

AQA A LEVEL GERMAN

COURSE CONTENT

Specification at a glance

- Subject content
- Core content
- 1. [Social issues and trends](#)
- 2. [Political and artistic culture](#)
- 3. [Grammar](#)
- Options
- 4. Works: [Literary texts and films](#)

Assessments

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

What's assessed

- Aspects of German-speaking society
- Artistic culture in the German-speaking world
- Multiculturalism in German-speaking society
- Aspects of political life in German-speaking society
- Grammar

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of A-level

Assessments

Paper 2: Writing

What's assessed

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 80 marks in total
- 20% of A-level

Assessments

Paper 3: Speaking

What's assessed

- Individual research project
- One of four themes (Aspects of German-speaking society or Artistic culture in the German-speaking world or Multiculturalism in German-speaking society or Aspects of political life in German-speaking society)

How it's assessed

- Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)
- 60 marks in total
- 30% of A-level

Speaking assessment

- **Questions**
- Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks).
- Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks).
- No access to a dictionary during the assessment (including 5 minutes preparation). Students may take the assessment only once before certification.
- Assessments will be conducted by either the centre or a visiting examiner and marked by an AQA examiner.

More detail on subject content

- Subject content
- The A-level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and to society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or to further study, including a modern languages degree.
- The specification has been designed to be studied over two years. The suggestions below relating to content for year one and content for year two are based on the knowledge that the course will generally be taken over two years. Schools and colleges are free to choose how and when to cover the content.

More detail on subject content

- The approach is a focus on how German-speaking society has been shaped socially and culturally and how it continues to change. In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of German-speaking countries. In the second year, further aspects of the social background are covered, alongside the German political landscape, both in relation to Germany itself and its place in Europe. The past and its role in shaping the present is viewed through the reunification and its consequences while the focus on young people and politics looks forward to shaping the future of German-speaking countries.
- Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where German is spoken, and their language skills. They will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in German.
- The choice of works (literary texts and films) offers opportunities to link with the themes so that for example aspects of Die Wiedervereinigung are relevant to the film *Das Leben der Anderen* and aspects of Multiculturalism in German-speaking society are reflected in the novel *Das Fundbüro* by Siegfried Lenz.

Grammar

- 3.3 Grammar
- A-level students will be expected to have studied the grammatical system and structures of the language during their course. Knowledge of the grammar and structures specified for GCSE is assumed.
- In the exam students will be required to use, actively and accurately, grammar and structures appropriate to the tasks set. The mention of an item in the A level lists implies knowledge of both its forms and its functions at an appropriate level of accuracy and complexity.

Book and film

- Students must also study either one book and one film or two books from the lists in this specification. They must appreciate, analyse and be able to respond critically in writing in German to the work they have studied. Their understanding of the work must include a critical appreciation of the concepts and issues covered and a critical and analytical response to features such as the form and the technique of presentation as appropriate to the work studied (eg the effect of narrative voice in a prose text or camera-work in a film).

Works

- 3.4.1 Literary texts and films
- Students must study **either** one text and one film **or** two texts from the list below. Abridged versions should not be used.

Texts

- Heinrich Böll *Die verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum*
- Bertolt Brecht *Mutter Courage und ihre Kinder*
- Friedrich Dürrenmatt *Der Besuch der alten Dame*
- Max Frisch *Andorra*
- Heinrich Heine *Gedichte – Buch der Lieder*
- Jana Hensel *Zonenkinder*
- Franz Kafka *Die Verwandlung*
- Wladimir Kaminer *Russendisko*
- Siegfried Lenz *Fundbüro*
- Bernhard Schlink *Der Vorleser*

Films

- 3.4.1.2 Films
- *Good bye, Lenin!* Wolfgang Becker (2003)
- *Das Leben der Anderen* Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (2006)
- *Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei* Hans Weingartner (2005)
- *Almanya – Willkommen in Deutschland* Yasemin Samdereli (2011)
- *Sophie Scholl – Die letzten Tage* Marc Rothemund (2005)
- *Lola rennt* Tom Tykwer (1998)