



Overview:

German is undoubtedly a challenging but thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding A Level subject. The course is a natural evolution from your GCSE as you will continue to work on the same four key skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) as well as translation into and out of German. You will study many interesting aspects of contemporary German society and German-speaking countries, including technological and social change, multiculturalism and the benefits and challenges it brings as well as highlights of Germany's rich artistic culture and political life. There are also opportunities to explore German theatre and film. The full A Level course allows also for independent research in an area of your choice.

A Level Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing 40% of A Level Course, 2 hours 30 minutes. Assessment focuses on aspects of German-speaking society's current trends and issues, German artistic and political culture and grammar.

A Level Paper 2: Writing 30% of A Level Course, 2 hours. Two c. 300 word essays on each of our studied film (Goodbye, Lenin) and text (Der Besuch der alten Dame).

A Level Paper 3: Speaking 30%, 21-23 minutes. Presentation and discussion of your individual research project. Discussion of a card on one of the themes from aspects of German-speaking society.

Expectations:

Prior to the beginning of the course, you will be expected to complete a transition grammar pack, covering key features from the GCSE specification. You will have a passion for all things German and a commitment to developing all your language skills, both in the classroom and beyond. Throughout the course, you are encouraged to keep up to date with German culture, for example by listening to/reading the news from German speaking countries, and to make the most of the many excellent opportunities the internet offers for research, insights and immersion into German language and culture. You will be a self-motivated and independent learner, able and willing to take responsibility for and track your own progress.

Extra-Curricular Activities / Independent Learning Opportunities:

Unfortunately, due to the smaller class sizes of Sixth Form Languages, it is not cost efficient to offer Sixth Form trips to the target language countries. However there are many travel companies offering opportunities such as work experience and home stay visits, which you could take part in independently during school holidays; Modern Foreign Languages staff would be happy to advise. We may also have theatre/film trips to view German language productions and opportunities to network with German A-level students at Oundle School at events relevant to your studies.

Independent Learning Opportunities:

There is a huge variety of resources available for learning and enjoying German outside the classroom, for example the online resources of the Goethe Institute and the German national broadcaster deutsche Welle. There are also vocabulary flashcards on Quizlet, lesson and revision resources in the shared area, and your own grammar booklet linked to the course. The department also has a small lending library of German films and books.

Career Pathways:

An A Level Language is a prestigious and highly regarded facilitating subject that develops highly valued employability skills; a university graduate of languages is the most employable, after those graduating in Medicine or Law.

Studying a language at A Level opens many doors and the list of professions and industries where a language is useful is extensive, but includes: Interpreter, Translator, Law, Journalism, Tourism, Engineering, Central Government (the Foreign office, Ministry of Defence, MI5 and MI6), Marketing, Retail, Event Management, the Voluntary and Charitable Sector, sporting organisations, education and many more! Germany today is the political, economic, artistic and intellectual powerhouse of Europe. Knowledge of the mother tongue of 100 million people has never been more important for governments, businesses, and private citizens, and students of German are therefore consistently amongst the most sought-after graduates for major employers.

Good combinations of other subjects to study with French are:

Other Languages, English, History, Business Studies, Mathematics, Science.

Student Testimonials:

"The German A-level is a well-structured and varied course; I enjoy learning how to use the language in many contemporary contexts, as well as discussing literature and film in German."