

A-Level German



Transition pack

SLEAFORD JOINT SIXTH FORM

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to your German Studies in the Sixth Form.

You may find that making the adjustment from GCSE to A-Level initially overwhelming. This is because you will deal with a different level of language, one where you express opinions, thoughts, disagreements and agreements and also language that you will have to use at a greater length.

This guide will inform you on the course in general and will help you and your parents focus more efficiently on the various tasks at hand with general guidelines and advice to make the most of your German Studies at this level.

All information given in the booklet covers the syllabus and general requirements for German with AQA.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

- ❖ is well organised
- ❖ is not afraid to use computers
- ❖ strives for 100% by critically reflecting on their writing and speaking skills
- ❖ aims for fluency and communication
- ❖ takes responsibility for learning
- ❖ has good reading habits
- ❖ knows how to paraphrase
- ❖ knows synonyms and antonyms
- ❖ can work independently on listening and reading tasks
- ❖ adapts to different activities
- ❖ understands the examination criteria
- ❖ uses the language assistant fully
- ❖ asks for help
- ❖ does not give up at the first hurdle



EXPECTATIONS

What do we expect from you?

- A mature attitude to your studies
- Actively seeking help using specialist language resources / websites
- Approximately 4 hours of work outside the classroom every week
- Completion of all homework. This includes oral presentation and preparation, listening, reading, writing and learning vocabulary
- Discuss any difficulties you are having before they become too serious
- Regular punctual attendance at all lessons and conversation lessons (no less than 95% in each half term). Failure to do so will seriously jeopardise your future on the course
- Your opinions, ideas and suggestions; your voice!

What can you expect you from us?

- We will encourage your independent study and research from the outset
- We will follow up on work missed and have regular contact with parents
- We will listen to you and support your study and help where necessary
- We will provide interesting lessons which will lead you towards your target grade
- We will set ways for improvement (by target-setting, referral to other resources)
- Work will be set and marked regularly with written feedback

What can help you?

- A good bi-lingual dictionary. You will need a bigger one than the one for GCSE, preferably with a list of verbs in various tenses. A dictionary and grammar book will be recommended
- A trip/exchange to the country you are studying. You should aim to spend at least 2 weeks at some time during your 2-year course or longer if possible. Try to participate in any trips that the department offers
- Access to the internet at home and at school so that you can research topics
- An A4 lever arch ring binder with subject dividers to manage your notes (sets of 15 are probably ideal)
- E-mail access to keep in contact with your teachers
- Highlighter pens will be very useful
- Regular access to a quality English newspaper (no tabloids). Familiarise yourself with what is happening in Germany / Switzerland / Austria / Europe. Collect articles on the topics you will be studying

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Study skills:

- Begin to develop creativity
- Developing writing skills
- Dictionary skills
- Effective listening skills
- Extracting key information
- Formal and informal writing
- Independent research of topics
- Listen and read authentic material
- Summarising
- Use of ICT and internet
- Use the Target Language throughout lessons

THE AQA COURSE

Full details of the course can be found on the AQA website – you should download and read the Specification.

A level

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/german-7662>

General overview of the topics covered in Year 12:

Social Issues & Trends: Aspects of German Speaking Society

- The changing state of the family (SGA)
- The digital world (SGA)
- Youth Culture: fashion and trends, music, television (SGA)

Political and Artistic Culture: Artistic Culture in the German-speaking World

- Festivals and Traditions (SGA)
- Art & Architecture (KSHS)
- Cultural Life in Berlin, past and present (KSHS)

Literary Texts and Films

- Film – ‘Good Bye, Lenin!’ (KSHS)

General overview of the topics covered in Year 13:

Social Issues & Trends: Multiculturalism in German-speaking Society

- Immigration (TBC)
- Integration (TBC)
- Racism (TBC)

Political and Artistic Culture: Aspects of Political Life in the German-speaking World

- Germany & The European Union (TBC)
- Politics and youth (TBC)
- German re-unification & its consequences (TBC)

Literary Texts and Films

- Text – ‘Russendisko’ by Wladimir Kaminer (TBC)

Individual Research Project

- Each student researches an individual project related to a German speaking country to discuss in the speaking exam. Students can research the same subject area but must have different titles. (KSHS)
- You will also spend half an hour per week practising speaking with the German assistants. You will spend 30 minutes with the assistant at KSHS and SGA each fortnight in Year 12.

