Wath Sixth Form Subject Preparation Pack

GERMAN

World-class learning
World-class learning every lesson, every day

The highest expectations
Everyone can be successful; always set and expects the highest standards

No excuses
Create solutions not excuses; make positive thinking a habit

Growth mindset
Believe you can improve; work hard and value feedback

Never give up
Resilience is essential; be relentless in the pursuit of excellence

Everyone is valued
Diversity is celebrated; see the best in everyone
A Level German Transition Pack

Contents

- What is A level German?
- Why should I study German at A level?
- What careers could A Level German lead to?
- What will I study and how will I be assessed?
- Who will teach me?
- Recommended resources
- Additional support

What is A level German?

Hallo! Wie geht’s? Many people will say that A Level German is the study of the German language at an advanced level. Well, it is that... and much more! Yes, you will improve your existing language skills and build on the essential skills for speaking, listening, reading and writing the German language. But you will also develop your understanding of the culture and society of the countries where German is spoken. You will look at the multicultural nature of German-speaking society. You will study highlights of German art, architecture and traditions. You will also look at German history, including the Third Reich, Re-unification and the future path of modern Germany. You will study texts and film and you will have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of your choice. Above all, the A Level German course helps students to become confident and effective communicators on a variety of current and poignant affairs.

Why should I study German?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwpxS8ixHAY

English, French and German are the three official working languages of the European Union. In absolute numbers, German is the second most-spoken language on the continent of Europe. However, when it comes to native speakers, German is number one. It may not have the numbers behind it that Chinese does, but knowing German gives you approximately 100 million additional people to talk to. Not such a small pool after all!

Germany is home to a large number of economic global players. Siemens, Volkswagen, Adidas and Lufthansa are globally recognized brands and corporations. The country also hosts some of the biggest international trade fairs including CeBIT, the world’s largest exhibition for information technology, as well as the IFA trade fair for consumer electronics. Meanwhile the German capital, Berlin, is turning into a hub for innovative start-ups. Some go so far as to dub it “the Silicon Valley of Europe.” As a consequence, knowing German has the potential to greatly enhance your career opportunities. The question is not why you should study German, but why not? Studying a language is extremely beneficial and will help you develop a variety of essential skills:

- Excellent communication skills
- Independence
- Critical thinking
- Oracy
- Independent research skills
- Empathy
- Confidence
- Ability to “think on your feet”
What careers could A level German lead to?

A knowledge of a modern foreign language is useful in a range of different careers. Only a minority of people who study German become language teachers. Students of German find employment in many different sectors. These include law, finance, business administration, sales and marketing, banking, journalism, media, politics, public services, transport, tourism and hospitality, and international aid. Speaking foreign languages is also useful if you want to work abroad. Have a look at some examples of degrees offered by universities to A Level German students:

- International Business with German – Sheffield Hallam, Queen’s Belfast,
- Biological Sciences with German – Imperial College London
- Law with German Law – University of Birmingham
- Mechanical Engineering with German – University of Sheffield
- German Studies with Computing – Lancaster University
- Economics with German – Royal Holloway, University of London

What will I study and how will I be assessed??

At Wath Academy we cover the AQA German syllabus which covers a breadth of knowledge split across 3 papers. AQA assesses all content at the end of the course meaning that you will sit all 3 exams in the summer of Y13. As a department, we conduct ongoing assessment throughout the two years which will reflect the full spectrum of skill and question styles assessed by the exam board. This ranges from 1 mark multiple choice questions to 40 mark essay based questions.

### Paper 1

**2 hours 30 mins**

**Total raw mark = 100**

This paper tests the skills of listening, reading and writing.

**Topics covered are:**

- Familie im Wandel
- Die digitale Welt
- Jugendkultur
- Immigration
- Integration
- Rassismus
- Feste und Traditionen
- Kunst und Architektur
- Berlin damals und heute
- Deutschland und die EU
- Die Politik und die Jugend
- Die Wiedervereinigung

### Paper 2

**2 hours**

**Total raw mark = 80**

This is the essay paper and is based on the study of a book and a film.

