

GERMAN (A Level)

The AS 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 and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content has been designed to be of relevance to students of all disciplines, whether they want to progress to A-level or not.

Students will develop their understanding of themes relating to the society and culture of the countries where German is spoken, and their language skills; they will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in German.

The approach is a focus on how German-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. Students study aspects of the social context together with aspects of the artistic life of German-speaking countries.

Social Issues and Trends

Students must study the following themes and sub-themes in relation to at least one German-speaking country. Where Germany is not specified, students may study the theme or sub-theme in relation to any German-speaking country. Students must study the themes and sub-themes using a range of sources, including material from online media.

Aspects of German-speaking society

- 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)

Artistic Culture

Students must study the following themes and sub-themes in relation to at least one German-speaking country. Where Germany is not specified, students may study the theme or sub-theme in relation to any German-speaking country.

Artistic culture in the German-speaking world

- Festivals and traditions (Feste und Traditionen)
- Art and architecture (Kunst und Architektur)
- Cultural life in Berlin, past and present (Das Berliner Kulturleben damals und heute)

Grammar

AS 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.

Assessments

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

What's assessed

- Aspects of German-speaking society
- Artistic culture in the German-speaking world

- Grammar

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 40% of AS

Questions

- Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources covering different registers and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail. Studio recordings will be used and students will have individual control of the recording.

Questions in German to be answered with non-verbal responses or in German (35 marks).

- Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from a range of authentic sources and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail.

Questions in German to be answered with non-verbal responses or in German (35 marks).

- Translation into English; a passage of minimum 70 words (10 marks). No access to a dictionary during the assessment.

Paper 2: Writing

What's assessed

- One text or one film from the lists in the specification
- Grammar

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- 60 marks
- 30% of AS

Questions

- Translation into German; a passage of minimum 70 words (15 marks).
- Either one question in German on a set text from a choice of two questions or one question in German on a set film from a choice of two questions (45 marks).
- All questions will require a critical response to aspects such as plot, characterisation, imagery or other stylistic features as appropriate to the work studied.

No access to texts or films during the assessment. No access to a dictionary during the assessment. Students are advised to write approximately 250 words for the essay.

Paper 3: Speaking

What's assessed

One sub-theme from Aspects of German-speaking society and one sub-theme from Artistic culture in the German-speaking world.

How it's assessed

- Oral exam: 12–14 minutes
- 60 marks
- 30% of AS

Questions

Discussion of two sub-themes (6–7 minutes on each) with the discussion based on a stimulus card for each sub-theme. The student studies the cards for 15 minutes before the test begins.

No access to a dictionary during the assessment or during the preparation time. Students may take the assessment only once before certification.