

GERMAN

Advanced General Certificate of Education (A level)

The A-level course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or further study, including a modern languages degree. The approach is a focus on how German-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change.

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In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of German-speaking countries.

In the second year further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on issues, such as life for those on the margins of German-speaking society as well as looking at the positive influences that diversity brings.

Students must study the themes and sub-themes below in relation to at least one German-speaking country.

Course Content:

A-LEVEL: GERMAN (7662) AQA

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes • 160 marks in total • 40% of A-level

Paper 2: Writing

- Written exam: 2 hours • 90 marks in total • 30% of A-level

Paper 3: Speaking

- Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)
- 60 marks in total • 30% of A-level

Core content:

Students may study all sub-themes in relation to any German-speaking country or countries:

- The changing state of the family (Familie im Wandel)
- The digital world (Die digitale Welt)
- Youth culture: fashion and trends, music, television (Jugendkultur: Mode, Musik und Fernsehen)

- **Political and artistic culture**

Students must study the themes and sub-themes below in relation to at least one German-speaking country.

- **Artistic culture in the German-speaking world**

Students may study sub-themes Festivals and traditions and Art and architecture in relation to any German-speaking country or countries. Students must study The cultural life of Berlin in relation to Berlin.

- **Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world**

Students may study Politics and youth in relation to any German-speaking country or countries. Students must study the sub-themes Germany and the EU and German re-unification and its consequences in relation to Germany.

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Grammar

A-level students will be expected to have studied the grammatical system and structures of the language during their course. Knowledge of the grammar and structures specified for GCSE is assumed. In the exam students will be required to use, actively and accurately, grammar and structures appropriate to the tasks set.

Works: Literary texts and films

Students must study either one text and one film or two texts from the list below.

Texts

- Heinrich Böll Die verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum
- Bertolt Brecht Mutter Courage und ihre Kinder
- Friedrich Dürrenmatt Der Besuch der alten Dame
- Max Frisch Andorra
- Heinrich Heine Gedichte – Buch der Lieder
- Jana Hensel Zonenkinder
- Franz Kafka Die Verwandlung
- Wladimir Kaminer Russendisko
- Siegfried Lenz Fundbüro
- Bernhard Schlink Der Vorleser

Films

- Good bye, Lenin! Wolfgang Becker (2003)
- Das Leben der Anderen Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (2006)
- Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei Hans Weingartner (2005)
- Almany – Willkommen in Deutschland Yasemin Samdereli (2011)
- Sophie Scholl – Die letzten Tage Marc Rothemund (2005)
- Lola rennt Tom Tykwer (1998)

Individual research project

Students must identify a subject or a key question which is of interest to them and which relates to a country or countries where German is spoken. They must select relevant information in German from a range of sources including the internet. The aim of the research project is to develop research skills. Students will demonstrate their ability to initiate and conduct individual research by analysing and summarising their findings, in order to present and discuss them in the speaking assessment.