**Examples of texts:**

- Andorra
- Der Besuch der alten Dame
- Russendisko
- Der Vorleser

**Examples of films:**

- Goodbye, Lenin!
- Das Leben der Anderen
- Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei
- Lola rennt

### Paper 3

**Approx. 23 minutes**

**Total raw mark = 60**

This is the speaking exam

For this exam, you will choose a subject or a key question that you are interested in and which relates to a German-speaking country. You will research this topic during Y13 and in this exam you will talk about your research.

You will also discuss a stimulus card on one of the topics from Paper 1.
Who will be my teacher?
Miss Williamson is responsible for the teaching of German at KS5.

Q: How long have you been teaching A level German?
A: I took my first A level group in September 1994, so I have a lot of experience of teaching different types of A level courses and seeing students through to some really high grades.

Q: Favourite thing about teaching A level German?
A: I absolutely love going through the journey that takes a student from GCSE-level German to A Level. For GCSE, you probably learned answers by heart or completed short role-plays. By the time you take your German A Level exams, your fluency in German will astound you. You will be able to understand and discuss some quite difficult and diverse topics in a completely different language!
To get you to this point we will need to help develop your confidence, spontaneity, ideas and arguments and expose you to a wide range of cultural experiences. I love to see students find an area of German culture or history that they love and want to talk and write about and the confidence that they develop as they progress through the course. Personally, learning languages has given me a huge confidence boost and enriched my life hugely in terms of friendships and experiences. It is character-building and can be life-changing.

Q: What are your favourite memories of teaching A level German?
A: There have been so many! ...... the student who went from a “D” in her mock exams to an “A” in her final exam ...... fabulous trips to Berlin and Munich, including a visit to a nuclear bunker! ...... visits to the cinema and theatre...... the debates we have had in lessons – all in German – on so many things from pop music to euthanasia and Donald Trump! What I probably enjoy most is meeting up with or receiving photos and postcards from former students who have then gone on to amazing jobs, travelling the world and hearing that their German studies gave them the confidence to do it.

Q: What’s your biggest tip to help someone do well at A level German?
A: Learning a language is acquiring a new skill - you cannot do it overnight and it takes constant practice. You need to be really motivated to keep working on it throughout the course – watching German films, listening to the news in German, going back over that difficult grammar concept until you get it right. You can’t do all the work in class!

Q: What have students gone on to do?
A: We have former students working in science and engineering, software development, finance, law, education – all types of careers and living all over the world. One former student is a lecturer in Law at Hamburg University. Two former students are working as webdesigners in Berlin. Taking an A level in German does not mean that you have to do a degree in German – the skills that you acquire at A level should enhance any career path you go into.
**Recommended resources**

**AQA A level German—Oxford University Press**

This is the textbook predominantly used by school and you will be provided with a copy of it, together with the online digital support package. In addition, your teachers will guide you to access the wealth of online materials and resources that will be useful to your studies. Some examples of these are given below.

**Online resources**

- www.languagesonline.org.uk
- BBC Bitesize German
- www.german.net (lots of grammar revision activities to choose from here)
- Quizlet – Yr 12 German
- Memrise – Yr 12 German
- Duolingo – Yr 12 German
- Also try this Kahoot game: Das grosse Deutschland Quiz
- [http://archive.teachfind.com/ttv/ww.teachers.tv/series/extragerman.html](http://archive.teachfind.com/ttv/ww.teachers.tv/series/extragerman.html) (German “soap” aimed at students learning German)

