

# A Level German

Examination Board: AQA  
Specification Code: 7662 – A Level

## Why German?

Germany is still the UK's largest non-English speaking trade partner. In September 2016, *The Independent* named German as number 1 in the top 9 languages for the highest paid jobs in Britain. Learning German is an excellent choice for young people wanting to maximise their employment chances both in the UK and abroad, especially in the current political climate. An understanding of another language and culture means a more rounded world view and an opportunity for a broader horizon in life. The life experiences gained by travelling and enjoying another culture are unbeatable.

The A Level course will develop your existing German language skills in much more depth, widen your vocabulary and you will learn much more about the German-speaking world and its culture. You will also have the opportunity to visit Germany, either with school to Berlin or as part of the UK-German connection language course. We continue to maintain strong links with our partner school in Bavaria and in recent years, A Level students have taken a gap year working at the school before going onto undergraduate study.

## Entry Requirements

QEHS standard entry requirements will apply and in addition, students will be expected to have a grade 6 or above in GCSE German. However, a 7 grade or better makes for an easier transition from GCSE to A Level. Students will be expected to have a solid comprehension of grammar from Key Stage 4.

## Course Content

### Speaking (30%)

You will perform one role-play on a theme covered during the course, and you will discuss a topic of your choice relating to a Germanic society with the teacher-examiner, which you will research in advance.

### Listening and Reading (50%)

You will complete listening and reading tasks with some non-verbal and some German responses to spoken/written passages including factual and abstract content with questions targeting the main points. Topics covered will include social issues and trends, political and artistic culture, multiculturalism in German society and aspects of technology. You will complete translation activities into both English and German, practising the grammar skills you will have acquired during the course.

### Writing (20%)

You will write two extended critical and analytical essays on cultural topics, one film and one literary text, that you will have studied as part of your course. We currently are studying the film, 'Goodbye Lenin!' and 'der Besuch der alten Dame'

## How does learning differ from Pre-16 study?

During A Level German we build on the work done at GCSE and develop the skills required to tackle real issues in the target language. Your lessons will use a wealth of real life resources to teach topics in a motivating and engaging way. We want you to expand your vocabulary and comprehension much further than at GCSE to give you the skills to converse naturally in German. We encourage the use of independent study to listen to or read items of personal interest on the Internet in German and you will have an individual conversation class with a native speaker to help your skills and confidence grow.

## Prospects

Previous A Level German students have gone on to study German in combination with other languages such as Italian, Spanish, French and Arabic at top flight universities. A language can also be combined with other courses and be a useful skill in this globalised workplace. Several students have completed studies abroad or gained invaluable work experience in Germany. German made products and technology from companies such as Siemens, BMW or Bosch are all around us and it's not only German companies who are ready to employ people with German language skills. UK companies repeatedly say that they need these skills amongst new recruits and German is in demand.

## Contacts

Please contact Ms. G. Turnbull, Head of Languages and German, if you wish to discuss this qualification further.