

QUEEN'S GATE SCHOOL
GERMAN
A-LEVEL GUIDE



THINKING OF STUDYING GERMAN AT A-LEVEL?

Why learn German?

90 million people speak German as their first language. It's an official language in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein—seven of Europe's most dynamic and interesting countries. It's also spoken as a second language by an additional 10 to 25 million people and as a foreign language by 75 to 100 million people. In absolute numbers, German is the second most-spoken language on the continent of Europe. However, when it comes to native speakers, German is number one.

With so many award-winning scientists from the German-speaking countries, it might not come as a surprise that the German language is very important in the academic community. In fact, it ranks second as the most commonly used scientific language. German is not only an interesting option for academics, but also those in the business world should consider brushing up on their Deutsch. Germany is the biggest economy within the European Union and the fourth largest worldwide. It is home to numerous international corporations and on the front line of new technologies.

Meanwhile, the German capital, Berlin, is turning into a hub for innovative startups. As a consequence, knowing German has the potential to greatly enhance your career opportunities. German holds a key role in the field of environmentalism and renewable energy, serving as a cornerstone language in discussions surrounding sustainability and green technologies. Germany's dedication to environmental protection and innovation in renewable energy has positioned it as a global leader in the transition towards a more sustainable future.

German also holds a pivotal role in the realm of philosophy, standing as a language that has profoundly influenced philosophical discourse from its starts. From the profound musings of Kant and Hegel to the existential inquiries of Nietzsche and the critical theory of the Frankfurt School, German has been instrumental in shaping philosophical thought.

A LEVEL GERMAN

The course is divided into focused learning areas to ensure you are given the opportunity to cover all aspects of the German A Level curriculum. These areas include: translation skills, reading and listening comprehensions, essay writing and grammar, summary writing and speaking. We use a wide range of learning and teaching techniques and exciting and stimulating challenges and activities to motivate you to deepen your learning and to promote your independent thinking skills.

During the second year of the A Level course, you also take on an Independent Research Project (IRP). You will do research on a topic of interest for you that is related to the German-speaking world. It will be part of your final speaking examination. You will learn to write essays in German: both on our set film and on our set text.

First Year	Second Year
Aspects of German-speaking society • Familie im Wandel • Die digitale Welt • Jugendkultur: Mode, Musik und Fernsehen	Multiculturalism in German-speaking society • Einwanderung • Integration • Rassismus
Artistic culture in the German-speaking world • Feste und Traditionen • Kunst und Architektur • Das Berliner Kulturleben damals und heute	Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world • Deutschland und die Europäische Union • Die Politik und die Jugend • Die Wiedervereinigung und ihre Folgen
Film: Choice of : 'Das Leben der Anderen' or 'Goodbye Lenin!'	Text: Andorra (Max Frisch)

A-LEVEL GERMAN FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

At Queen's Gate, we teach the AQA specification. It is a linear course, and all exams are taken at the end of the Upper Sixth. Details of the exams are shown below:

Paper	Duration	Weighting
PAPER 1 – Listening, reading and writing • Aspects of German-speaking society • Artistic culture in the German-speaking world • Multiculturalism in German-speaking society • Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world • Grammar	2 hours 30 minutes	50%
PAPER 2 - Writing • One text and one film • Grammar	2 hours	20%
PAPER 3 - Speaking • Individual Research Project (IRP) • A sub-theme from one of the four themes	21-23 minutes (including 5 minutes of preparation time)	30%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students must achieve at least a 7 at German GCSE to continue at A Level. You need a love of German and a desire for challenge. You need to be motivated and willing to work hard. You also need to have the aptitude to work independently. This means, for example, the ability to review vocabulary and grammar on your own after each lesson. You need to be passionate about German culture and society. In UVI, you will be expected to watch the German TV news on a weekly basis in addition to your homework.

PATHWAYS

Pathways – Career and /or further study possibilities:

The course is suitable for all students interested in languages, especially those wishing to study foreign languages to degree level, or those who wish to follow higher education courses such as: Business; International Business; Marketing; Economics; Travel & Tourism and Law.

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