**What can I do to prepare for German A Level?**

- Revise key vocabulary from the topics covered at GCSE.
- Apps such as [memrise](https://www.memrise.com/) or [Quizlet](https://quizlet.com/en-gb) are interactive and fun.
- Look through available GCSE Listening, Reading and Writing practice, especially past papers.
- [https://www.aqa.org.uk/](https://www.aqa.org.uk/)
- Revise verbs, tenses and grammar points covered in GCSE.
- [https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/germanindex.html](https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/germanindex.html)
- Make use of revision sites.
- [https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z4yyjhy](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z4yyjhy)
- Read through the German A Level Specification [https://www.aqa.org.uk/](https://www.aqa.org.uk/)
Transition tasks

Aim: The aim of these tasks is to keep your existing knowledge of German active and to ease the transition into the study of German at A Level standard. By completing the tasks below, you will consolidate or develop knowledge of important content which will inevitably aid your understanding of the German A Level course.

To work on your LISTENING

It is easier to start with short news bulletins. Video clips are ideal as they are easier to understand. Start with shorter clips and then when you feel ready, you could choose a radio programme from the radio station websites listed below. Play the clips two or three times and list down the words you understand. As you become more confident, you can write a brief summary of 40-50 words in German.

News and current affairs

- News in Slow German: https://open.spotify.com/show/4CAPKEyQ9KHtm9XEkJWhp3
- Scroll down to ‘7 Tage Rückblick’ and watch 1 episode of news every week, making a note of ANYTHING you understand (and ignoring what you don’t for now): https://www.zdf.de/kinder/logo/alle-logo-sendungen-100.html
- Start following at least 3 different German language news outlets on social media – aim to find some each from Germany, Switzerland and Austria
- Research: What are the political parties in Germany/Switzerland/Austria? Who are they led by? What do they stand for? What are the main political issues at the moment?

Music, Books and Podcasts

- Discover German music on Spotify: https://open.spotify.com/user/goethe-institut
- Find a German song/band/artist you like and complete the gap-fills until you can complete ‘advanced’ (or even ‘expert’?!): https://lyricstraining.com/de/
- Find some German language podcasts that you enjoy and listen to them regularly

Social Media

- Start a collection of German language memes
- Find out who the current social media influencers are in Germany, Switzerland and Austria
- Follow a range of German social media accounts related to your own hobbies and interests
TV AND FILMS TO WATCH:

The following are just suggestions – the films in bold type are also on the A level specification.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>TV/Film</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Netflix</td>
<td>Skylines</td>
<td>TV</td>
<td>Crime drama series about hip-hop producer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holiday Secrets</td>
<td>TV</td>
<td>Family secrets come out at Christmas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We Are The Wave</td>
<td>TV</td>
<td>Teens revolt against nationalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Criminal: Germany</td>
<td>TV</td>
<td>Set within the interview room of a police station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charité</td>
<td>TV</td>
<td>Medical/historical drama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charité at War</td>
<td>TV</td>
<td>Set in hospital during WW2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dark</td>
<td>TV</td>
<td>Mystery drama – German ‘Stranger Things’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nailed It! Germany</td>
<td>TV</td>
<td>Amateur baking show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Look Who’s Back</td>
<td>Film</td>
<td>Satire about Hitler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Awakening of Motti Wolkenbruch</td>
<td>Film</td>
<td>Comedy about an Orthodox Jewish man falling in love with a non-Jewish woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rock My Heart</td>
<td>Film</td>
<td>Animal film</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>My Fuehrer</td>
<td>Film</td>
<td>Comedy about Hitler preparing for a speech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We are young. We are strong.</td>
<td>Film</td>
<td>Based on the Xenophobic riots in North Germany in the 1990s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trick or Treaters</td>
<td>Film</td>
<td>Animation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amazon Prime</td>
<td>Welcome to Germany</td>
<td>Film</td>
<td>A German family takes in a refugee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Balloon</td>
<td>Film</td>
<td>Germans attempt to flee the East by using a hot air balloon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Behind the Wall</td>
<td>Docu</td>
<td>Documentary about East/West Berlin and the fall of the wall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Das Leben der Anderen (Lives of Others)</td>
<td>Film</td>
<td>Film about the work of the Stasi in East German and how they spied on the population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All4/Walter Presents</td>
<td>Deutschland 83</td>
<td>TV</td>
<td>Drama about young East German sent as a spy to the West.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deutschland 86</td>
<td>TV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YouTube</td>
<td>Sophie Scholl</td>
<td>Film</td>
<td>Film about the anti-Nazi resistance fighter, Sophie Scholl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Das Wunder von Bern</td>
<td>Film</td>
<td>Film about a young boy who adores football and the first World Cup after WW2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Spend 10 minutes trying to learn the German
  - states: https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3014
  - capital cities: https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3189
  - important cities: https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3030

