

German

Exam board: AQA

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



German

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](#).

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 German within the EU
- Young peoples' engagement with politics
- The impact of German re-unification



You will also study a **set text**, usually Friedrich Dürrenmatt *Der Besuch der alten Dame*

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.

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. In recent years, we have had students spend their

summer holidays in Germany after applying to the German Scholarships 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:

<http://www.tagesschau.de/100Sekunden>

<http://www.deutschland.de/>

<https://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/en/spr/unt/kum/dfj/alv.html>

And for an often light-hearted, yet informative take on German society and culture, check out Rachel's videos for Deutsche Welle: <https://www.dw.com/en/meet-the-germans/a-63671966>



Why should I choose German?

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. 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.

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