

Core aims of German at Key Stage 5

You may have heard that German grammar is difficult and there are a crazy amount of ways to say 'the'. Yes, it's true, there are no fewer than sixteen ways of saying 'the' in German, but once you learn a grammar rule, it will never let you down. If you apply the rules to your work, you won't go far wrong. It's a reliable, comforting blanket of logic and language. The sense of achievement that comes with your first accurate use of the cases, or your piecing together of the word order of a complex sentence is monumental. Learning German presents many challenging opportunities as well as opportunities for personal development. It will keep your brain on its metaphorical toes.

„Warum soll ich Deutsch lernen?“ I hear you cry! Knowing that German is the language of business is motivational, but what does that actually mean? Germany is home to numerous international corporations and is on the front line of new technologies. It is home to a large number of economic global players such as Siemens, Volkswagen, Adidas and Lufthansa, to name but a few. Look closer to home and you'll find that one of the largest employers in the area, Bentley, is German owned. “But they all speak English!” Yes, the German school system may be set up in such a way that every German citizen knows at least some English, but don't forget that communicating with someone in their native tongue is a sign of good faith and respect that is appreciated everywhere. Knowing the language of your German business partners can greatly improve your chances for effective communication and successful professional relationships. Just in case that hasn't convinced you, here's a cool fact: German websites make up a huge part of the Internet. In fact, when it comes to domain endings that are affiliated with a particular country, Germany's *.de* is the most popular domain there is. Surprising, ja?!

Learning German will most definitely prepare you for your future, but it's not all business though. Work yes, but plenty of play too. Germany is a vast and diverse country, with something for everyone. City breaks, family holidays, seaside, lakeside, skiing, the great outdoors, arts, history, fashion, food, music, diversity... and you can sample all of this in a weekend thanks to Germany's excellent transport links!

For all these reasons, we feel that through your A-Level German journey you will be prepared to access a much broader world. As the course goes on, you will develop a greater understanding of the German language as well as different aspects of Germany and German-speaking countries' culture. The topics have been chosen based on the appropriate specification and we have strategically planned out when to teach them and how long to dedicate to each of them, allowing plenty of time for revision.

The A-level specification 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.

Fieldwork

There is currently no arrangement for a work placement in Germany or a German-speaking country in place, but this has been done in

previous years and could definitely be revived if there was enough interest. These students would be able to experience the culture first hand and have the opportunity to put into practice everything they have learnt in the classroom whilst conversing with native German speakers.

Assessment

Students will be tested in listening, reading, speaking and writing and will develop transferable skills, relevant to further study and the world of work. The range of topics within the specification aims to inspire students who are interested in German culture and German-speaking countries. Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based:

- Theme 1: Aspects of German-speaking society
- Theme 2: Artistic culture in the German-speaking world
- Theme 3: Multiculturalism in German-speaking society
- Theme 4: Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world

Homework

This will include past papers, translations and grammar tests, alongside end-of-module assessments. Furthermore, after the film and the book modules, a series of essay writing will take place to prepare students fully for the final exam.

Clubs and/or intervention

Additional support will be provided as needed.

Parental/Carer support

The more support students receive at home, the better. Even if there are no German speakers at home, help with vocabulary learning can be done with no prior knowledge of the language.

Helpful sources of information

There are many news/magazine sites you should be accessing frequently.

The more you read, the more fluent your written and spoken German will be, as you will become familiar with natural, authentic German. Furthermore, you need to know what is going on in German-speaking countries in terms of politics, economics, social issues, sporting achievements, cultural events... (and also have opinions about these!).