- Research these opportunities for visiting Germany:
  - https://ukgermanconnection.org/yp/get-involved/german-pupil-courses/
  - https://www.workexperienceabroad.co.uk/germany/

- Find your preferred online dictionary
  - www.duden.de - monolingual German dictionary
  - http://dict.leo.com - Extensive online German dictionary
  - www.WordRef.com - online dictionaries in a number of languages
  - www.verbix.com - online verb conjugator

- And if you really must use an online translation tool then try these:
  - Linguee - advanced, sophisticated translation comparison tool: www.linguee.com
  - Deepl - even more advanced than Linguee: www.deepl.com

- Find a range of German language learning apps – Which would you recommend and why?
Finally, challenge yourself!

**Challenge 1** – The Lock down challenge!  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GMUrIgfGXo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GMUrIgfGXo)

Watch the video about the lock down in Germany. Note down the gist of the message. Make a list of some key words that you may not know. Look them up and learn them. Can you use some of them in sentences?

**Challenge 2** - German Song Version Challenge!

Find a German version of a song you already know on YouTube. Enable (German) subtitles or google the lyrics. Copy out the lyrics. Translate the lyrics into English. How different are they to the official English version? Why?

**Challenge 3** - German ‘Come dine with me’ Challenge!

Find the recipe for a national or regional dish from a German-speaking country. German Spätzle (pasta) is easy enough to make! Prepare the dish and eat it with your family and/or friends. Take a photo and write what you thought of it and why.

**Challenge 4** - Advert Challenge!

Choose any major town or city (or somewhere you’ve actually been) in a German-speaking country. Make a leaflet or brochure about the area (in English or German) advertising it. You could also do it on the computer. Include sections on transport, food, tourist attractions, accommodation, and anything else you find.

**Challenge 5** – Hundertwasserhaus Wien Challenge!

Find out information about this amazing building designed by the artist Hundertwasser. What other works of art is he famous for? What can you find out about him?

**Challenge 6** - Artist Challenge!

Research an artist from a German-speaking country. Find a piece of artwork you like by the artist. Write what you think of their artwork and why in German. Recreate the artwork you’ve found using materials of your choice.

**Challenge 7** - Sport Challenge!

Research a sport, which is either only played in, or originated in, a German-speaking country. Research the rules, too. Play the game with family and/or friends. Take a photo of you playing this sport. Say which sport you chose and write what you thought of it and why.

**Challenge 8** - Charts Challenge!

Look up the top 10 songs in the German charts this week. List the songs (and artists). Use YouTube to listen to them. Choose your favourite German-language song! Make your own video for your chosen song! Write about the song you chose in Spanish, what you thought of it and why.

**Challenge 9** - History Challenge!

Research 3 of the most important people in the history of any German-speaking country. Create a poster / fact-file about each one. You can do this on a computer. Present information about one of the people to your family.

**Challenge 10** – Dance challenge!  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPpYHxaMIlw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPpYHxaMIlw)

It doesn’t matter if you have two left feet, honest! Listen to the song sung in German and enjoy dancing with your family and/or friends. What is the song about? Which words do you understand? Can you find the lyrics online and translate them?

*We look forward to welcoming you to our languages department in September*