

A2 German Topics

ENVIRONMENT

Pollution

- Types, causes and effects of pollution
- Measures to reduce pollution
- Individual action/responsibility versus collective action/responsibility
- Transport issues

Energy

- Coal, oil and gas
- Nuclear
- Alternative energy sources
- Changing attitudes to energy consumption

Protecting the planet

- Ways of minimising environmental damage
- The role of pressure groups
- Initiatives to improve awareness and change behaviour
- Responsibilities towards other nations, especially developing countries

Grammar:

- Revision of prepositions and cases, including adjective endings
- Verbal and idiomatic phrases with prepositions
- Interrogative adverbs (including *woraus*, *worauf*, etc.) and interrogative pronouns (including *wen*, *wem*, *wessen*)
- Use of *was*, *wer*, etc. as a conjunction
- Reflexive pronouns (accusative and dative)

Skills:

- Formulating questions involving time (e.g. *seit wann...*)
- Making requests and recommendations
- Different ways of describing change (verbs, time phrases, comparative adjectives, etc.)
- Expressing and explaining statistics
- Tips for unravelling complex sentences in reading passages
- Translating from German into English

Activities:

- Debate the energy sources and fuels of the future
- Design a poster for an environmental awareness campaign
- Survey on how green members of the class are
- Draft a letter to your (German-speaking!) MP about an environmental issue

THE MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Immigration

- Reasons for immigration
- Benefits and problems of immigration for immigrants and for country of destination
- Migration within the enlarged EU
- Curbs on immigration

Integration

- Factors making integration difficult
- Factors facilitating integration
- To which culture should immigrants show loyalty?
- Experiences of individual immigrants

Racism

- Victims of racism
- Reasons for racism
- Measures to eliminate racism and their effectiveness
- Experiences of individuals, including those of 2nd and 3rd generation immigrants

Grammar:

- Revision of all verb tenses, including passive forms (all tenses) and modal verbs in the perfect tense

Skills:

- Understanding complex adjectival phrases
- Using a variety of adverbs and particles to make the meaning clearer
- Justifying and defending a point of view
- Translating from English into German

Activities:

- Choose a German-speaking town or city; to what extent is it multicultural?
- Find out how immigration has changed the life of one specific person
- Design an anti-racism poster
- Debate the pros and cons of increased migration
- Imagine and describe life as a first-generation immigrant
- Debate: Whose responsibility is integration?
- Write the script for a short play in which stereotypes are shown to be untrue

CULTURAL TOPICS

Two of the following five cultural topics

A target language-speaking region/community

- Its geography and how its geography has influenced/influences/will influence the region
- Its history and how its history has influenced/influences/will influence the region
- Its industries and how these have changed in the last 20 years. What about the future?
- Its population and how it has changed in last 20 years. What about the future?
- Its economy and how important this is/was
- A personal perspective: Would I like to live/work in this region?

A period of 20th century history from a target language-speaking country/community

- Main events of the period
- Causes of these events
- The importance/influence/effects of these events
- The ideas and influences of at least two individuals who made a significant impact during the period
- Specific actions of these individuals plus an appraisal of the importance of these actions
- A personal perspective: Would I have liked to live in that period?

The work of an author from a target language-speaking country/community

- The context of the author's work
- The themes/ideas/messages of the author
- How these themes/ideas/messages are expressed
- What/who influences/inspires the author? Why does he/she feel as he/she does?
- A detailed study of at least one novel/collection of short stories plus personal appraisal
- A personal evaluation of the author's work: Why do I enjoy reading the work of this author?

The work of a dramatist or poet from a target language-speaking country or community

- The context of the dramatist's/poet's work
- The themes/ideas/messages of the dramatist/poet
- How these themes/ideas/messages are expressed
- What/who influences/inspires the dramatist/poet? Why does he/she feel as he/she does?
- A detailed study of at least one play/collection of poems plus personal appraisal
- A personal evaluation of the dramatist's/poet's work: Why do I enjoy the work of this dramatist/poet?

The work of a director, architect, musician or painter from a target language-speaking country or community

- The context of the artist's work
- The influences on the artist - events and people
- The ideas/techniques of the artist plus personal appraisal

- The importance/influences of the artist both in his/her own lifetime and later
- A detailed study of at least one work of the artist plus a personal appraisal
- A personal evaluation: Why do I find this artist so interesting?

CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUES

Wealth and poverty

- Causes of poverty in Europe and developing countries
- Work of charitable organisations and governments
- Attitudes to wealth and poverty
- Link between wealth and health

Law and order

- Examples of crime, especially committed by or affecting young people
- Reasons for criminal and anti-social behaviour
- Measures to reduce crime and their effectiveness
- Alternatives to imprisonment, their appropriateness and effectiveness

Impact of scientific and technological progress

- Technology in the home and workplace, including IT
- Space and satellite technology
- Medical research
- Ethical issues linked to scientific and technological progress

Grammar:

- Revision of conjunctions e.g. *seitdem, damit*
- Future perfect tense
- Revision of conditional sentences (using imperfect subjunctive and pluperfect subjunctive)
- All forms of indirect speech
- Variations of normal word order

Skills:

- Gist comprehension of difficult texts
- Organising ideas logically in speech and in writing
- Reporting and explaining someone else's viewpoint
- Revision of translation skills – German to English and English to German

Activities:

- Find out up-to-date figures for unemployment and homelessness in a German-speaking country or city
- Write a letter to a German newspaper *either* defending *or* attacking the wealth of a well-known personality
- Debate: How much of our wealth should we share with developing countries?
- Listen to and read authentic reports of crimes in a German-speaking context
- Use a photographs and/or cartoons, e.g. a street scene with several surveillance cameras, as a basis for discussion
- Debate the pros and cons of a law and order issue, e.g. 'Should young criminals be punished or treated in some other way?'
- Imagine and describe life without TV and/or internet and/or mobile phones
- Design a cartoon with a German caption highlighting the danger of overreliance on technology

Exam practice:

- Students sit a mock exam in January
- From January onwards written work will be marked according to exam board specifications
- Throughout the course there are exam style questions
- In term 3 students will spend time practising past papers, revising grammar and looking at exam success criteria in preparation for the summer exams.
- Students currently have an hour a week in a small group with a native speaker to practise speaking skills and prepare for the oral exam which usually takes places after Easter

A2 Examination:

Listening, Reading and Writing

35% of A Level

2 hours 30 minutes written examination

110 marks

Available June only

Speaking

15% of A Level

35 minutes speaking test (including 20 minutes preparation)

50 marks

Available June only

FAQs:

1. Can I re-take my AS exams in year 13 if I need a better grade for University?
2. Should I carry on my language skills at University?
3. How much of my AS grade counts towards my final A2 grade?
4. What subjects does A-Level German combine well with at university?

FAQs Answers:

1. You can only re-take the AS exam in the summer. It is advisable to achieve the highest possible grade at the end of year 12 so that in year 13 you can concentrate solely on your A2 courses and exams in year 13.
2. Language skills at any level are useful. If you are enthusiastic about language learning at university this can also open up the opportunity of studying or working abroad during your studies which is highly regarded by employers.
3. Your AS grade is 50% of your A2 grade.
4. A qualification in German combines well with almost any subject and is well regarded on university application forms and CVs.

Useful websites and tips for independent study:

To improve listening skills –ensure that you practise some listening 2- 3 times each week.

www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips - Choose secondary level and German and you can watch short videos about all sorts of topics.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/tv/onlineprogs.shtml>– You can watch the news or read articles in English and in German.

<http://www.euronews.com/> - Access current news articles. Simply change the language from English to German at the top of the tool bar.

www.kerboodle.com - A site where you can access reading and listening activities, online newspapers, quizzes and games etc with links to relevant AS and A2 topics.

Of course any German films you may have the opportunity to watch with English subtitles are a bonus! Check www.amazon.co.uk as they have some good deals!

Blockbuster and lovefilm have a quite a few German films for hire.

To improve reading skills:

Look through magazine articles online that are related to to the topics you are studying or that interest you. Any extra reading is beneficial.

For current German news articles:

www.tagesschau.de/100sekunden/index.html (there also an app for this)

www.tagesschau.de
www.welt.de
www.spiegel.de
www.focus.de
www.stern.de
www.ksta.de
www.brigitte.de
www.waz.de
www.zeit.de
www.faz.de
www.bild.de
www.kaleidos.de

For each article you find you could do **any** of the suggested following activities:

- Find 10 new words and use a dictionary to look up the meaning.
- Write a resumé in English of the article.
- Translate the article.

To improve your grammar:

Although we will look at grammar during the course, it is absolutely crucial that you are familiar and understand some essential grammar areas. Using '**Practice Makes Perfect Complete German Grammar**' by **Ed Swick** (£9.11 Amazon) make sure that you are clear on the following:- Masculine, feminine, neuter, plural (p3-6)
Adjectives (p159-160)

The present tense (Chapter 6)

The definite and indefinite and articles (Chapter 2)

Perfect tense with *haben* (Chapter 16)

The perfect tense with *sein* (Chapter 16)

The future tense with 'werden' (p163-164)

Adverbs (p.178)

Comparative and superlative forms (p.147-150)

Pronouns (Chapter 3)

Conjunctions (p180-182)

Modal verbs (p.120-124)

- Read over the grammar areas carefully. Make any notes you feel may be helpful or make a note of any questions you may have about any of the points. As you read articles and listen to German try and identify any of these areas in the language you come across.
 - There is also a grammar section at the back of the AQA AS German textbook.
 - The old textbooks *Zeitgeist 1* can be found on the shelves in room 125 and are excellent for extra reading and grammar too.
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******It is important that you use your study lessons to improve your language skills independently. Now that you are in the 6th form it is your responsibility to work on the areas that you find most difficult. I would suggest reserving at least 3 study lessons per week for independent German work where you spend time reading and listening to German as well as working on your grammar.***

It is also important that you stay in touch with current affairs in Germany and read recent articles on the topics you are studying so that can impress the examiner with statistics, quotes etc.***