Here are some useful websites:

<https://www.dw.com/en/learn-german/mission-berlin-episodes>

<https://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/de/spr/unt/kum/dfj/alv.html>

<https://medienwerkstatt-online.de>

<https://www.deutschland.de/en/career-education-and-lifestyle-in-germany>

<http://www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/post16/>

<https://www.jetzt.de/>

<http://www.fluter.de/>

Connections to future pathways

Careers

- Interpreter
- Secondary school teacher
- Translator
- Import/export
- Travel industry
- Broadcast journalist
- Detective
- Diplomatic service officer
- Education consultant
- English as a foreign language teacher
- Import/export
- International aid/development worker
- IT
- Logistics and distribution manager
- Marketing executive
- Patent examiner
- Public relations
- Private tutor
- Project manager
- Sales executive
- Solicitor
- Tour manager
- Writer

Significant local employers include

- Bet 365
- Müller yoghurt
- Bentley
- Networld Sports

Future learning

Degree courses where languages are required/useful to gain entry

- Classical Studies - useful
- Economics or Business related degrees - useful
- English - sometimes essential, always useful
- European Studies - essential, 2 languages even more useful
- Film Studies - useful
- German - essential, 2 languages even more useful
- History - useful
- History of Art - useful
- Italian - essential, 2 languages even more useful
- Law - useful
- Leisure and Tourism - very useful
- Philosophy - useful
- Speech Therapy - useful
- Teacher Training - essential in some cases, useful in all

Language graduates work for a huge variety of employers and sectors, including:

- business services
- charity work
- engineering
- media
- museums and libraries
- public administration
- teaching
- tourism
- transport and logistics.

Transferable skills

- Communication skills
- Adaptability/resilience /resourcefulness
- Independent learner
- Cultural development
- Global awareness

Term	Knowledge	Assessment	Misconceptions	Representations	Connections to learning
Big Idea: Familie im Wandel (The changing state of the family)					
<p>Rationale: Families are changing, in German-speaking countries the same as everywhere else. The traditional “nuclear family” is no longer the only socially accepted form of adults and children living together. Explore how the issues of marriage, divorce, same-sex relationships, multigenerational living and “patchwork families” are shaping lives in modern German-speaking countries.</p>					
Autumn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compare different types of family in German-speaking countries • learn about modern marriage and partnerships in German-speaking countries • learn how the idea of a modern family is changing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1 end of unit assessment – listening • 3 translations into English • 6 x vocab tests 	<p>At the root of all misconceptions in language learning lies <u>THE</u> misconception: the false assumption that “different language” merely means “different words”. Putting these words together, however, requires a profound understanding of the grammar and idiom of the target language.</p> <p>Disregarding grammar and idiom leads to typical mistakes such as, in this unit, failing to conjugate verbs in the present tense. English has no verb conjugation for most verbs apart from the 3rd person singular, but German fully conjugates all verbs. There are various subclasses of verbs (weak, strong, modal, auxiliary) which all follow slightly different patterns.</p>	<p>Typical representations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • translations of paragraphs into English • translations of individual sentences into German • written summaries of reading or listening passages in German • notes for conversations, roleplays or discussions • written responses to comprehension questions • written paragraphs exploring issues from this unit • short research projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • revising the present tense • revise definite and indefinite articles • revise adjectives • learn techniques to improve reading skills • find and use useful information online • learn how best to organise notes for the AS/A-level course

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Autumn	Big Idea: Die digitale Welt (The digital world)				
	Rationale: Never before have our lives been as dominated by digital technology as they are now. This is also the case in Germany and German-speaking countries. Alongside the many advantages and improvements to everyday life that modern technologies have brought lurk their dangers and their risks. Does one outweigh the other?				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examine the role of social networks in our everyday lives • learn about the development of mobile phone and computer technology and the role of mobile phones and computers today • learn about modern internet celebrities and the darker side of technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 2 end of unit assessment – reading • 3 translations into English • 3 essays • 6 x vocab tests 	<p>At the root of all misconceptions in language learning lies <u>THE</u> misconception: the false assumption that “different language” merely means “different words”. Putting these words together, however, requires a profound understanding of the grammar and idiom of the target language.</p> <p>Disregarding grammar and idiom leads to typical mistakes such as, in this unit, using incorrect word order. In English, additional information (i.e. adverbs) can be placed in a sentence in any order. In German however, they need to follow the rule of time-manner-place. The order of objects is also pre-determined. If any information other than the subject is placed at the start of a sentence, inversion occurs (i.e. the verb comes before the subject).</p>	<p>Typical representations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • translations of paragraphs into English • translations of individual sentences into German • written summaries of reading or listening passages in German • notes for conversations, roleplays or discussions • written responses to comprehension questions • written paragraphs exploring issues from this unit • short research projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • revise gender and case • revise pronouns • revise word order • use bilingual and online dictionaries • participate fluently in discussions • learn the best ways to memorise vocabulary

