

World class thinking. World class achieving.

St Mary's College

GERMAN A LEVEL Pre-course reading and guidance



Why choose an A level in German?

A level German is a challenging but rewarding course to choose, and one that will provide intellectual stimulus alongside opportunities to develop, both personally and linguistically, during your continued education at St Mary's College. Choosing A level allows you to move towards fluency in the language, at the same time as broadening your knowledge of German speaking countries and culture. You will study a range of topics such as art, heritage, cinema, politics, immigration making the course engaging and diverse.

German is spoken widely across Europe and is a very influential language in business and European politics; so the opportunity for future travel and employment are also something to consider.

You will find the course enriching and gain real satisfaction from being able to truly express yourself in German with increasing fluency as you move through your studies.

EXAM SPECIFICATION LINKS

We use the exam board AQA and the full specification for A level, along with resources can be found using the link below:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/german-7662>

COURSE STRUCTURE

- This is a 2 year course which will be assessed via **3 exams** at the end of Year 13, details of which can be found later on in this presentation.
- In **Year 12** you will cover **6 topic areas** and the in-depth **study of a novel/play**.
- In **Year 13** you will do a **further 6 topics**, as well as learning how to read and **analyse a film in German**.
- The exams will assess your knowledge and skills in all 12 of the topic areas studied during Year 12 and 13, and you also write an essay on the film and book.
- For the speaking exam you are also required to complete an independent research topic with a German/Austrian or Swiss German theme and present it in the exam.
- At the end of the course you will be awarded an A level graded from A*-E.

PAPER 1

**Duration: 2 hours
30 minutes**

Marks: 100

**Percentage of
total A level: 50%**

Paper 1:

This is a combined listening, reading and translation exam in which you will be tested on all 12 of the A level topics from the 2 year course.

Questions 1-4: listening section

Questions 5-8: reading section

Question 9: translation from English to German

Question 10: translation from German to English.

PAPER 2

Duration: 2 hours

Marks: 80 (40 for each of the 2 essays)

Percentage of total A level: 20%

Paper 2:

In this exam you have to write 2 essays; one on the book you have studied and one on the film.

PAPER 3

Duration: 5
minutes
preparation time,
16-18 minutes
exam approx.

Marks: 60

Percentage of
total A level: 30%

Paper 3:

This is the speaking exam. There are 2 sections to complete.

Section 1: you are given 5 minutes to prepare a stimulus card on one of the Year 12 or 13 topics. You will then be required to discuss this topic for 5 minutes with the examiner.

Section 2: in this part of the exam, you have to present a project that you will have spent time researching and preparing beforehand. You choose the title of this research project, the only stipulation being that it must be linked to the culture or society of a German speaking country.

For more information about The Independent Research Project, follow the link:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/languages/AQA-MFL-ALEVEL-TG-IRP.PDF>

Breakdown of Year 12 topics

USEFUL PRE-COURSE READING AND LINKS

Topic 1: La Familie im Wandel. (Family in German speaking society)

- Vocabulary: <https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/g/revision-tests/beziehungen-innerhalb-der-familie>
- Statistics on family: <https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Gesellschaft-Umwelt/Bevoelkerung/Haushalte-Familien/inhalt.html>

Topic 2: Die digitale Welt. (Technology in German speaking society)

- Vocabulary: <https://quizlet.com/167079039/die-digitale-welt-21-wortschatz-flash-cards/>
- Statistics on internet use in German: <https://de.statista.com/infografik/13146/weltbevoelkerung-und-handy-internet-und-social-media-nutzer-2018/>

Topic 3: Jugendkultur: Mode, Musik und Fernsehen. (Youth Culture: fashion, music and TV)

- Vocabulary: <https://www.memrise.com/course/1234045/german-a-level-aqa-vocabulary-and-grammar/10/>
- Examples of statistics: <https://de.statista.com/themen/163/jugendliche/>

Breakdown of Year 12 topics

Topic 4: Feste und Traditionen. (Festivals and traditions in the German speaking world)

- Vocabulary: <https://www.memrise.com/course/1234045/german-a-level-aqa-vocabulary-and-grammar/11/>
- Information about German festivals: <https://derweg.org/feste/kultur/>

Topic 5: Kunst und Architektur. (Art and architecture in German speaking countries)

- Vocabulary: <https://www.memrise.com/course/1234045/german-a-level-aqa-vocabulary-and-grammar/12/>
- Information about German architecture: <https://www.dw.com/de/architektur-made-in-germany/a-18602522>

Topic 6: Das Berliner Kulturleben damals und heute (Berlin cultural life: then and now)

- Vocabulary: <https://www.memrise.com/course/1234045/german-a-level-aqa-vocabulary-and-grammar/13/>
- Video about Berlin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Zlem4SQdFU>

Breakdown of Year 13 topics

USEFUL PRE-COURSE READING AND LINKS

Topic 1: Einwanderung. (Migration)

- Vocabulary: <https://www.memrise.com/course/1234045/german-a-level-aqa-vocabulary-and-grammar/14/>
- Statistics: <https://de.statista.com/themen/46/einwanderung/>

