



GERMAN



Exam board:	Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC)
Staff:	Marie Nichols
Summary of course:	A modular two year course with 2 units examined at the end of year 12 (AS level) and 3 units examined at the end of year 13 (A level)

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking German in the sixth form?

This specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE.

What will I learn?

The AS and A level in German provides an engaging and exciting opportunity for learners to build on their previous study of German. Through social, intellectual and cultural themes learners will be able to develop their linguistic knowledge and cultural understanding of the countries or communities where the language is spoken.

A strong focus is placed on building learners' confidence and fluency in spoken German using relevant and topical themes. The requirement to research an area of personal interest related to the country or countries where the language of study is spoken aims to enhance learners' cultural appreciation to gain a greater awareness of intercultural differences.

The AS and A level in German encourages learners to:

- enhance their linguistic skills and promote and develop their capacity for critical thinking on the basis of their knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of the countries or communities where the language is spoken
- develop control of the language system to convey meaning, using spoken and written skills, including an extended range of vocabulary, for both practical and intellectual purposes as increasingly confident, accurate and independent users of the language
- develop their ability to interact effectively with users of the language in speech and in writing, including through online media
- develop language learning skills and strategies, including communication strategies to sustain communication and build fluency and confidence
- engage critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in the original language, developing an appreciation of sophisticated and creative uses of the language and understanding them within their cultural and social context
- develop knowledge about matters central to the society and culture, past and present, of the countries or communities where the language is spoken
- equip themselves with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable them to proceed to further study or to employment

Main topic themes will include (AS level):

social issues and trends

political, intellectual and artistic culture.

Being a young person in German-speaking society

Family structures, traditional and modern values, friendships / relationships

Youth trends, issues and personal identity

Educational and employment opportunities

Understanding the German-speaking world

Regional culture and heritage in Germany

German-speaking countries and communities

Literature, art, film and music in the German-speaking world

Study of a film



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(A level)

Diversity and difference
 Migration and integration
 Cultural identity and marginalisation
 Cultural enrichment and celebrating difference
 Discrimination and diversity
 The Making of Modern Germany: 1989 onwards
 Initial and subsequent process of reunification
 Social cohesion in present-day Germany
 Artistic and political movements
 Economic impact of a united Germany
 Study of a literary work

Specification content:

The subject content for AS German will be assessed across two examinations:

Unit 1: Speaking

Arguing a point of view and discussion based on 2 stimulus cards: 15 minutes (plus 15 minutes preparation time)

12% of A level qualification

Unit 2: Listening, reading, translation and critical response in writing (essay on film studied)

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

28% of A level qualification

The subject content for A level German will be assessed across 3 examinations:

Unit 3: Speaking

Presentation and discussion on independent research project: 11-12 minutes

18% of qualification

Unit 4: Listening, reading and translation

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

30% of qualification

Unit 5: Critical and analytical response in writing (essay on the literary work studied)

Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes

12% of qualification

What kind of students is the course suitable for?

Students who are interested in developing their linguistic knowledge and cultural understanding of Germany and other countries where German is spoken

Students who want to enhance their cultural appreciation and gain a greater awareness of intercultural differences

Students who want to build their communication, interpersonal, intercultural and public speaking skills

Students who are interested in a career involving translation or communication with people from German speaking countries. This can include careers in tourism, government, politics, media, publishing and journalism.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

The full A level in German is a subject that is favoured by top universities for a whole range of courses and provides the basis for students who wish to study towards a degree in German or who wish to study a combined degree and study German alongside Politics and International Relations, Business Studies, History, Sociology, Law, English or Philosophy.