



German Upper Sixth A-Level

Curriculum Intent

The German department seeks to develop ambitious and resilient linguists who strive to gain inter-cultural understanding in the countries where German is spoken. We aim to enable students to communicate effectively in a range of topics and contexts whilst being enthusiastic about the culture and customs of the German-speaking world. We intend to build our students up to be inquisitive and curious about culture, knowledgeable and understanding as they step out to explore, and reflective as they see how they grow and develop through Foreign Language learning.

“Die Grenzen meiner Sprache bedeuten die Grenze meiner Welt.” Ludwig Wittgenstein

Students will learn:

Themes covered in Lower Sixth as part of revision, including Themes 1 and 2 of the A-Level course and *Good Bye, Lenin!* (2003) directed by Wolfgang Becker.

They will also cover key A-Level content on:

Theme 3: Immigration and multicultural German society

- ✓ The positive effects of integration
- ✓ The challenges of immigration and integration
- ✓ State and social reaction to immigration

Theme 4: The reunification of Germany

- ✓ Society in the GDR before reunification
- ✓ Events leading up to reunification
- ✓ Germany since reunification

Literature study: *Der Besuch der alten Dame* (1956) written by Friedrich Dürrenmatt.

Knowledge, understanding and skills:

- ✓ vocabulary relating to the themes covered
- ✓ understanding and responding to spoken German in speech and in writing
- ✓ understanding and responding to written German in speech and in writing
- ✓ summarising a spoken text in writing
- ✓ translating from German into English, and from English into German
- ✓ discussing a theme, showing knowledge and understanding of the target language context and culture
- ✓ developing an argument and reaching a logical conclusion
- ✓ expressing viewpoints and justifying opinions
- ✓ using literary and film-related vocabulary appropriately
- ✓ relating a literary work or film to key concepts, issues and social contexts and developing and writing up a critical response

What does excellence look like?

- a thorough understanding of vocabulary and tenses within the context of the themes covered
- an in-depth knowledge of the literary text and film covered during the A-Level course
- confident and accurate use of written and spoken German with varied vocabulary and structures, including complex language
- critical analysis of issues, themes and cultural or social contexts, demonstrated through convincing interpretations
- consistent use of evidence, such as quotations and statistics, to justify points of view
- detailed, logical arguments and conclusions that consistently link together

How can you enhance your learning at home?

- Hodder Edexcel A Level German textbook
- Hodder study guide on *Der Besuch der alten Dame*
- Boost online materials
- Boost vocabulary lists, arranged theme by theme to assist learning
- Boost grammar worksheets
- Past AS-Level papers on the Edexcel website
- Marked essays on both cultural topics, with commentary, on the Edexcel website
- Boost translation tasks
- Flipped learning
- Languages Online to consolidate and master grammar covered in class
- *Deutsche Welle* Learn German for listening practice



How will we assess impact?

Our teaching encourages regular learning of key vocabulary and refinement of grammatical structures. Translation skills are honed via 10-point tests. Teachers assess students less formally in class through the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing. Students work collaboratively in pairs and groups constantly to improve their speaking skills, providing peer feedback.

Each half term students take an assessment in test conditions. In January of the Upper Sixth, students take a full-length A-level-style examination, which helps to predict their final grade accurately and to offer them an opportunity to experience the speed and attention to detail required in the examination. Students control the audio themselves.

Matriculation requirements

To be able to access the A-Level German course, students should have gained a grade 6 in GCSE German, or the same level in an equivalent qualification.

International Opportunities

Visits Programmes

Options for visits to Germany in the Upper Sixth are more limited. Our Upper Sixth students act as ambassadors for our visits programme, encouraging younger students to be brave and to seize the opportunity to stay with a German-speaking family or to undertake work experience abroad.

Many of our German A level students took part in the long-term visit to Frankfurt in year 10 or the work experience visit in the Lower Sixth and continue to meet their partners for years to come.

There is an opportunity for an A level Literature and Film Study Day, which takes place in London.

Within the curriculum

The German A-Level curriculum is designed to deepen understanding and appreciation of German-speaking countries and cultures. Theme 1 focuses on social development in Germany; Theme 2 looks at political and artistic culture in the German-speaking world; Theme 3 focuses on immigration and German multicultural society; and Theme 4 looks at German reunification.

Students are encouraged to research each theme independently to ensure that they can draw on a wide knowledge of the culture and society, and they must complete an Independent Research Project based in the German-speaking world as part of their speaking examination.

