are assessed at the end of Year 13 to give the A level grade.

## Course Delivery:

The course focuses on fostering your communication skills, building upon your knowledge gained at GCSE, whilst at the same time giving an insight into the society and culture of German speaking countries. You will use authentic spoken and written sources as a springboard into discussion and debate. You will have the opportunity to research topics and to present your findings, learning to analyse and express opinions. You will deepen your understanding of the structure of the German language through targeted teacher-input and activities.

## Course Content:

In **year 12 (AS)** we focus on how society is changing in German-speaking countries, its cultural heritage and the influences on its artistic life.

You will study 6 modules:

- The changing nature of family life and relationships
- The digitalisation of society
- The importance of youth culture: fashion, music and the Media
- The diversity of festivals and traditions
- Key developments in art and architecture
- The cultural life of Berlin, past and present



You will also study a film in depth: the director, its context, the cinematography, themes and characters, and learn to write essays about it in German. Currently the film we study is [Goodbye Lenin!](#); other options include [Das Leben der Anderen](#), [Almanya](#) and [Lola Rennt](#).

For a flavour of each film click on the link to see the official trailer.



In **year 13** we focus on the multicultural diversity of German-speaking society and its changing political landscape. Specifically you will study



- The response of German-speaking countries to migration
- Measures to promote integration and their success
- The impact of racism and support for its victims
- The role of Germany within the EU
- Young peoples' engagement with politics
- The impact of German re-unification

You will also study a **set text**, either a novel (usually [Der Vorleser](#) by Bernhard Schlink) or a play (normally [Der Besuch der alten Dame](#) by Friedrich Dürrenmatt).

A special feature of the full A level course is the **individual research project**. You will choose a topic related to the German-speaking world that interests you, research it and then present and discuss your findings in your speaking exam.



It's a good way to make links to other subjects and areas of interest and the topics can be very varied: recently we've had everything from the techno scene in Berlin to how young Germans perceive the Holocaust via the artistic work of Hundertwasser and the success of BMW

### **Entry requirements:**

You will need a Level 6 or above in GCSE German and to meet the overall entry requirements.

### **Skills & personal qualities required / developed by the course:**

This subject is for you if you like speaking German, are interested in how German language and culture work and are willing to learn new material regularly. As there is a lot of pair work and discussion, you need to feel comfortable working with others as well as independently. It helps if you are interested in current socio-political issues.



By the end of the course, you will be able to understand authentic spoken and written German and feel confident discussing a range of topical issues. You will be able to speak and write German with a high level of accuracy and will know a lot more about the history, culture and society of German-speaking countries.

### **Enrichment opportunities**

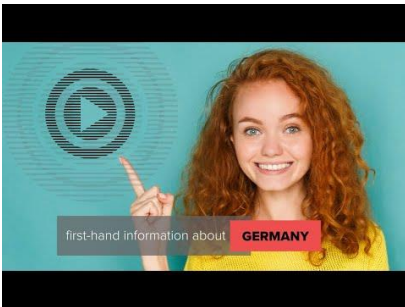
You will have the opportunity to attend lectures and Master Classes at the University of Bristol on A level themes and to go to University Open Days for Modern Languages. We encourage you to attend screenings of German language films.

Some students choose to go on a work experience placement in Germany; whilst this might sound a bit scary, those who take the plunge always come back raving about it! To find out more click [here](#). In the past there has also been a cross-curricular 6<sup>th</sup> form trip to Berlin during Activities Week. Alternatively maybe you will be our next student to win a place on the prestigious [German scholarship programme](#)



You may also volunteer to provide in-class support at key stage 3 or 4 or one-to-one mentoring of struggling GCSE students. This is a great way to pass on your love of languages.

## Recommended websites



To get a flavour of the topics we study and to whet your appetite, have a look at these sites:

[Deutschland.de](https://deutschland.de)

[German news in 100 seconds](https://www.dw.com/en/german-news-in-100-seconds/)

[Goethe Institut](https://www.goethe.de)

And for an often light-hearted, yet informative take on German society and culture, check out Rachel's videos for Deutsche Welle: [Meet the Germans](https://www.dw.com/en/meet-the-germans/)



## **Frequently asked questions:**

In this section we try to summarise those questions we always get asked at open evenings

### **How big are the class sizes?**

Groups are usually small (6-10 students) so you will get lots of individual support and teacher time.

### **How many lessons do I have a fortnight?**

You will have 10 lessons a fortnight with two different teachers. Nine of these are taught to you directly in a classroom whilst your '10th' lesson is one not directed by a member of staff but where a room is made available for you to complete independent study. You will also have a one to one session each fortnight with a language assistant to support your progress.

### **Is there a big step up from GCSE? Is it hard?**

Lots of the work in the first term builds upon topics you are familiar with at GCSE so there is a natural progression. However learning a language does require time, effort and dedication – but it's worth it.

### **How much homework is there?**

For each hour of contact time you can expect roughly another hour of private study to complete. This will include activities such as learning vocabulary on Quizlet, completing listening and reading tasks, grammar practice and researching cultural information. We also expect you to be proactive and help yourself by watching German news and films, reading online blogs and magazines and having a spirit of curiosity about all things German.

### **How is the course assessed? What exams are there?**

You will be assessed on your ability to understand and respond to spoken and written German, the accuracy and range of your German, and your cultural knowledge of German-speaking societies.

At both AS and A level you will sit 2 written exams and have a speaking exam (which is worth 30% of the final mark).

The written exams include listening and reading comprehension tasks, translations and an essay on the book/film you have studied.

### **Why should I choose German?**

Why wouldn't you?! Not only will you be studying the language so you can speak and write fluently, you will also be studying aspects of a whole range of other subjects within the course: Sociology, History, Politics, Literature, Film, Art, Geography.....that's why German combines so well with other subjects. How many other A level courses offer such a wide range of topics?



### **Do you run any trips?**

Please see above in [Enrichment activities](#)

### **Do many people go on to study German at university?**

Obviously, this varies from year to year but many of our students do carry on with their German, often combining it with other subjects at degree level. Others choose to transfer their skills to study a completely new language from scratch or opt for a linked subject such as linguistics.

### **Will it help me get a job?**

Studying a foreign language will equip you with a skill-set that is highly prized by employers including excellent communication and interpersonal skills, cultural sensitivity, critical thinking and analysis. Being able to speak another language gives you the edge and is likely to be even more important if we are to trade successfully post-Brexit. Languages are key to the exciting multinational world we live in!

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