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Spring	<p align="center">Big Idea: Jugendkultur – Musik, Mode und Fernsehen (Youth culture: fashion and trends, music, television)</p> <p>Rationale: Youth culture in Germany is vibrant and exciting. Far from the net curtains and garden gnomes of their elders, young people in Germany enjoy expressing themselves in music, art and fashion, and via the celebrities they identify with. Popular TV programmes and other media contribute to the collective consciousness of their generation.</p>				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learn about music and songs • learn about the role of celebrities as role models in the lives of young people • learn about fashion trends • learn about the development of TV-watching technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 3 end of unit assessment – listening • 3 translations into English • 3 essays • 6 x vocab tests 	<p>At the root of all misconceptions in language learning lies <u>THE</u> misconception: the false assumption that “different language” merely means “different words”. Putting these words together, however, requires a profound understanding of the grammar and idiom of the target language.</p> <p>Disregarding grammar and idiom leads to typical mistakes such as, in this unit, misforming questions. In English, questions are typically formed using the auxiliary verb “do”. In German, however, questions are achieved by using inversion, i.e. putting the main verb first, e.g. “Do you like chocolate?” = “Magst du Schokolade?” (“Like you chocolate?”).</p>	<p>Typical representations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • translations of paragraphs into English • translations of individual sentences into German • written summaries of reading or listening passages in German • notes for conversations, roleplays or discussions • written responses to comprehension questions • written paragraphs exploring issues from this unit • short research projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • revise present tense modal verbs • revise the simple past (imperfect) and pluperfect tenses • ask questions • revise infinitive constructions • translate into English • research a famous German speaker • acquire techniques to improve reading skills • translate accurately from English into German

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Spring	<p>Big Idea: Feste und Traditionen (Festivals and traditions)</p> <p>Rationale: Germans like to celebrate – any excuse will do! No fewer than 16 national or regional public holidays are celebrated in Germany every year. Many of these festivals and celebrations are deeply rooted in tradition – Christian, pagan, or otherwise. Find out why otherwise perfectly sane people choose to dress up as demons and witches and roam around the streets in February!</p>				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learn how New Year and Christmas are celebrated in Germany and where some of these traditions come from • find out how carnival is celebrated in different areas of Germany, research other festivals using the internet, and compare them • decide if public holidays are simply a business opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 4 end of unit assessment – reading • 3 translations into English • 6 x vocab tests 	<p>At the root of all misconceptions in language learning lies <u>THE</u> misconception: the false assumption that “different language” merely means “different words”. Putting these words together, however, requires a profound understanding of the grammar and idiom of the target language. Disregarding grammar and idiom leads to typical mistakes such as, in this unit, using the wrong past tense, or using the correct past tense incorrectly. In English, the default past tense is the imperfect, however in German, the default is the perfect tense. The perfect tense in German furthermore has 2 auxiliary verbs vs only 1 auxiliary verb in English. There is also the matter of word order, with the past participle moving to the end of the clause in German.</p>	<p>Typical representations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • translations of paragraphs into English • translations of individual sentences into German • written summaries of reading or listening passages in German • notes for conversations, roleplays or discussions • written responses to comprehension questions • written paragraphs exploring issues from this unit • short research projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • revise the perfect tense and the simple past (imperfect) tense of <i>haben, sein</i> and the modal verbs • identify how separable and inseparable verbs are used in a sentence • revise how to deal with reflexive verbs • show understanding of the listening strategies you have learnt so far • learn how to find the main points in a text and summarise them • learn how to answer questions, including inferring meaning

