BEECHEN CLIFF

# A Level German

# Curriculum Booklet

# 2026 - 2027

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## Subject Curriculum Intent:

***To learn a language is to have one more window from which to look at the world***

**Chinese proverb**

A level German at Beechen Cliff offers a challenging curriculum which contains a wide range of topics and themes designed to appeal to our students. We pride ourselves on being the only school in the area and one of the few in the country to offer 4 European languages through to A level which ensures that they are able to experience as wide as possible a range of cultures and that our students have choice when it comes to their language learning. In all of our 4 A level language courses we aim to build on the enthusiasm for learning languages gained at KS4 and further kindle our learners' love of the language itself as well as its culture.

We begin in year 12 a transition between GCSE and A level with topics familiar to the students such as family and technology. This ensures that we review and consolidate core structures learned at GCSE. This is intended to close any knowledge gaps of core intermediate language and to address the disparity in knowledge of these with students coming from different previous schools. We then quickly build on familiar concepts to enable our students to be able to discover trends specific to the target language countries as well as be able to express opinions on these trends.

Part of the course requires students to study the works of an Author and Director in German. We have chosen to study the book "Der Besuch der alten Dame" - a play about a lady exacting revenge, and the film "Das Leben der Anderen" which explores life in 1980s East Berlin under the regime of the Stasi. These were chosen as they are engaging and relevant to our students who can identify with the themes contained but will also widen their cultural knowledge.

Throughout the A level, our students develop transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity and cultural flexibility. Students will build their capacity for critical and analytical thinking through the study of a foreign language and these skills are highly valued by both universities and employers. We enable our students to develop their linguistic skills alongside their understanding of the culture and society of the countries where these languages are spoken and we want our A-level language students to be able to use their language in a variety of situations. We intend to inspire and equip our students with the qualifications they need to continue to study languages beyond A level. Universities, including the Russell Group, regard a language A level as a 'facilitating subject' meaning that it is a subject preferred by universities. We encourage our students to continue their language studies at university, often combining it with other degree courses such as Law, International Relations or Business.

An A level in German will ensure fluency by the end of the course. It will make our students much more attractive to employers who are demanding more and more that their employees can communicate with other countries in the global market.

## Subject Curriculum Implementation:

The teaching of prescribed topics and works of literature is divided between two teachers and runs parallel in both year 12 and year 13. This ensures that there is continuity in the development of linguistic skills alongside the study of the topics as well as the literary/cinematographic works.

Topics studied in Year 12 include technological and social change, looking at diversity and the benefits it brings and artistic culture, including music and cinema in each of the countries where the language is spoken.

In year 13, topics build on the knowledge and skills developed in year 12, requiring them to apply what they have learned as they explore the diverse political landscapes of the target language countries as well as other aspects such as immigration, integration, racism and reunification. Students also explore political engagement and youth priorities in politics.

In addition to the lessons, students are timetabled to a weekly session with the Foreign Language Assistant (a native speaker in the language they study). During these sessions students develop their spoken fluency one on one and the Foreign Language Assistant is able to give individual targeted feedback to students to build their confidence as well as to improve grammatical accuracy and pronunciation.

Our students all have access to a digital online textbook which provides additional support and develops their independent study skills as well as to ensure their individual needs are met.

Throughout their studies in both year 12 and year 13, students will learn the language in the context of German speaking countries and the issues and influences which have shaped them. Students are encouraged to regard what they have learned in lessons as a starting point for their knowledge and are encouraged to undertake wider reading / research around the topics to individualise and broaden their understanding. Knowledge gained and research undertaken is then discussed in class providing good preparation for the speaking exam at the end of the course.

In year 13 students also carry out an independent research project on a subject of their choice. The findings of their research is then presented and discussed in detail during their speaking exam at the end of the course.

Progress of students is monitored throughout the course through the assessment of classwork and homework; peer assessment as well as targeted teacher feedback. Summative assessments take place at the end of each topic and cover all skills and exam specific techniques with past paper questions and mark schemes

## Allocated Curriculum Time:

| | **Lower Sixth** | **Upper Sixth** |
|---|---|---|
| **Fortnightly lesson allocation** | 8 | 8 |

