



GERMAN

A-level German is designed to develop your understanding of German so that you can communicate both verbally and in writing, as well as read books, newspapers and magazines. The ability to speak another language is greatly appreciated by universities and employers, especially since Germany is an important business partner for the UK.

The course

Oral work is an important part of the course and opportunities are provided for small group discussion throughout the course. To develop your language skills at this level you will need to participate in one of the department's trips abroad or in a private exchange. We also encourage students to complete work experience abroad.

Year 12

In the first year, the course has been designed to take into account the likely linguistic knowledge of students who have only recently completed a German GCSE. It is envisaged that the topics studied will stimulate their interest and engage and motivate them. The end of Year 12 examination will take the form of a formal assessment to consider a student's ability for further study in Year 13. The course will cover:

Theme 1: Aspects of German-speaking society: current trends – marriage and family, the cyber-society and technology, youth culture

Theme 2: Artistic culture in the German-speaking world – art and architecture, festivals and traditions, Berlin's cultural life and heritage

Study of a film – Sophie Scholl's *The Last Days*. As well as studying the main themes and characters, the historic context of the film allows students to get to know a side of World War 2 barely studied outside Germany – German resistance.

Year 13

The second year of the A-level course is designed to build on the knowledge acquired and consolidated at AS level, with more challenging grammar and the introduction of literature alongside an independent research project. The course will cover:

Theme 3: Multiculturalism in German-speaking society – immigration, integration, racism

Theme 4: Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world – Germany and the EU, politics and the youth, German Re-Unification

Study of a film and of a work of literature
Film: Sophie Scholl's *The Last Days* (as above)
Book: F. Dürrenmatt's *The Visit*, a play set in the fifties that is refreshingly contemporary as it thematises greed and revenge in a tragic-comic way.

Independent research task (cultural topic: research author, art movement, historical period, current trend or political issue) – in Year 13 students will be researching a theme independently with a view to presenting the topic for two minutes with a follow up discussion for a further nine to 10 minutes.

German A-level and beyond

German is a university degree subject on its own but is also taken in combination with other subjects such as Politics, other new languages, English, History and Economics. German is also common in degree courses in Business Management, Law and Engineering / Technology and Science courses. Many of these courses include placements with German or international firms in Germany.