

German A-Level – Bridging the Gap

In the German A-Level course you will continue to improve your standard in the GCSE skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking. By the end of the course you should be performing at a high level in these skills. The course is ideal for you if you are interested in German culture and history, as we will study several cultural topics and we will also study a German film and a German book. Much of the cultural content is focused on the German capital Berlin.



In the first year of A-Level we study the following social topics:



Die Familie im Wandel - Neue und alte Familienmodelle



Die digitale Welt - Technologie in der modernen Welt



Jugendkultur - Mode, Musik, Fernsehen

We will also be studying the following cultural topics:



Das Berliner Kulturleben damals und heute - Geschichte und Kultur



Feste und Traditionen



Kunst und Architektur – Vergangenheit, Gegenwart und Zukunft. Kunst und Architektur im Alltag, Künstler und Architekten

There are 3 exam papers at the end of the 2-year course:

Paper 1 - The Multi-Skills Paper – Listening, Reading and Writing

Listening Practice

During the course you will have access to a digital version of our textbook through Kerboodle.com where there are lots of recordings you can listen to on your phone / laptop.

You can also improve your listening skills prior to, and during the A-Level course by listening to German radio online.

Some German radio stations you could listen to:



1LIVE ist das junge Radio in Deutschland. 1Live unterhält, informiert und bewegt euch.



SWR3 – das Pop-Radio Nummer 1 bringt euch Nachrichten, Verkehr, Wetter.



WDR4 ist der musikalische Begleiter für ein gutes Gefühl - mit Lieblingshits

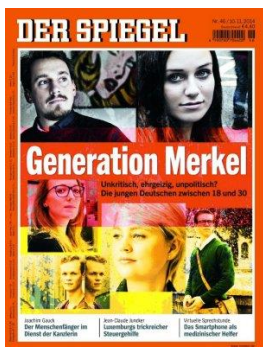


NDR2 ist das Pop-Programm für den ganzen Norden. Alle aktuellen Hits.

Reading practice

Try to spend some time on a regular basis reading authentic German magazines and newspapers. You won't understand everything at first, but you don't have to understand every word to get the important information from a text.

Some German magazines you could read:



Der Spiegel is one of the foremost news magazines in the world, reporting on affairs of national and global significance and featuring strong investigative journalism. German learners will pick up high-level analytical language, political terminology and a broad-based awareness of current events.

Spex is one of the leading German magazines for music criticism and arts coverage. Learning the German language and passionate about music? You'll find specific

terminology here and expand your knowledge of German artists and bands – a worthy goal, since having German songs in your playlists can be one of the best ways to master the language.



Bunte is rather similar to People, with all the latest on Germany's stars of the silver screen and sports world. There is also plenty of coverage dealing with international celebrities, so if you need to keep track of your favourite stars, do it in German and pick up new words while you're at it.

Writing practice and grammar

To do well at A-Level it is expected that you will be able to write accurately in German and this requires a sound knowledge of German grammar. In Paper 1 you will also have to do translation into English and also into German.

There will be new grammar at A-Level but start by making sure you know your GCSE grammar better than you did in Year 11.

An excellent website for practising grammar is <http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/>

Alternatively <http://www.gut.lanuaageskills.co.uk>

Try the Year 11 grammar section first, then have a look at the Year 12 Grammatik exercises. Important grammar areas are: verbs – in particular tenses, word order, prepositions and cases, adjective endings.

Here are a few grammar exercises to test yourselves with:

1. Fill in the 3rd person singular (er/sie form) and translate into English

Infinitiv	3. Person Singular	Englisch
lesen		
fahren		
schlafen		
arbeiten		
sein		
haben		
essen		
lassen		
laufen		
nehmen		
setzen		

2. Construct some sentences using the following separable verbs.

- auskommen: Er _____ gut mit seiner Mutter _____.
- weglegen: Sie _____ auch bei Tisch nur selten das Handy _____.
- mitnehmen: Meine Mutter _____ mich oft ins Theater _____.
- ausziehen: Mit 18 _____ sie wahrscheinlich von zuhause _____.
- ausgehen: Emma _____ immer am Wochenende _____.

3. Fill in the correct form of the following modal verbs.

- _____ (*können*) du nicht einmal mithelfen?
- Ich _____ (*dürfen*) nie bis Mitternacht ausbleiben, ...
- ...aber alle meine Freunde _____ (*dürfen*) schon!

4. Zuerst _____ (*müssen*) du noch aufräumen, ...
5. ...bevor du ausgehen _____ (*können*).
6. Aber mein Bruder _____ (*sollen*) doch auch mal helfen!
7. Du _____ (*wollen*) immer nur Spaß haben, ...
8. ...aber die Hausarbeit _____ (*müssen*) man doch auch machen!

