

REVISED GCE AS & A LEVEL
Student Guide
German

For first teaching from September 2008

For first award of AS Level in Summer 2009

For first award of A Level in Summer 2010

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Student Guide: German

GCE German will give you a fascinating insight into the world of German. Whilst developing the ability to communicate confidently and effectively in German in both speech and writing, you will also learn about the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of not only Germany but of other countries and communities where German is spoken. Your own personal development will also benefit greatly from taking GCE German. It will strengthen your confidence and help you gain a positive attitude to learning and independent study. The AS units can be taken separately as a stand alone qualification or you can take the AS units combined with the A2 units to gain the full A Level qualification.

Q. Why study GCE German?

If you have an interest and a desire to learn and experience the world around you then you will be well suited to this course. The AS course can be taken on its own without progressing on to the full A Level qualification and this will still provide you with a wealth of knowledge and competency in German for use in leisure or travel; however if you wish to specialise in German at degree level or equivalent, it would be beneficial to complete the A2 units and obtain a full A Level qualification.

Q. What do I need to be able to take this course?

Before taking this course you will need to have obtained a good GCSE standard or equivalent in German. You should also have a good knowledge of the culture and society of Germany and other countries where German is spoken and of course a desire to enhance this knowledge through further study.

Q. What will I learn about?

For GCE German you will study 2 units at AS and 2 units at A2. We have identified 5 broad Contexts for Learning. These are basically topic areas which you will study and explore whilst developing your language skills. 3 will be studied at AS and a further 2 at A2.

AS	Relationships	Health & Lifestyle	Young people in Society
A2	Local & Global Citizenship	Environmental Awareness	

You will develop an understanding and knowledge of these areas in both a local and global context. As well as this, in your A2 year; you will study and explore an aspect of German society and also a German literary text.

Throughout your AS and A2 years you will

- become familiar with reading and listening to extracts in German taken from authentic sources and extracting information from them.
- develop the skill of translating passages of information from German into English and vice versa.
- enhance your ability to hold a conversation in German, expressing ideas and justifying opinions.
- learn how to write essays in German using grammar accurately.
- develop the skills to discuss and write in German about literary and societal themes.

At the end of this course you will not only have improved your ability to communicate at a much higher level in German but you will also have gained a very thorough knowledge of life in Germany and other German speaking countries.



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How can I find out more?

There are a number of ways that you can find out more about studying German.

These include:

- Teachers at your school or college
- Language assistants
- Students who have already studied the subject
- www.ccea.org.uk/languages
- The National Centre for Languages www.cilt.org.uk
- Northern Ireland CILT www.qub.ac.uk/edu/nicilt
- Careers advisor
- UCAS www.ucas.com or CAO www.cao.ie for details on entry requirements for university courses

Q. How will I be assessed?

Unit	Type of Assessment
AS 1 Speaking 35% of AS 17.5% of A Level	<p>This is made up of a presentation which you will prepare in advance, followed by a conversation. It will be conducted by an external examiner.</p> <p>In all, the speaking test should last approx. 13 minutes.</p> <p><i>Available in January and summer.</i></p>
AS 2 Section A – Listening Sections B & C – Reading and Writing 65% of AS 32.5% of A Level	<p>This test will consist of 2 questions based on 2 passages recorded on individual CDs. It will last 30 minutes.</p> <p>These sections are combined into one paper which lasts 2 hrs 15 minutes.</p> <p>Section B consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 reading comprehension questions based on one text • translation into English <p>Section C consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one extended writing question. <p><i>Available in January and summer.</i></p>
A2 1 Speaking 17.5% of A Level	<p>This is made up of a discussion based on a societal theme which you will study throughout your A2 year followed by a conversation. It will be conducted by an external examiner.</p> <p>In all, the speaking test should last approx. 15 minutes.</p> <p><i>Available in summer only.</i></p>
A22 Section A – Listening Sections B & C – Reading and Writing 32.5% of A Level	<p>This test will consist of 2 questions based on 2 passages recorded on individual CDs. It will last 35 minutes.</p> <p>These sections are combined into one paper which lasts 2 hrs 25 minutes.</p> <p>Section B consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 reading comprehension questions based on 2 texts • translation from English into German <p>Section C consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one essay based on a literary text <p><i>Available in summer only.</i></p>

Q. What can I do with a qualification in German?

Learning a language will bring you a wide range of skills and attributes. Not only will you be able to communicate in another language but you will have opportunities to improve communication and interpersonal skills, all of which are highly sought after by employers and universities alike. A qualification in GCE German will offer you a range of employment opportunities and not just in the traditional fields of teaching, tourism, government and marketing. GCE German will also benefit you in areas such as financial services, IT, journalism and engineering.

