

AS Level and A-Level German

Entry Requirements: GCSE Grade 6 in German.

Exam Board: AQA

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Main Syllabus Area (subjects in bold are studied at A-Level):

Grammar

Key verb tenses
Nouns and determiners
Adjectives and adverbs
Prepositions
Negation
Modal particles and
discourse markers
Clause structure and word
order

Aspects of German-speaking society

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

Political and artistic culture

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

Works: Literary texts and films

Böll Die verlorene Ehre der
Katharina Blum
Brecht Mutter Courage und
ihre Kinder
Dürrenmatt Der Besuch der
alten Dame
Good Bye Lenin!

Aspects of Political Life in the German-Speaking Wo

**Germany and the European
Union**
Politics and Youth
**German reunification and its
consequences**

Multiculturalism in German Speaking Society

Immigration
Integration
Racism

Qualities Required - A genuine love of languages, an enquiring mind, good time management, hard work and resilience.

Method of Assessment

	Objective	Weighting (A-Level)	Weighting (AS)
A01	Understand and respond: in speech to spoken language including face-to-face		

	interaction and in writing to spoken language drawn from a variety of sources.	20%	20%
A02	Understand and respond: in speech to written language drawn from a variety of sources and in writing to written language drawn from a variety of sources.	30%	30%
A03	Manipulate the language accurately, in spoken and written forms, using a range of lexis and structure.	30%	30%
A04	Show knowledge and understanding of, and respond critically to, different aspects of the culture and society of countries/communities where the language is spoken.	N/A	20%
A04 (A-Level)	Show knowledge and understanding of, and respond critically and analytically to, different aspects of the culture and society of countries/communities where the language is spoken.	20%	N/A

Links with other subjects - Languages combine well with any subject, but especially English, Economics, Geography, Politics, Sociology and History. They also make an excellent contrast with Mathematics and Science based subjects.

Career Prospects - Languages are a good foundation subject for many degree courses across a wide range of subjects including Law, Business Studies, Economics, Social Policy, Philosophy, Social Sciences and Educational Studies. A languages degree is good preparation for a wide range of occupations; for example, journalism, marketing, personnel, public service, law, advertising, insurance or teaching.

Extension and Enrichment Opportunities - Possible trips of a cultural and linguistic nature, opportunities to support younger students through in class support, a mentoring programme with GCSE students, a cinema club and access to authentic materials.

Reading list

Der Besuch der alten Dame by Friedrich Dürrenmatt

Der Besuch der alten Dame is the book we study at AS. It is a [tragi-comic](#) play written by Swiss dramatist [Friedrich Dürrenmatt](#) in 1956. The play is a cutting satire on consumer society and is still as relevant today as it was in its criticisms of post-war Europe 6 decades ago. The plot is straightforward - an enormously wealthy older woman returns to her former hometown with a dreadful bargain: She wants the townspeople to kill the man who got her pregnant, then jilted her before she was driven from her town in shame. In exchange, she will provide enough money to revitalize the decrepit town. The townspeople eventually agree. „Der Besuch“ is

intended first and foremost as a [comedy](#). However, it is difficult to ignore the serious, dark points being made about human nature throughout the play.

[Der Besuch der alten Dame paperback](#)

Oh wie schön ist Panama by Janosch

Oh wie schön ist Panama is one of the most read and most loved German books by author Janosch. It was first published in 1978 and has won many awards. Although a children's book it is enjoyed as much by adults as children and is seen to contain many themes, especially of love and friendship. It is also a super level at which to engage with the German language!

The story revolves around 2 great friends **der kleine Tiger** and **der kleine Bär**, who live happily together in a little house near a river. Bear is a passionate fisher and Tiger collects mushrooms. They pull along a small wooden yellow & black duck („Tiger-Ente“). One day the little bear 'catches' a chest that smells of bananas and is marked 'Panama' and he decides this must be the land of his dreams. This is the story of their adventure to discover Panama and all the emotions this voyage brings with it.

As Janosch himself said: „Everyone lives in their own paradise. They just don't realise it“.

[Oh, wie schön ist Panama paperback](#)

A German Grammar Guide

A comprehensive Grammar Guide is an essential tool of German AS/A-Level study. We will cover all grammar points and verb tenses on the course again but it is so useful to have a grammar guide to refer to at home and use for extra practice.

This particular edition is set at an AS & A-Level standard and has both explanation and practice activities to reinforce what you have been taught in the classroom.

Other grammar guides are out there – **just try to stick to an AQA edition.**

Modern Languages Study Guides: Film Study Guide for AS/A-Level German

Good Bye, Lenin! is the film that we study during the AS course.

This study guide is a comprehensive manual of all of the key aspects of the film (characters, plot, themes, context etc.)

It contains key information presented in both German and English, vocabulary lists, scene analysis and example essay titles.

It is a must have for the AS/A2 course.

[Modern Languages Study Guides: Good Bye, Lenin!](#)

An A-Level Vocabulary Book

A vocabulary book will help you to develop your topic specific vocabulary so that you can successfully discuss the topics that we will study on the AS course.

We recommend **Wort für Wort (ensure you choose the AQA edition)**. This book breaks the vocabulary down into the 12 units covered on the AS/A2 course. It has both the German and English translations.

It also has a useful section for essay and research phrases as well as conversational German – ideal for your speaking classes.

[Wort für Wort German Vocabulary](#)

Other ideas to give background and inform:

Parallel Texts : short stories in both languages

Deutsche Welle : a website which deals with politics, social issues, music, art , technology, science, culture and history – in both German AND English!

Memories of a Nation Podcasts on BBC Radio 4 : a series of 30 podcasts each 15 minutes long, which take you on a journey through the history of Germany(book also available).

Witness History - Podcasts BBC Radio : A huge archive of 10 minute podcasts, each of which deals with moments in history and/or key figures in history (this is not just relevant to German!)e.g. "East Germany's Punks" /"The Leipzig demonstrations".

Independent Study

The AQA course book provided details all topics covered and materials are available on Kerboodle to support learning

Set texts and films - use all study guides and handouts from staff. Research further using selected websites. Re-watch the film and re-watch the film.

Grammar guides/workbooks - practise the exercises to reinforce what you do in class

Keep up to date with current affairs in the Target language country

Listen to the radio/podcasts, watch TV and films in the target language