

# German AS level Student Guide

## Is this the right subject for me?

If you enjoy meeting and talking to people from other countries, finding out about their cultures and learning how language works, then studying AS level German is an excellent choice for you!

## Why should I study a language?

Learning languages encourages you to:

- meet people from different countries and find out more about them
- learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, be confident about speaking in public, use problem-solving strategies and write coherently
- develop critical thinking, creativity and independence
- add an international dimension to your choice of AS level subjects, which is something many employers and higher education providers want
- have greater opportunities to work and/or study abroad, or work for companies in the UK with international links
- discuss interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak the language
- learn more about countries where the language is spoken, and the people who speak it
- read books and watch films in their original language
- spend time abroad (e.g. at university or on a work placement).

## What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

If you already have knowledge of a variety of topics, and can express your opinions, you are ready to build on this at AS level, though you can also start from scratch. You will learn about different aspects of German culture, literature or film, and be able to use more complex grammar and more vocabulary. This enables you to really develop an understanding of the language, the countries where it is spoken and the people who speak it.

## What can I do after I've completed the course?

People with language skills and knowledge usually have an advantage over people without them. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons. Success at AS level German means you will:

- add an extra international dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress people who read your CV
- be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links
- be able to work or study in a German-speaking country in later life
- progress to study A level German to further your knowledge of the language and culture
- find it easier to learn other languages later if you want to
- add a useful skill if your main subjects are not languages: languages support careers in a range of areas including management, business, science and tourism.

## What will I learn?

AS level German helps you to explore a wide range of topics, which will add to your understanding of the language and country. Topics include work and education and evolving society in Germany, and music, the media and festivals in German-speaking countries. The book or film you study may link to the topics, giving you further insight into the German-speaking culture. You will also learn new grammar and vocabulary and you will be able to translate into and out of German. You will develop your critical thinking, creativity and independence and also develop skills to be able to learn other languages.

## How will I be assessed?

You will take three exams which make up the total available. Paper 1 is 40% of the total marks; Paper 2 is 30% and Paper 3 is 30%. You will be given a certificate with a grade between E and A, with A being the highest.

<b>Paper 1</b>  <b>Listening, reading and translation</b>	<b>Paper 2</b>  <b>Written response to works and translation</b>	<b>Paper 3</b>  <b>Speaking</b>
<p>In the listening section of this paper, you will answer multiple-choice and comprehension questions in German on a variety of recordings. In the reading section, you will also answer multiple-choice and comprehension questions in German, based on a variety of written passages. You will also translate a passage from German into English.</p>	<p>In this paper you will write about a book or a film that you have studied throughout the year. There will also be a translation of a passage from English into German.</p>	<p>Before this exam you will have 15 minutes to read two short texts on the topic of Evolving German Society. You will then discuss the texts with your examiner, who is usually your teacher. You will also discuss an aspect of political and/or artistic culture in a German-speaking country.</p>

## Example questions

### An example of a multiple-choice question

Lange haben deutsche Musiker auf Englisch gesungen. In den letzten Jahren jedoch kehrte Deutsch zurück in die Welt des Pop. Bands, die auf Deutsch singen, werden international bekannt.

*Question:* Kreuzen Sie [X] die richtige Antwort an.

Heutzutage singen mehr deutsche Bands...

[ ]	<b>A</b> nur noch auf Englisch.
[ ]	<b>B</b> nur im Ausland.
[ ]	<b>C</b> auf Deutsch.
[ ]	<b>D</b> ausschließlich Popsongs.

*Answer:* C

### An example of a comprehension question

Günter Rexrodt, Wirtschaftsminister für Energiepolitik, liebt die Sonne. Der verstärkten Nutzung der Sonnenenergie misst er große Bedeutung zu. Seine Förderpolitik lässt allerdings von dem Bekenntnis nicht viel spüren.

*Question:* Was hält Herr Rexrodt von Solarenergie?

*Answer:* Sie ist sehr wichtig.

## Next steps

Talk to your teacher about taking AS level German.

Visit the Edexcel website ([www.edexcel.com/alevel2016](http://www.edexcel.com/alevel2016)) for more information about what you will be studying and how you will be assessed.