Topic 2: Integration (Integration)

- Vocabulary: <https://www.memrise.com/course/1234045/german-a-level-aqa-vocabulary-and-grammar/15/>
- Statistics: https://www.destatis.de/EN/Themes/Society-Environment/Population/Migration-Integration/_node.html

Topic 3: Rassismus. (Racism)

- Vocabulary: <https://www.memrise.com/course/1234045/german-a-level-aqa-vocabulary-and-grammar/16/>
- Statistics: <https://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/890184/umfrage/umfrage-zur-problematik-von-rassismus-in-deutschland/>

Breakdown of Year 13 topics

Topic 4: Deutschland und die Europäische Union. (Germany and the EU)

- Vocabulary: <https://www.memrise.com/course/1234045/german-a-level-aqa-vocabulary-and-grammar/17/>
- Statistics: https://www.destatis.de/Europa/DE/Home/_inhalt.html

Topic 5: Die Politik und die Jugend (Youth politics)

- Vocabulary: <https://www.memrise.com/course/1234045/german-a-level-aqa-vocabulary-and-grammar/19/>
- Statistics: <https://de.statista.com/statistik/kategorien/kategorie/900/themen/904/branche/politik/>

Topic 6: Die Wiedervereinigung und ihre Folgen (Reunification and the consequences thereof)

- Vocabulary: <https://www.memrise.com/course/1234045/german-a-level-aqa-vocabulary-and-grammar/18/>
- Statistics: https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Laender-Regionen/Regionales/Publikationen/Downloads/25-jahre-deutsche-einheit-0007028159004.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

GRAMMAR CHECKLIST

The more aspects of this grammar list you can feel secure in applying the rules before A level, the better!

- Gender of nouns
- Definite and indefinite articles
- Adjectival agreements
- The case system
- Pronouns: subject, object, demonstrative, possessive and relative pronouns
- Present tense
- Perfect tense
- Imperfect tense
- Future and conditional tense
- Pluperfect/future perfect and conditional perfect tenses
- The subjunctive
- Indirect speech
- The passive voice
- Word order
- Prepositions

THE FILM

‘Sophie Scholl – die letzten Tage’

Director: Marc Rothemund

Based on a true story, Sophie Scholl is a student in Munich in 1943 who, with her brother Hans, is a member of the anti-war movement White Rose. Arrested for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, she is tried by the then-draconian judicial laws of the regime and sentenced to death by guillotine, as are her brother and Christoph Probst.

> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XM5A4ETW_Io

THE BOOK

‘Andorra’ Max
Frisch

Andri is a young man who has been raised by the Teacher (der Lehrer) and the Mother (die Mutter) as their Jewish adopted son alongside their daughter Barblin; the Teacher claims to have rescued Andri from the anti-Semitic Blacks (die Schwarzen) in the neighbouring country. Apart from Andri and Barblin, the other characters are referred to by their occupations or roles (though most do have names). After some of twelve scenes (which are called Bilder, meaning "pictures"), characters come forth to a witness box and talk about Andri's death in the past tense (each additional scene is denoted Vordergrund, which means "foreground"). In this way, information about Andri's parentage and fate is gradually revealed.

The play was written fifteen years after the end of World War II and is more of a study of cultural prejudice than a specific reflection on the war. However, it concerns more than just prejudice: many of the characters have something to gain from Andri's being a Jew: the Teacher has been able to present himself as a Good Samaritan, the Soldier can get Barblin, the Carpenter can make money; even the Priest can demonstrate his Christian sympathy for the outsider. The motif of whitewashing, with which the play starts and ends, points to hypocrisy as a central theme.

› <https://www.getabstract.com/en/summary/andorra/4857>

How A level (Language) develops your cultural knowledge and awareness

Whilst the main skill that you acquire is obviously to gain fluency in German, you will study many topics within your A level course which will broaden your cultural awareness and intellect, keeping the course interesting and varied. Below are some examples of the wider knowledge you will gain and how you can find out more:

- **Art:**

<https://www.dw.com/de/made-in-germany-ii-was-ist-deutsche-kunst/a-15964792>

- **Gastronomy:**

<https://www.daskochrezept.de/internationale-kueche/deutsche-kueche>

- **Architecture:**

<https://www.dw.com/de/architektur-made-in-germany/a-18602522>

- **Music:**

<https://easy-deutsch.de/german-music/>

- **Films:**

<https://www.kino.de/filme/laender/deutschland/>

- **Politics:**

<https://www.welt.de/politik/deutschland/>

- **Geography:**

<https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/de/deutschland-auf-einen-blick/geografie-und-klima>

Wider skills

Through A level German you will also learn how to...

- analyse literature
- study a film
- debate controversial issues
- discuss current affairs and politics
- discuss philosophy and ethics
- research and present a project
- present a coherent and clear argument
- write essays
- improve your English

Extra curricular: books, poetry, films to watch

German NOVELS:

- 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

German NEWSPAPERS:

- Die Welt
- Die Zeit

FILMS

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

Contact details for teachers

Mr Lowe: glowe@smchull.org

Mrs Marshall: rmarshall@smchull.org