



# PiXL Gateway: Progression - German

## Contents:

- Why study *German*?
- Preparing for A Level
- A Level essentials
- Book and film analysis
- Essential websites to help you while you study

## The Benefits of Learning German

Studying A level German not only will enable you to learn the German language, but also you will gain in-depth insight into the cultural, social, political and artistic aspects of the German-speaking country/countries you will study.

Follow these links to find out some of the benefits of learning German

[4 reasons to learn a language](#)

[7 secrets from Ted translators](#)

[The benefits of bilingualism](#)

[Why learn German?](#)

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### Demonstrate your learning

1. Go to the PiXL 'Rank IT' triangle and rank the benefits of learning German in order of importance for you.
2. What is the most startling or surprising fact you have discovered from your research?
3. Prepare a five-minute presentation promoting the benefits of learning German. Create a PowerPoint and be prepared to deliver it to your classmates or as an assembly when you return to school.

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### Further research

Find out some basic facts about the geography, history, politics and culture of Germany and one other German-speaking country. Here's a link to a helpful website - <https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/de/jugend>

1. Use the PiXL 'Quizzing' template to show what you have learned.
2. Use the PiXL 'Boxing Up' activity to show your knowledge.

## Prepare for A Level

It's important to start preparing for A level German as soon as you've made the decision to study it. Here are five tasks which will help you familiarise yourself with the course and what it entails.

1. Find out which exam board you will be studying - AQA, EDEXCEL or EDUQAS.
2. If you're studying either AQA or EDEXCEL, follow the link to the PiXL exam board specific transition booklets and work through the activities. These will help you to gain an insight into the topics you will study and you can start learning the topic specific vocabulary. **(You will need to ask your teacher to download these using their login and password)**

<https://pixl.huddle.net/workspace/21044136/files/#/folder/43766614/list>

3. Visit the exam board website and download the specification and look at the specimen assessment material. Don't panic; it will look daunting at first.

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

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/german-2016.html#tab-1>

<http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/german/as-a-level/eduqas-a-level-german-spec-from-2016-r.pdf>

4. Having a good grasp of German grammar is essential to the A level course. Download PiXL Independence booklets and work through the activities and learn everything you need to know. Go to [students@pixl.org.uk](mailto:students@pixl.org.uk). Your school has your login details.

5. Check out the PiXL ThinkIT mats. They are jam-packed with useful language. **Your teacher will be able to access these on the PiXL website via their login.**

# A Level Language Essentials

It's important to start Year 12 equipped with the essentials. Below are six tasks which aim to develop your knowledge of key verbs and more sophisticated language structures.

## High Frequency Verbs

haben können

sein müssen

gehen wollen

machen mögen

Create a wall chart displaying these verbs in all their forms and in the following tenses:

- present tense
- perfect tense
- imperfect tense
- future tense
- conditional tense

Memorise these verbs thoroughly and test yourself regularly.

## Sentence Starters

Was ich nicht ertragen kann, ist... What I cannot bear is...  
Ich mache mich immer so viel Sorgen... I worry very much...  
Zuerst möchte ich betonen... Firstly, I'd like to emphasise...  
Es ist leicht zu ersehen, dass... It is easy to see that...  
Ein großer Vorteil ist... A big advantage is...

Write three sentences using each of these sentence starters. Give your opinion on:

- Immigration and multicultural society
- Changes in society
- German culture

## Complex Opinions

Ich bin überzeugt davon, dass... I am convinced that...  
Es ist zweifellos richtig, dass... It is undoubtedly true that...  
Man muss zwar zugeben, dass... You have to admit that...  
Es fällt schwer zu glauben, dass... It's difficult to believe that...  
Im Prinzip stimme ich zu. In principle, I agree.  
Einige Experten glauben ... - Some experts think ...

Write three sentences using each of these opinions.

Research other opinions online and create a list.

## Complex Phrases

Das Problem hat beängstigende Ausmaße erreicht. The problem has reached worrying proportions.  
Gehen wir davon aus, dass... Let's assume that...  
Vom politischen Standpunkt aus gesehen... From the political point of view...  
Wenn man alles in Betracht zieht... All things considered...  
Betroffen sind vor allem... Those most affected...  
Ich habe nichts gegen diese Entwicklung einzuwenden. I have nothing against this development.