We will also cover a huge amount of grammar...

- **Nouns:** gender, singular and plural forms, genitive singular and dative plural forms, weak masculine nouns
- **Determiners:** definite article, indefinite article (including *kein*), *demonstratives* (including *der/die/das*), possessives, other determiners (e.g. *alle, viel/viele, welcher*)
- **Pronouns:** personal, reflexive, relative, demonstrative, indefinite (*jemand, niemand*), possessive, interrogative (*wer, wen, wem, was*)
- **Adjectives:** adjectival endings, comparative and superlative, adjectives with the dative (e.g. *es ist mir klar*), adjectives with prepositions (e.g. *stolz auf*)
- **Adverbs and adverbials:** time, place, direction (e.g. *hin, heraus*), manner, degree (e.g. *sehr*), comparative and superlative, interrogative (*wann, warum, wo, wie, wie viel*), numbers and fractions, clock time, days of the week, months
- **Modal particles / discourse markers:** e.g. *ja, doch, wohl*
- **Verbs:** weak, strong, mixed and irregular forms of verbs, reflexive verbs, separable/inseparable, infinitive constructions: *lassen* and *sich lassen* with infinitive, modal verbs (*dürfen, können, mögen, müssen, sollen, wollen*) : present and imperfect, tenses; imperfect subjunctive of *mögen* and *können*, auxiliary (*haben, sein, werden*), use of *haben* or *sein* in the perfect, infinitive constructions (*um ... zu, ohne ... zu*, verbs with *zu*),
- **Tense, voice and mood:** present, perfect, perfect (modal verbs) (R), imperfect/simple past, future, conditional, future perfect (R), conditional perfect (R), pluperfect, passive voice (with *werden*), imperative, subjunctive in conditional clauses (imperfect), subjunctive in conditional clauses (pluperfect) (R), subjunctive in indirect speech (R)
- **Prepositions:** fixed case and dual case, prepositional adverbs (*da(r)+preposition*, e.g. *darauf*)
- **Conjunctions:** coordinating, subordinating
- **The Case System:** the subject and the finite verb, accusative objects, dative objects, prepositional objects, the use of the nominative case with copular verbs (e.g. *sein, werden, bleiben*)
- **Clause structure and word order:** main clause word order, questions and commands, position of pronouns, position of adverbials, position of *nicht*, word order variation to change emphasis, subordinate clauses introduced by a conjunction (e.g. *dass, obwohl*)
- **Word formation:** compound nouns, forming nouns from verbs, forming nouns from adjectives, forming verbs from nouns, forming verbs from adjectives, separable and inseparable prefixes
- **Adjectives:** Use of long adjective phrases (R)
- **Tense, voice and mood:** perfect (modal verbs), future perfect, conditional perfect, conditional sentence with omitted *wenn* e.g. *hätte ich mehr Zeit gehabt, wäre das nicht passiert* (R), passive with *sein*, subjunctive in conditional clauses (pluperfect), all forms of indirect speech
- **Clause structure and word order:** use of the prepositional adverb (*da(r)+preposition* e.g. *darauf*) to anticipate *dass* clauses and dependent infinitive clauses (R)

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The course is assessed at the end of Year 13 and will cover everything from the 2-year course

A level exams

- Paper 1:** Listening, Reading & Writing
2 hr 30 mins – 50%
Listening exercises, reading exercise, translation into English,
translation into German
- Paper 2:** Writing
2 hrs – 20%
Essays on 'Good bye, Lenin!' and 'Russendisko'
- Paper 3:** Speaking
21-23 mins (including prep.) exam with Mr Rooke – 30%
Discussion card on one sub-topic 5-6 mins, 2 min presentation of
individual project, 9-10 min discussion of individual project



Reading Tips

➤ **Read as much as you can**

Try to read at least one thing in German each day. Use the internet to find articles in newspapers, magazines etc. Aim to record 5-10 new words per article and learn them.

