

German GCSE

More people speak **German** as their native language than any other language in Europe. As the language most sought-after by employers in Britain, German is extremely influential in many fields of study. As well as enriching career prospects, a knowledge of German will facilitate travel and improve students' confidence as modern citizens of the world.

By studying GCSE German, students will learn to communicate effectively whilst taking account of cultural nuances. The cyclical curriculum enables students to consolidate their learning whilst developing their confidence and broadening their skill sets. This is achieved through the study of a number of key ideas.

These ideas include:

- Giving and seeking opinions on a range of themes.
- Using language in context and communicating in authentic situations.
- Gaining an appreciation of cultural differences, embedded within the German-speaking environment.
- Expressing/presenting ideas clearly and concisely in a foreign language.
- Extracting and evaluating information from authentic sources, including photos.
- Applying rules and logic to translate German language texts.
- Drawing inferences from literary sources.
- Preparing students for the world of work.
- Enabling students to live and work abroad.

The topics we study include :

- Talking about friends and family
- Talking about life when you were younger
- Discussing your free time
- Talking about technology and social media
- Discussing daily life
- German festivals
- Describing where we live
- Talking about past and future holidays
- Talking about school
- Describing work experience and your future plans
- Discussing environmental issues

How will we study?

Lessons in German will cover skills based work in Listening, Reading, Translation (from and into German) Speaking and Writing. Grammar is taught both explicitly and in context of the topic areas and reinforced throughout the course.

Teaching is highly interactive and paired and group work is a key feature. Learning is supported by textbooks, authentic materials (music/film/articles) and on-line activities as well as tailor-made resources. Speaking is a key feature of lessons and pupils are given the opportunity to attend speaking sessions in smaller groups.

How will my work be assessed?

There are regular half-termly assessments throughout the course which test the different skills. Not all skills are tested in every assessment. We always feedback on an assessment and analyse how we can improve. There are regular vocabulary tests and informal spoken assessments.

The GCSE is assessed with examinations at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework.

Assessment

There is equal weighting for the four skills, 25% each.

Listening (Paper 1) Higher: 45 minutes (including 5 minutes of reading time)
Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
Section B – questions in German, to be answered in French or non-verbally

Speaking (Paper 2)

The new emphasis is on greater spontaneity. This should mean greater challenge. Higher lasts 12 minutes. Teachers will do the tests and the board will mark it. There will be a role play (15 marks), a photo card (15 marks) and general conversation (30 marks).

Reading (Paper 3) Higher: 1 hour.

Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
Section B – questions in German, to be answered in German or non-verbally
Section C – translation from German into English

Writing (Paper 4) Higher: 1 hour 15 minutes - 3 questions - two structured compositions from bullet points (with choice) and translation into French.