

**A Level German**

**Modern Foreign Languages**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Course Expectations**

Learning a foreign language is a demanding undertaking and require a great degree of commitment and independent learning. You will be expected to be much more independent than you were at GCSE and also to develop a wider range of skills.

Your success on this course will enable you to do a great many things in life, and will certainly make you stand out from the others around you. However, to succeed on the course and make the progress needed, it is essential that you fulfil the following expectations:

* Attendance = attainment. Attend all lessons – including your FLA lesson. Take responsibility for arriving on time to lessons after break or after a free period.
* Do not book medical appointments during lessons. If you are ill on a day when you have an assistant lesson, e-mail the FLA so that they know. Sometimes they will be coming in to school just for you!
* Necessary equipment of pens, paper, your working folders and any books should be brought to EVERY lesson.
* No mobile phones in use or in view in the lesson.
* Work to the best of your ability in class and focus on the lesson.
* Listen respectfully to the views of other students.
* Complete all homework and classroom work.
* Complete all necessary research as directed.
* Keep and engage with your independent study log
* Take advantage of any extra lessons/revision sessions.
* Keep to deadlines.
* Buy a large bilingual dictionary or a suitable electronic device.

**Learner Agreement**

As a student of German at Uxbridge High School, I promise to meet the expectations above. I understand that not doing so will result in school sanctions, parent meetings, and most importantly, it will have a negative impact on my attainment.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Course Breakdown**

The German A-level Course is a linear qualification. This means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. There is no AS/A2 – it is a two year course.

There is a focus on how German-speaking society has been shaped socially and culturally and how it continues to change. In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of German-speaking countries. In the second year, further aspects of the social background are covered, alongside the German political landscape, both in relation to Germany itself and its place in Europe. The past and its role in shaping the present is viewed through the reunification and its consequences while the focus on young people and politics looks forward to shaping the future of German-speaking countries.

The core content can be described as:

1. Social issues and trends

2. Political and artistic culture

3. Grammar

4. Works: Literary texts and films

The lessons will be split between taught lessons in a class where there will be a range of skills and approaches including debate, discussion and literary analysis practiced and individual lessons focussing on oral skills with the German FLA. The FLA lessons are a core part of the A-level course and are not optional.

The literary texts and film covered may include:

*Andorra -* Max Frisch

*Die Verwandlung* - Franz Kafka

Das Leben der Anderen (2006)

Sophie Scholl – Die letzten Tage (2005)

Lola rennt (1998)

Students will also choose and research an individual area of interest related to the German-speaking world which will form the base for their speaking exam.

**Assessment Objectives**

The A-level is assessed in the following way. Assessment Objectives (AOs) are set by Ofqual and are the same across all A-level German specifications and all exam boards. At UHS we are using the exam board AQA.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

What's assessed:

Aspects of German-speaking society

Artistic culture in the German-speaking world

Multiculturalism in German-speaking society

Aspects of political life in German-speaking society

Grammar

How it's assessed:

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

100 marks

50% of A-level

The exam material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail. Studio recordings will be used and students will have individual control of the recording. You will also read and respond to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from a range of authentic sources and adapted as necessary.

All questions are in German, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in German

There is also a translation section: translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks) and translation into German; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks).

No access to a dictionary during the assessment.

Paper 2: Writing

What's assessed:

One text and one film or two texts from the list set

Grammar

How it's assessed:

Written exam: 2 hours

80 marks in total

20% of A-level

Either one question in German on a set text from a choice of two questions and one question in German on a set film from a choice of two questions or two questions in German on set texts from a choice of two questions on each text.

All questions will require a critical appreciation of the concepts and issues covered in the work and a critical and analytical response to features such as the form and the technique of presentation, as appropriate to the work studied (e.g the effect of narrative voice in a prose text or camera work in a film).

No access to texts or films during the assessment.

No access to a dictionary during the assessment.

Students are advised to write approximately 300 words per essay.

Paper 3: Speaking

What's assessed:

Individual research project

One of four sub-themes i.e, Aspects of German-speaking society or Artistic culture in the German-speaking world or Multiculturalism in German-speaking society or Aspects of political life in German-speaking society

How it's assessed:

Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)

60 marks in total

30% of A-level

Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks).

Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks).

No access to a dictionary during the assessment (including 5 minutes preparation).

Students may take the assessment only once before certification. This means there are no re-sits.

Assessments will be conducted by either the centre or a visiting examiner and marked by an AQA examiner.

**Summer Task**

The easiest way to become proficient in a modern foreign language is to practice, practice, practice. We do not wish you to forget everything over the summer!

Please do the following tasks, to be checked on your return in September.

1. Create an account with Memrise (<http://www.memrise.com>)  
 1.a Find and practice enough German vocab/grammar to achieve a score of 100,000 before your first lesson.

2. Download and create an account in the Duolinguo app (free app, available on Apple and the Play Store)   
 2.a Select German and drill enough topic areas to pass the first two checkpoints

3. Find a German-language band/artist/singer and listen to one or more of their songs. Make a note of the name of the band and your favourite song.  
 3.a Write presentation of 100-150 words describing the band; where are they from, what type of music are they, who are they popular with, etc?  
 3.b Be prepared to deliver your presentation on the first lesson back.  
 3.c Come up with a list of 5-10 questions to ask other students about their presentations; e.g. why did you choose this band, why do you like this style of music, why are they more popular in America than Germany?

**Recommended Reading/Apps**

It is recommended that you either purchase, borrow, watch, read or download some of the following materials in advance of or during the course to aid your progress. This list is not exhaustive, and you are encouraged to read in German and about Germany outside of this list.

Apps: Memrise (<http://www.memrise.com>)

DuoLinguo (<http://www.duolinguo.com>)

LEO (<http://dict.leo.org/pages/smartphones/ende/index_de.html>)

Newshound (google “Linguascope NewsHound”)

Dictionaries:

Collins German Dictionary: Complete and Unabridged  
(This is your HUGE keep-at-home dictionary)

Collins German Dictionary: Pocket edition  
(This is your portable version)

Grammar Support:

A Practice Grammar of German by Hilke Dreyer and Richard Schmitt

Easy Learning German Verbs published by Collins  
(I recommend going on eBay and typing “Collins Gem German Verb Tables” to save money, however…)

Set Literary Texts:

*Andorra* – Max Frisch

*Die Verwandlung* – Franz Kafka (*The Metamorphosis*)

Set Films:

*Das Leben der Anderen* (2006) (The Lives of the Others)

*Sophie Scholl – Die letzten Tage* (2005) (Sophie Scholl – The Final Days)

*Lola rennt* (1998) (Run, Lola, Run)

General Information:

*Germany: Memories of a Nation* - Neil MacGregor