

GERMAN (COURSE CODE GM)

Head of Modern Foreign Languages: Mrs J Hopper BA (Hons) MBA

AS Level German : AQA specification (7661)

A Level German: AQA specification (7662)

Course Entry Requirements: Grade 7 at German GCSE

Introduction

In our A-level German studies, we take the knowledge of the language and the culture way beyond GCSE. The work is challenging but rewarding and students engage with written and audio material which Germans themselves read and listen to. German is the medium for discussing a wide range of moral, social and political issues. The emphasis is on students forming, sharing and defending their opinions. There is weekly conversation practice with a native German speaking assistant.

Students will increase their chances of success if they can do extra enrichment work outside the classroom, such as reading German magazines and news articles, watching a film in German and tackling extra comprehension assignments based on current media articles. The languages suite in M10U is available to students in their free periods and at lunchtime for independent speaking and listening practice. Many of our students act as mentors to younger pupils and run language clubs, all of which serve to strengthen and extend their own interest in the languages. During year 12 and 13 additional Oxbridge preparation sessions are run to support any students interested in applying.

Course content

In the first year of the course (the AS level) the following topic areas will be studied, together with one book or film in German:

- Social issues and trends in German-speaking society - changing family forms, relationship, social networks and internet Youth culture -music, fashion, entertainment
- Artistic culture in the German-speaking world - festivals, traditions. art and architecture, Berlin - its history, transformation and current trends

During the second year (A Level), an additional book is studied and the topic areas expanded to include:

- Multiculturalism in German-speaking society - immigration, integration and multiculturalism, racism, and economic and social impact of immigration
- Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world - Germany and the EU, politics and youth's involvement in it, German Reunification: the situation before and after, and the consequences.

A demanding but very rewarding feature of the new A2 specification is the chance to undertake independent research in German (with teacher support) on topics of specific interest to students, within the cultural and social context of German

Course Breakdown

AS and A Level each have 3 externally marked assessed papers. The AS qualification is standalone, and does not count towards A Level.

AS Level breakdown

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation from German to English -	45% of qualification
Paper 2: Written response to set work and translation from English to German	25% of qualification
Paper 3: Speaking: discussion on 2 themes from specification (AS)	30% of qualification

A Level breakdown

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation from German to English and English to German	50% of qualification
Paper 2: Written response to set works	20% of qualification
Paper 3: Speaking: discussion on 2 themes from specification (AS) Discussion on one theme and presentation and discussion on independent research (A2)	30% of qualification

Enrichment Opportunities

In the spring term of Year 12 there is a well-established, voluntary two-week work experience exchange. Places where students have previously worked include kindergartens, primary schools, a tourist information office, a dental surgery and a doctors' practice. In year 12 or 13, there is a study visit to Berlin in the October half term holiday. We also encourage regular attendance at showings or new German Language films at Norden Farm in Maidenhead as well as London theatre performances of German works in the native language or in translation.

University and Careers

German can be read at university as the main subject and it can be studied in association with a large number of other subjects – law, economics, commerce, music, international relations, engineering, European studies, drama, as well as with English and other foreign languages.

Germany is at the heart of an expanded Europe and people with a very good command of German are highly sought after. Students with a qualification in German will definitely enhance their career prospects.

Equipment and Expenses

Essential

Course textbook and grammar books - £35- 50

Optional

Participation in work experience - £300 approx

Berlin trip - - £530 approx

Theatre trips where relevant - £30

Cinema trips where relevant - £6 - 10

(Nov 2018)