4. This is a much harder exercise to practise verb forms and word order. You have to put the verbs in the correct form and write the sentences in the right order.

1. (*ausbleiben*) – jeden Tag – Ich – (*dürfen*) – bis 11 Uhr

2. (*einkaufen*) – meiner Mutter – Meine Schwester – (*helfen*) – am Samstag

3. (*aufräumen*) – sein Zimmer – er – nie

4. (*ausgeben*) – ihr ganzes Geld – meine Schwester – für Kleidung

5. (*anrufen*) – Sabine – ihre Freundinnen – jeden Abend

6. alleine – Fatima – ihr Kind – (*müssen*) (*erziehen*)

7. (*helfen*) (*können*) – unter der Woche – nicht oft – Ich – im Haushalt

8. (*wollen*) – Meine Eltern – jedes Wochenende – (*besuchen*) – Verwandte

3. Translate this passage accurately into English.

Ich sehe selten fern, habe meistens keine Zeit dazu. Vormittags arbeite ich und am Nachmittag muss ich meist meine Kinder zum Sport oder Musikunterricht fahren. Aber die Nachrichten sehe ich jeden Tag. Ich wähle genau aus, was ich sehen möchte. Sport interessiert mich und da sehe ich wohl auch öfter mal die Sportschau. Ich erwarte vom Fernsehen, dass es mich informiert. Spaß und Unterhaltung habe ich mit meiner Familie. Bei Volksmusiksendungen schalte ich sofort um oder ab, die sind ja das Letzte! So etwas Schmalziges kann nur das deutsche Fernsehen zeigen.

Paper 2 - The Essay Paper

At A-Level we will study a German book and a German film and in Paper 2 you will have to write essays on these.



The book we will be studying is called "Zonenkinder". This is the memoir of a young East German woman, searching for her country and herself. Jana Hensel was thirteen on November 9, 1989, the night the Berlin Wall fell. Suddenly everything that Jana knew, loved and respected disappeared. Her country, its politics, history, and culture were wiped clean from the slate. In "Zonenkinder", Jana Hensel tells the story of her generation, a lost generation of East German kids forced to abandon their past and feel their way through a foreign landscape to an uncertain future. It is a bittersweet story of loss and discovery, of growing up fast in a strange world that your childhood had never imagined.

Below is a brief summary in German of what the book is about. Read it through and write down a list of the main points you have understood.

Jana Hensel war dreizehn, als die Mauer fiel. Von einem Tag auf den anderen war ihre Kindheit zu Ende. Timurtrupp, Milchgeldkassierer, Korbine Früchtchen oder die "Trommel": Die vertrauten Dinge des DDR-Alltags verschwanden gleichsam über Nacht - und ein Abenteuer begann. Plötzlich war überall Westen, die Grenze offen, die Geschichte auch. Von der Freiheit erwischt, machte sich eine ganze Generation daran, das veränderte Land neu zu erkunden: mal mutig und mal zögerlich, mal lustvoll und mal distanziert. Das Jahrzehnt nach der Wende war für sie voller überraschender Erfahrungen.

In diesem Buch nehmen wir teil am faszinierend widersprüchlichen Lebensgefühl einer Generation, die Verwandlungen erlebte wie kaum eine zuvor.



The film we will be studying is called “Das Leben der Anderen”. It is a 2006 German drama film, marking the feature film debut of filmmaker Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck. The plot is about the monitoring of East Berlin residents by agents of the Stasi, the GDR’s secret police. In preparation for studying the film it would be good for you to read up about the history of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) and what life was like for the people who lived there. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_East_Germany

Paper 3 - The Speaking Test

At A-Level this has two parts to it.

- 1) A discussion of a stimulus card on one of the topics from the course.
- 2) A short presentation by you followed by a longer discussion on a topic on which you have chosen to do a research project.

Year 11 to 12 Language Enrichment Summer 2022



Task 1: Musicians and songs in the French/Spanish/German-speaking world.

Task focus: to enhance knowledge of TL culture, to develop and enhance understanding of different musicians/bands from a target language country.

What do I have to do?

- Research a singer or band from the target language country and create a short presentation on them in English including the following details:

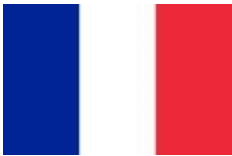
Biography/background, discography (avoid long lists), how successful they are, any controversy surrounding the artist, charity work.

- Include a vocabulary list of new words/expressions you found belonging to this topic.
- Prepare a brief summary of your findings on your chosen singer or band; this could be a PowerPoint/video clip with explanation/Kahoot quiz/blog. **You will present your findings to the group during the next session.** You must include a list of sources that you have used to produce your mini project and include some facts and figures to back up your analysis and evaluation.

