

MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: Mrs K Waters

Why choose the subject? Globalisation, the ease of international travel and technology are bringing more of the world within our reach and the ability to communicate as well as understand and appreciate different cultures is an invaluable skill which is highly valued by employers. The AS and A level German course allows you to develop an advanced level knowledge and understanding of the German language, the culture of Germany as well as many transferable study skills. Languages combine well with virtually any subject for further study. The range of combined degrees and further education courses involving a language is limitless – from Accountancy with Russian to Theatre Studies with Italian.

A level German is a two Year course
AS German is a one Year course

Who is eligible? GCSE grade B or above in German is a minimum requirement.

A LEVEL QUALIFICATION

Examination Board: Edexcel

Theme 1: Gesellschaftliche Entwicklung in Deutschland

Theme 1 is set in the context of **Germany only**.

- Natur und Umwelt
- Bildung
- Die Welt der Arbeit

Theme 2: Politische und künstlerische Kultur im deutschen Sprachraum

Theme 2 is set in the context of **German-speaking countries and communities**.

- Musik
- Die Medien
- Die Rolle von Festen und Traditionen

Theme 3: Immigration und die deutsche multikulturelle Gesellschaft

Theme 3 is set in the context of **Germany only**.

- Integration und Multikulturalismus,
- Die wirtschaftliche und soziale Auswirkungen von Immigration

Theme 4: Die Wiedervereinigung Deutschlands

Theme 4 is set in the context of **Germany only**.

- Die Gesellschaft in der DDR vor der Wiedervereinigung
- Deutschland seit der Wiedervereinigung

Paper 1. Listening, reading and translation

Written examination: 2 hours - 40% of qualification (80 marks.)

Section A: Listening (30 marks)

This section will be made up of spoken passages covering different registers and types, including authentic communication involving male and female speakers. Sources will include material from online media.

Section B: Reading (30 marks)

The reading section will be made up of texts containing both factual and abstract content and will be authentic or adapted from authentic sources. The texts will include contemporary, historical, literary, fiction and non-fiction, written for different purposes and audiences.

Section C: Translation into English (20 marks)

The content for the translation will be taken from one of the four themes.

Paper 2. Written response to works and translation

Written examination: 2 hours and 40 minutes - 30% of qualification (120 marks)

Section A: Translation into TL (20 marks)

Students are given an unseen text in English to translate into German.

Section B: Written response to works (literary texts) (50 marks)**Section C: Written response to works (films) (50 marks)**

Candidates must write an extended response in German on either one literary text and a film or two literary texts from the prescribed literary texts and films.

There will be a choice of two questions for each literary text and film. Students will give a critical and analytical response by selecting relevant material from the works.

Candidates will be expected to present and justify points of view, develop arguments, draw conclusions based on understanding and evaluate issues, themes and cultural and social contexts related to the works studied. Candidates can write 300-350 words although all the essay will be marked regardless of length.

Paper 3: Speaking

Internally conducted and externally assessed - 30% of the qualification (72 marks)

Total assessment time: between 27 and 30 minutes, which includes 15 minutes of formal preparation time.

Task 1 - discussion on a theme based on a stimulus containing two different statements

Task 2 part 1 - independent research presentation, a summary of at least two of the written sources they have used for their research.

Task 2 part 2 - discussion on their independent research topic

AS LEVEL EXAMINATION

Examination Board: Edexcel

Theme 1: Gesellschaftliche Entwicklung in Deutschland

Theme 1 is set in the context of **Germany only**.

Natur und Umwelt

- Umweltbewusstsein; Recycling; erneuerbare Energie; nachhaltig leben

Bildung

- Bildungswesen und die Situation von Studenten; Sitzenbleiben
Berufsausbildung

Die Welt der Arbeit

- Das Arbeitsleben in Deutschland und Arbeitsmoral; deutsche Industrien

Theme 2: Politische und künstlerische Kultur im deutschen Sprachraum

Theme 2 is set in the context of **German-speaking countries and communities**.

Musik

- Wandel und Trends; Einfluss der Musik auf die populäre Kultur

Die Medien

- Fernsehen, Digital-, Print- und Onlinemedien; Einfluss auf die Gesellschaft und die Politik

Die Rolle von Festen und Traditionen

- Feste, Feiern, Sitten, Traditionen

Paper 1. Listening, reading and translation

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes - 40% of qualification. (64 marks).

Section A: Listening (24 marks)

There are four questions in this section made up of multiple-choice and open-response questions, including questions testing summary skills.

Recordings will be issued on CD-ROM audio format or as digital sound files accessed via a secure download.

Students will have individual control of the recording and may stop, revisit and replay sections of the recording as they wish.

Section B: Reading (28 marks)

Students respond to five questions based on the texts provided. Questions comprise both multiple-choice and open-response questions; all questions are set in German and must be answered in German.

Section C: Translation into English (12 marks)

Students are given one unseen text in German and must translate it into English.

Paper 2. Written response to works and translation

1 hour and 40 minutes - 30% of qualification (60 marks).

Section A: Translation into TL (20 marks)

Students are given one unseen text in English and must translate it into German.

Section B: Written response to works (literary texts) (40 marks)

Candidates will have studied **either** a literary text **or** a film from the prescribed lists. There will be a choice of two questions for each literary text and film.

It is recommended that, in order to give a detailed analysis of the work, students write between 275–300 words, giving justified points of view, arguments and conclusions with evidence from the work. The whole essay will be marked regardless of length.

Students are expected to provide a critical response by presenting and justifying points of view, developing arguments and drawing conclusions based on an understanding of the work studied.

Paper 3: Speaking

Internally conducted and externally assessed - 30% of the qualification (72 marks)

Total assessment time: between 27 and 30 minutes, which includes 15 minutes of formal preparation time.

Task 1 (42 marks) requires students to read and respond to two short texts based on Theme 1: *Gesellschaftliche Entwicklung in Deutschland* and then hold a discussion.

Task 2 (30 marks) is based on a discussion from Theme 2: *Politische und künstlerische Kultur im deutschen Sprachraum*.

STUDENT VIEW

German



German has definitely been my favourite subject at AS and A level. I love the mixture of topics you can study; not just the vocabulary and grammar but also literature, politics, history, geography and current affairs (such as Bernhard Schlink's 'Der Vorleser', refugees in Germany, feminism etc.). Learning German allows me to do lots of fun things I do anyway, including watching films, reading the news and books and listening to music! The small class size means that you can request topics you are interested in and spend a lot of time speaking. Last summer I was lucky enough to get a place on the UK-German Connection scholarship programme, which Frau Kawashima helped me to apply for, and spent a month travelling in Germany for free, which was probably the most exciting experience of my life. I have also decided to apply for German at university and Frau Kawashima was very helpful and encouraging with this.

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