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Summer	<p align="center">Big Idea: Kunst und Architektur (Art and architecture)</p> <p>Rationale: How many times have you seen the Disney logo? Well, did you know that this famous icon is based on a real-life fairytale castle in Germany, designed by a delusional 19th century Bavarian king? German art and architecture is as diverse as it is surprising and offers anything and everything from medieval castles to modern conceptual art. Enjoy!</p>				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe which features are characteristic of different building styles up to 1900 find out about and discuss various artists and styles of art discuss opinions about <i>Jugendstil</i> art and architecture in Vienna at the turn of the century consider issues surrounding post-war architecture in Germany 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 5 end of unit assessment – listening 3 translations into English 3 essays 6 x vocab tests 	<p>At the root of all misconceptions in language learning lies <u>THE</u> misconception: the false assumption that “different language” merely means “different words”. Putting these words together, however, requires a profound understanding of the grammar and idiom of the target language.</p> <p>Disregarding grammar and idiom leads to typical mistakes such as, in this unit, using incorrect word order relating to verbs. In English, the verb usually comes after the subject. The placement of verbs in German, however, is dependent on the number of verbs in a clause, and on whether it is a main clause or a subordinate clause, with verbs often moving to unexpected positions. e.g. before the subject or at the end of the clause.</p>	<p>Typical representations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> translations of paragraphs into English translations of individual sentences into German written summaries of reading or listening passages in German notes for conversations, roleplays or discussions written responses to comprehension questions written paragraphs exploring issues from this unit short research projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand word order in main and subordinate clauses use comparative and superlative (adjectives and adverbs) understand and use relative pronouns, demonstrative pronouns, indefinite pronouns use the future tense make your sentences more interesting improve and acquire techniques for answering questions compare contrasting viewpoints and add your own opinion

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Summer	<p align="center">Big Idea: Das Berliner Kulturleben damals und heute (Cultural life in Berlin, past and present)</p> <p>Rationale: Berlin must be one of the most exciting cities in Europe. Irrevocably shaped by its often violent history, it continues to thrive and produce breathtaking culture despite – or perhaps because of? – the odds. Traditional cultural institutions such as museums, theatres and orchestras flourish alongside a plethora of often eccentric subcultures which reflect the huge diversity of the city's population.</p>				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> learn how Berlin developed from the 18th century onwards find out about theatres, music and museums in Berlin learn about the cultural life in Berlin during the Nazi period analyse diversity among the population of Berlin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 6 end of unit assessment – reading 3 translations into English 3 essays 6 x vocab tests 	<p>At the root of all misconceptions in language learning lies <u>THE</u> misconception: the false assumption that “different language” merely means “different words”. Putting these words together, however, requires a profound understanding of the grammar and idiom of the target language.</p> <p>Disregarding grammar and idiom leads to typical mistakes such as, in this unit, neglecting to use correct endings on adjectives and articles. English is a genderless and caseless language and therefore has no adjectival endings. In German however, these are necessary to reflect the gender and case of the noun they refer to. Neglecting them can lead to the meaning becoming obscured.</p>	<p>Typical representations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> translations of paragraphs into English translations of individual sentences into German written summaries of reading or listening passages in German notes for conversations, roleplays or discussions written responses to comprehension questions written paragraphs exploring issues from this unit short research projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use prepositions and prepositional adverbs use subjunctive 2; <i>wenn</i> clauses adverbs and adverbial phrases practise using adjectives, with and without articles in all cases check and edit your writing to improve accuracy plan and carry out your AS-level revision use the preparation time well in the speaking exam

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Summer	<p>Big Idea: Film study (“Goodbye Lenin”)</p> <p>Rationale: History looms large in the German national consciousness and surfaces in many aspects of life, including the media and the arts. German cinema is often gritty and fiercely political. “Goodbye Lenin” explores the aftermath of the postwar separation and then re-unification of Germany with gentle humour and plenty of “feels” – get the tissues ready!</p>				
	<p>Students will engage in a detailed study of the film which includes activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • watching the film • studying the historical and social background of the film • analysing the various characters • analysing the various themes and plots • practising essay writing in preparation for the exam 				