Stretch and Challenge

If you want to go a bit further, you could learn the lyrics to a song by your chosen singer/band or translate at least one verse of the song or the chorus. You could use lyrics training to do so.

Here is a list of popular artists from each country to give you a starting point:



David Guetta
Aya Nakamura
Christophe Mae
Maître Gims
Stromae



Apache 207
Robin Schulz
Mark Forster
Juju
Joel Brandenstein
Bakkushan



Shakira
Maluma
Enrique Iglesias
J Balvin
Pitbull

Task 2: Cinema and Films in the French/Spanish/German - speaking world.

Task focus: to enhance knowledge of TL culture, to develop and enhance understanding of cinema and films from a target language country.

What do I have to do?

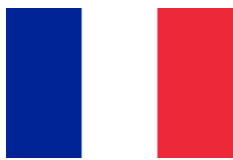
- Watch a film from your chosen target language country
- Prepare a brief film review or summary; include the following details – story line/plot, main characters, cast list, awards won & how successful the film was, your personal opinion, interesting language that you learnt whilst watching.

- **You will present your findings to the group during the next session** - this could be a PowerPoint/trailer clip with explanation/Kahoot quiz/(video)blog. You must include a list of sources that you have used to produce your film review and include some facts and figures to back up your analysis and evaluation.
- Include a vocabulary list of new words/expressions you found belonging to this topic.

Stretch and Challenge

If you want to go a bit further, you could research the main themes of the film, look into the work of the director or the actors, examine the genre of film that it relates to or you could translate part of a scene or research the soundtrack.

Here is a list of films from each country to give you a starting point:



La Haine
Les Enfants du Paradis
La Boum
Les Intouchables
Amélie



Die Fälscher
Goodbye Lenin
Lola rennt
Metropolis
Der Himmel über Berlin



Las 13 Rosas
Ocho Apellidos Vascos
Mar Adentro
Cien metros
No se aceptan devoluciones

Task 3: Film Directors in the French/Spanish/German - speaking world

Task focus: to enhance knowledge of TL culture, to develop and enhance understanding of work of a film director in the French, German, Spanish speaking world.

What do I have to do?

- Choose a film director and research his/her works
- Produce a biography of their work and ensure that your research includes the following details – a brief biography of their life, the genre of films they make/awards they have won/the cinematographic techniques that they are best known for/controversy/your opinion of why they have been successful.
- **You will present your findings to the group during the next session** - this could be a PowerPoint/film clips to demonstrate their techniques/ Kahoot quiz/(video)blog. You must include a list of sources that you have used to produce your and include some facts and figures to back up your analysis and evaluation.
- Include a vocabulary list of new words/expressions you found belonging to this topic.

Stretch and Challenge

If you want to go a bit further, you could research how the director uses a particular technique, script or soundtrack. You could research who influenced them or who they have had an influence on, whether their work reflects the era and/or society in which they lived.

Here is a list of directors from each country to give you a starting point:



Francois Truffaut
Louis Malle
Luc Besson
Jean-Jacques Annaud
Jean-Luc Goddard

Wolfgang Petersen
Wim Wenders
Florian Henckel von
Donnersmarck
Wolfgang Becker

Guillermo del Toro
Pedro Almodovar
Luis Bunuel
Victor Erice
Carlos Saura
Alejandro Amenábar

Task 4: Festivals in the French/Spanish/German - speaking world.

Task focus: to enhance knowledge of TL culture, to develop and enhance understanding of different festivals from a target language country.

What do I have to do?

- Research a festival from your chosen target language country make sure you include the origin of the festival and the customs associated with it, how long it lasts, where, when, what the people do, essential elements etc
- Prepare a presentation of your research
- **You will present your findings to the group during the next session** - this could be a PowerPoint/video clip with/Kahoot quiz/(video)blog. You must include a list of sources that you have used and include some facts and figures to back up your analysis and evaluation.
- Include a vocabulary list of new words/expressions you found belonging to this topic.

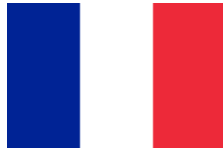
Stretch and Challenge

If you want to go a bit further, you could research the religious and historical events behind it in greater detail – there are often several roots not just one – the costumes/music, dances etc.

Here is a list of festivals from each country to give you a starting point:



Christmas & New Year
Easter
Reunification Day
Oktoberfest
Hafengeburtstag
Walpurgisnacht
Kieler Woche



Christmas & New Year
Easter

The festival of Lights – Lyon
The Lemon Festival – Menton
Poisson d’Avril

Bastille Day



Christmas & New Year
Semana Santa
La Tomatina
Los Castellers
Moros y Cristianos
Los San Fermines