➤ **Keep it short**

Try to attempt short stories and articles as they are easier than longer texts or books. 'Lesser' quality newspapers, e.g. Das Bild, are easier to read than the intellectual ones and you can find articles online each day!

➤ **Get the gist**

You don't have to understand every single word. See how much you can understand but don't try to translate it all. If you have to look anything up, make a list of the vocabulary and revise it regularly. Look at titles, headings and pictures, opening and closing paragraphs for clues to their content. Look for familiar words and cognates.

➤ **Use the library**

Reading something you are already familiar with is easier to get into and helps expand your vocabulary.

➤ **Make a note**

Make a note of any idioms or phrases you like. You may be able to use them in future writing or speaking tasks. This impresses examiners!



Writing Tips

➤ **Imitate the language**

Try to imitate the language you've seen in your reading and in German lessons, the language will then begin to come naturally.

➤ **Use new structures**

Incorporate as many new structures in all your writing as you can. You need to move on from GCSE level language. Expect regular grammar and vocabulary exercises and tests to ensure you're learning!

➤ **Use your previous work**

Learn from what you got right and wrong in your previous work. (Don't just look at the grade on the bottom!)

➤ **Plan ahead**

Make sure to plan your work carefully but don't be tempted to write in English first and translate – this never works. Think of a simpler way of conveying the same message. Plan and organise your thoughts into paragraphs. Develop your ideas.

➤ **Check your work**

Use a checklist to check for: agreement, genders, plurals, tenses, word order and all punctuation.

➤ **Use the library**

The library is well stocked with dictionaries and grammar and vocabulary books for reference or practice.



Speaking Tips

➤ **Keep on practising**

Use German at every opportunity – in the classroom and with teachers, native speakers and when you go abroad. Make the most of time with the German assistants. Even speaking to other members of your class outside of lessons will be a great help. Absurd as it sounds – speak to yourself in the target language!

➤ **Communicate**

Speaking is about expressing ideas; you don't need to know every word. The more you practise and the more German you listen to, the more accurate and fluent you will become. Compile a bank of useful phrases (expressing opinions, introducing ideas, disagreeing...). Maybe get yourself a copy of Wort für Wort which is an excellent vocabulary resource for A-Level.

➤ **Don't be shy**

It's up to you to make the effort to speak German. Contribute as much as possible in class; do not worry about other students' ability or that they might be 'better' than you. Don't be shy – try! 😊



Listening Tips

➤ **Get the gist**

Again, you don't have to understand every single word. See how much you can understand but don't try to translate it all. If you have to look anything up, make a list of the vocabulary and revise it regularly. Keep a section in your folder or an exercise book for this.

➤ **Keep listening**

Before attempting any question, listen to the passage thoroughly to find out what it is about. Listen to an extract several times; it helps to tune your ear and you'll pick up extra words. Unlike GCSE, you can do this in the exam as you have control of the audio.

➤ **Use the news, watch TV programmes, listen to the radio, watch films**

The news is often easier to understand than a DJ for example; the articulation is often better. Try <http://www.euronews.net>. Select the 'Deutsch' language option at the top, listen to the videos with transcripts. The library has a selection of German films – so have the teachers at KSHS and CGS! Don't forget to check Netflix for their latest offering. A quick Google search will give you hundreds of radio stations too!

Regular listening practice is essential and you will then:

- Consolidate language you have already acquired
- Extend your awareness of accent and intonation
- Extend your vocabulary
- Improve your ability to recognise language at speed
- Improve your accent
- Increase your comprehension of topic-based language
- Recognise general and precise message