## German Course Information

**Exam Board: AQA**
**Specification: 7661**

## Lower Sixth

| Term | Curriculum Foci Areas | Assessment |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Changing nature of the family (Teacher 1)**<br>● Comparing types of families<br>● Modern marriage and partnerships<br>● Modern family living<br><br>**The digital world (Teacher 2)**<br>● Discussing the use of The Internet<br>● Benefits & dangers of Social networks<br>● Digitalisation of society.<br><br>**Key Skills / Coursework / PSAs / Deadlines**<br>● Consolidation of all tenses and grammar learnt at GCSE (present, perfect, imperfect, future and conditional tenses).<br>● Adjective endings, cases.<br>● End of topic assessments (listening, reading, translations) | |
| 2 | **Music, television and fashion (Teacher 1)**<br>● Types of music<br>● Television in Germany<br>● Fashion trends and celebrities as role models<br><br>**Berlin cultural life (Teacher 2)**<br>● Culture in Berlin<br>● History embedded within the city<br>● Theatre, music and museums.<br><br>**Key Skills / Coursework / PSAs / Deadlines**<br>● Consolidation of all tenses and grammar learnt at GCSE (present, perfect, imperfect, future and conditional tenses).<br>● Adjective endings, cases.<br>● End of topic assessments (listening, reading, translations) | |
| 3 | **Festivals and traditions (Teacher 1)** | |

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|---|---|---|
| | • Festivals, traditions and customs in the German-speaking world<br>• Social & economic importance of festivals<br><br>**Berlin cultural life continued (Teacher 2)**<br>• Diversity amongst the population<br><br>**Film study: Das Leben der Anderen (Teacher 2)**<br>• Setting the scene and exploring the characters<br><br>**Key Skills / Coursework / PSAs / Deadlines**<br>• More complex grammar tenses (pluperfect, conditional perfect, imperfect subjunctive and passive voice)<br>• Translation and summary skills<br>• Word order<br>• Persuasive speaking | |
| **4** | **Art and architecture (Teacher 1)**<br>• Architecture & building styles<br>• Influence & role of art and artists<br>• Post-war architecture<br><br>**Film study: Das Leben der Anderen (Teacher 2)**<br>• More in-depth study of the film<br>• Plot<br>• Characters<br>• Themes<br><br>**Key Skills / Coursework / PSAs / Deadlines**<br>• Relative, demonstrative & indefinite pronouns<br>• Complex word order in subordinate clauses<br>• Presenting, translation and answering questions | |
| **5 & 6** | **Art and architecture continued (Teacher 1)**<br>• Architecture - past, present and future<br><br>**Revision**<br><br>**Launch Individual Research Project (IRP) (Teacher 2)**<br>• Speaking card practice<br>• Guidance for IRP<br>• Essay writing skills on the film<br>• **Begin book study:** Der Besuch der alten Dame<br><br>**Key Skills / Coursework / PSAs / Deadlines**<br>• Exam style questions and past paper practice Preparation for speaking exam<br>• Essay writing practice | |

## Upper Sixth

| Term | Curriculum Foci Areas | Assessment |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Immigration (Teacher 1)**<br>● Reasons for migration.<br>● Advantages and disadvantages for immigrants.<br>● Issues affecting migration policies.<br><br>**Book study:** Der Besuch der alten Dame **(Teacher 2)**<br>● Understanding of post-war Germany.<br>● Analysis of book plot, characters, themes, social environment, techniques<br>**Key Skills / Coursework / PSAs / Deadlines**<br>● Translation into English, reading for gist, writing summaries<br>● Pronunciation.<br>● Tenses.<br>● Adjective endings, cases & prepositions. | |
| 2 | **Integration (Teacher 1)**<br>● Promoting the integration of migrants and refugees<br>● Potential problem areas<br>● Positive and negative experiences<br>● **TOPIC REVISION**<br><br>**Germany and the EU (Teacher 2)**<br>● Germany's role<br>● Advantages and disadvantages of the EU for Germany<br>● The impact of EU expansion<br>● **TOPIC REVISION**<br><br>**Key Skills / Coursework / PSAs / Deadlines**<br>● Consolidation of more complex grammar tenses<br>● Exam style questions and past paper practice<br>● Mock Exams | |
| 3 | **Racism (Teacher 1)**<br>● Impact on victims and support available<br>● Origins of racism<br>● The fight against racism<br><br>**Reunification (Teacher 2)**<br>● Events leading to reunification<br>● Desired and actual outcomes<br>● Comparing culture & identity of old/new states<br><br>**Key Skills / Coursework / PSAs / Deadlines**<br>● Translation, listening strategies, writing summaries | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | • Revision of tenses and the passive voice<br>• Separable and inseparable verbs<br>• Pluperfect subjunctive in conditional sentences and cases.<br>• IRP to be researched in more detail | |
| **4** | **Politics and youth (Teacher 1)**<br>• Youth engagement in politics<br>• Priorities for youth politics in Germany<br>• The role of pressure groups<br><br>**Film study:** Das Leben der Anderen<br>• Revision of the film<br>• Analytical response<br>• Revision of the book: Der Besuch der alten Dame<br><br>**Key Skills / Coursework / PSAs / Deadlines**<br>• Translation, presenting and answering questions<br>• Relative, demonstrative & indefinite pronouns<br>• IRP topics to be finalised<br>• Exam style questions and past paper practice and mock speaking exam | |
| **5** | **Revision and Exams** | |
| **6** | **Exams** | |

