



Aylesbury High School | #AHSWalksTall

Developing uniquely talented young adults, who are independent, strong and confident

Dear Parent/Carer,

As students embark on their German A Level course, we thought it would be useful to share an overview of the course.

In Key Stage 5 German

The examination board for A Level German is AQA. You can find further information relating to the specification [here](#) and an overview on the school [subject](#) pages.

The core course content is split into two sections, which are each divided into 6 sub sections. The first 3 in each section are taught in Year 12 and the remaining 3 in each section in Year 13.

A Level German core content:

- Social Issues & Trends.
 - The changing state of the family
 - The digital world
 - Youth culture: Fashion & Trends, music & television
 - Immigration
 - Integration
 - Racism
- Political & artistic culture
 - Festivals & Traditions
 - Art & Architecture
 - Cultural life in Berlin, past and present
 - German & and the European Union
 - Politics & Youth
 - German reunification and its consequences

Cultural input:

In addition to the core content, students will study a film (Das Leben der Anderen) in Year 12, and a play (Der Besuch der alten Dame) in Year 13. The film is readily available on various streaming services, but students will need to purchase their own copy of the play. (We will advise you on the particular version later in the course.)

Oral:

In Year 12, students will have ½ hour a fortnight in small groups with our Foreign Language Tutor, Mrs Young, where they will practise their speaking skills further. In Year 13 this will change to ½ hour a fortnight in small groups and ½ hour a fortnight individual sessions. Part 1 of the oral exam involves students responding to questions on a stimulus card, for which they have a short amount of preparation time. These stimulus cards are all connected to the core topics. Part 2 is where they present their Independent Research Project (IRP). In the summer term of Year 12 we introduce them to the IRP, where they choose any aspect of life in a German speaking country e.g. a famous person, a

historical event, and research it over the next 9 months before doing an exam where they present their findings and answer questions put to them by an outside examiner.

Students will sit 3 papers:

Paper 1: 2 ½ hours. Listening, Reading and Translations. (50%)

Paper 2: 2 hours. 1 essay on the film and 1 on the play. (20%)

Paper 3: 21-23 mins. 1 stimulus card and IRP. (30%)

Resources/organisation:

The course will continue to be organised through a Google Classroom. In Year 12 students will have 5 lessons a fortnight, and in Year 13, 4 lessons a fortnight. These will be split between 2 teachers who will each cover their own elements of the course. Students are expected to organise their own notes accordingly. We expect students to read around the subject, go through grammar notes and learn vocabulary outside of lessons. Kerboodle provides an online textbook, as it did at GCSE.

A Level extra resources:

This section of the MFL department's internal website can be accessed by students and is devoted to extra materials for Sixth Form studies. There are videos, links, texts etc relating to all of the core content topics.

Career Links:

We recommend that you have a look at: <https://www.thelanguagesgateway.uk/> to find out how languages can be useful in a variety of careers.

The students also have access to the career pages on our website which also features videos from our alumni.

Homework and assessments:

Homework of 1 hour duration will be set in German for 4 out of 5 lessons in Year 12 and 4 out of 4 lessons in Year 13 to give the students time to consolidate their understanding of work covered at school and learn the vocabulary and grammar covered. Homework can take many different forms, but is always relevant to what is being taught in lessons.

Feedback is given orally in class, on Google Classroom, on paper for written paragraph assessments, and in other appropriate ways. The types of feedback given can be found on the Feedback PDF in this linked folder [Linked documents](#). Assessments can be in the form of vocabulary tests and end of topic tests (writing, reading, listening, speaking) as well as end of year and mock assessments.

Extension activities:

In addition to the resources on the internal MFL site, we would recommend listening to German music, having a German playlist is something many students benefit from. Watching German TV programmes or films can of course also help. We would recommend students to read German books or magazines in their spare time, there are lots of resources in the library. During the 2 years of the course, we are often given access to competitions run by various University German departments and others, which we pass on to students as and when they arise.

If you have any queries, please contact Mr Baird at ebaird@ahs.bucks.sch.uk .