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.google.de / www.yahoo.de
<http://gut.languageskills.co.uk/index.html>
www.languagesonline.org.uk
www.linguascope.com
www.funwithlanguages.vacau.com
www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german
www.planet-wissen.de
www.young-germany.de
www.tatsacheneuberdeutschland.de/de - facts about Germany
<http://dict.leo.org/> - dictionary
www.goethe.de - Website of the Goethe Institut
www.deutschland-tourismus.de - Website of Deutsche Zentrale für Tourismus
www.bpb.de - Website of Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung
www.sowieso.de - children's news, archived by topics and at appropriate level for AS
www.tagesschau.de - daily news in written and video/podcast form + archive material
<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/0,,8030,00.html> – slowed down news
www.ksta.de - regional newspaper from Cologne - level and style of reporting is appropriate for 6th formers and there is an excellent topic based archive
www.welt.de - national and international coverage of news, more detailed than the regional newspapers
www.zeit.de - as above, excellent listening/video materials
www.germanonline.com - a useful general website
www.radiolisten.de – radio stations in Germany online
<https://www.britishcouncil.de/en> - British Council in Germany
<http://neuneinhalb.wdr.de/sendungen/index.php5> - videos which last about 10 minutes on various topical issues
<https://conjuguemos.com/activities/german/verb/1> - German verb conjugation practice

GERMAN MAGAZINES

Focus www.focus.de
Der Spiegel www.spiegel.de
Brigitte www.brititte.de
stern www.stern.de
Deutschland www.magazine-deutschland.de (Forum für Politik, Kultur und Wirtschaft)
Stafette www.stafette.de
X-MAG http://jugend.kolping.de/x-mag.html?pe_id=41
Bravo www.bravo.de/online/
Bym www.bym.de (BRIGITTE Young Miss)
POPCORN www.popcorn-mag.de
NEON www.neon.de
fluter www.fluter.de (Magazin der Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung)

WHAT SHOULD I ALREADY KNOW?

This is a common question asked by students who are about to start their A-Level. You should be able to use the following grammar in listening, reading, speaking, writing and translation to give information and opinions about the following topics from the GCSE:

- present tense
- perfect tense
- future tense
- conditional tense
- modal verbs
- separable and reflexive verbs
- singular and plural nouns
- negatives
- infinitive phrases
- 4 cases in main clauses
- 4 cases after prepositions
- coordinating and subordinating conjunctions with accurate word order
- adjectives with endings
- comparative and superlative forms
- pronouns (personal, reflexive, object, possessive, interrogative)

1. Me, my family and friends
2. Technology in everyday life
3. Free-time activities
4. Customs and festivals
5. Home, town, neighbourhood and region
6. Social issues (Charity and voluntary work; healthy and unhealthy living)
7. Global issues (Poverty and homelessness; environment)
8. Travel and Tourism
9. My studies
10. Life at school and college
11. Education Post-16
12. Jobs, career choices and ambitions

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

During the course of the year you will be sitting internal assessments as well as the external exams at the end of the year.

- You will have an assessment in the first week of term which will assess the work you have done over the summer as well as your suitability for the course.
- You will sit a formal mock exam in Term 5.
- You will be tested informally in class on a regular basis.

In order to help develop your skills in preparation, the jobs below should be completed by the beginning of the course.

1. Sign up for the Y12 LanguageNut Class by emailing Mr Rooke (lee.rooke@kshs.uk) and achieve at least 10000 points
2. Complete the Bridging the Gap workbook which focuses on vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing and translation for the 6 Year 12 topics
3. Translate this blurb of 'Good Bye, Lenin!' into English and then watch the film (currently available on Amazon Prime for £2.49 although buying a copy would be good)

“Das Thema von „Good Bye, Lenin!“ ist der Mauerfall 1989 und die politische Entwicklung der beiden deutschen Staaten bis zur Wiedervereinigung im Oktober 1990. Die fiktive Geschichte der Ostberliner Familie Kerner reflektiert die politischen Ereignisse. Der Film zeigt die letzten zwei Jahre der DDR, die Veränderungen im Alltag, das Verschwinden von Werten und Lebenseinstellungen. Die gesellschaftliche Entwicklung führt bei den Protagonisten im Film zu persönlichen Veränderungen. Ironisch zeigt der Film einen möglichen alternativen Verlauf der Geschichte.“

4. Complete the Stretch and Challenge Listening workbook which focuses on elements of vocabulary, grammar, listening and writing not covered in the Bridging the Gap workbook
5. Complete and practise your answers to the General Conversation Questions booklet

Extra: Complete the Reaching for a 9 workbook (available on the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form website)