Start to build up a list of complex phrases which you can use when discussing different topics.

Write three sentences using each of these phrases on the topics of:

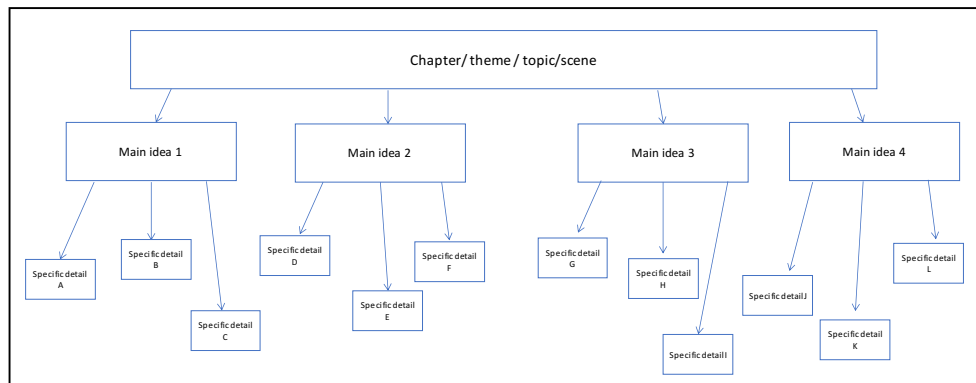
- Politics and young people
- The digital world
- The role of TV

[Click here](#) and do some research on compound sentences.

## Book and Film Analysis

In Paper 2 of the A level German exam you will need to give a written response to a question on a literary text and a film, or on two literary texts. Complete the tasks below during the summer before you start the course.

1. Choose **one text** and **one film** or **two texts** from the list set in the specification. (Consult with your teachers first.)
2. Read the book/s at least twice and watch the film as many times as you can.
3. Annotate the text as you read. This will help you find important passages easily when you start writing an analysis. Translate words you don't know. Circle, highlight, or note anything that's confusing, important, surprising, or interesting.
4. In the same way make similar notes as you watch the film. Rely on subtitles at first then watch without them.
5. Write down the main characters' names and a brief description of their personalities or major characteristics (in English and German).
6. Use the organisation chart below to deconstruct the book. Start with chapters then do themes, characters, events, scenes and literary or cinematic devices.



7. Make a timeline of the major events that occur in the book, especially if the chronology is complicated or confusing. Keep multiple timelines if the story jumps back and forth between different plotlines.
8. Complete the ranking and prioritise activities below:
  - Choose the three most important chapters/scenes in the book/film. Explain why you have chosen them.
  - Rank the main themes of the novel/film in order of importance. Explain the rationale behind your decisions.
  - Choose the five most influential characters in the book/film and give reasons why.
  - Pick out three of the most powerful quotations in the book/scenes in the film which depict the main theme.

## Extending your learning - Useful websites

Look at these websites. They will be invaluable during your A level German course. Visit each one and make notes on their usefulness and purpose.

General help

<https://www.thoughtco.com/german-4133073>

Verb practice

<https://german.net/exercises/verbs/>

Thesaurus

<https://www.openthesaurus.de/>

Translator in context

<https://www.linguee.com/>

Translator in context

[http://www.reverso.net/text\\_translation.aspx?lang=EN](http://www.reverso.net/text_translation.aspx?lang=EN)

German Pronunciation (Excellent preparation for speaking tests!)

<http://www.acapela-group.com/text-to-speech-interactive-demo.html>

French AS and A2 Level Vocabulary and resources

<https://mfl.jimdo.com/resources/german-a2-level/>

Slowly-spoken news

<http://www.dw.com/de/deutsch-lernen/nachrichten/s-8030>

News in 100 seconds in German

<https://www.tagesschau.de/multimedia/video/video-413501.html>

Links to listening

<https://www.learning-german-online.org/listening-comprehension>

Where is German spoken in the world?

<http://www.fr.de/kultur/sprachen-289-millionen-menschen-sprechen-deutsch-a-370615>

Great video clips

<http://www.spiegel.de/video/>

A fun way to practise listening (and singing!)

<http://www.lyricstraining.de>



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