**<u>Reading and Listening suggestions for German A level</u>**

- Keep up-to-date with grammar by practising using the BBC grammar book recommended or by using the **'Languages Online'** website.
- Download the **'memrise'** App and consistently update your lists with relevant vocabulary from lessons.
- Use the **'Goethe Institute'** website to research current topics and themes to support lesson material.
- Go to **Planet Wissen, ZDF Mediathek** or **Deutsche Welle** on the Internet to read and listen to relevant material surrounding the topic you are studying and to keep up with the latest news.
- Watch or read German News using the following website:

www.euronews.net Select language 'deutsch' and then choose from a wide variety of News videos.

- As recommended above, the youtube channel called Easy German is a fantastic resource for all sorts of different topics, cultural awareness, attitudes of the Germans towards many different areas and plenty of historical interest. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbxb2fqe9oNgglAoYqsYOtQ
- Find out as much as possible about the multicultural aspects of Berlin particularly in the **Kreuzberg** area.
- Keep familiarising yourself with the film **'Das Leben der Anderen'**. You can buy the study guide and get to grips with some of the main themes we will be studying.
- Choose a book to read in German: this could be a book that's familiar to you in English as this would help with content.

**Revision**
Use online resources such as Kerboodle for explicit exam practice and vocab building.
Read Foreign language newspapers or blogs and other online resources as listed above to widen your knowledge of the topics and to prepare your IRP - you will be expected to know about current affairs in the country whose language you are studying.
Go back through everything in your file – both year 1 and year 2.
Re-read articles and revise key vocabulary from the topics covered throughout the year.
Revise verbs, tenses and grammar points covered over years 1 and 2
Look through previous Listening, Reading and Writing practice, especially past papers.
Use reading and listening lists regularly

## Final Assessment Structure:

| Component | Weighting (%) | Content | Proposed Examination Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Paper 1<br>2 hours 30 minutes | 50% | Listening, Reading, Writing<br>Entire Specification | May/June |
| Paper 2<br>2 hours | 20% | Writing<br>Entire Specification | May/June |
| Paper 3<br>21–23 minutes | 30% | Entire Specification + IRP | April/May |

Please see Exam Board websites for up to date information:
**https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/german-7662**

## Careers education

The German A Level curriculum integrates careers education by fostering language skills which apply to the world of work, emphasising real-life contexts and vocational relevance. Pupils engage with skills such as translation, presentations and conversational work and lessons often involve tasks which simulate real-life scenarios. Students have opportunities to write, read, listen and speak about these and this approach prepares learners linguistically and culturally, equipping them for careers involving international communication and cultural exchange. This also improves the pupils' confidence with a view to them being able to use their language in the countries where it is spoken so that they can potentially apply for jobs or enjoy work-related experiences abroad. Exposure to authentic materials, such as job adverts or interviews with German professionals further enhances their understanding.

| Year | Careers Education in German |
|---|---|
| 12 | Exploration of vocabulary and grammar relevant to the topic of careers. Students are encouraged to build their vocabulary with apps like Quizlet or Memrise. Students gain a deeper understanding of cultural differences with a view to further building resilience and learning from mistakes which are valued traits in the world of work.<br>Former students who studied German come in to share their experiences of different career pathways and work experience placements. Students have the opportunity to do a work experience placement in Berlin facilitated by teachers at Beechen Cliff.<br>Trip to Bath University - Why study a language? Workshops and seminars to facilitate the exploration of careers and courses using languages. |
| 13 | Role play and conversational tasks designed to boost pupils' confidence with speaking German and to help build communication and interpersonal skills. Students deliver presentations (IRP) in German helping them to develop verbal confidence, active listening and the ability to respond under pressure which encourages adaptability. Students learn to understand the relevance of language learning in the real world, supporting employability skills, and expanding students' understanding of global career opportunities.<br>Students are encouraged to use platforms like Unifrog to find career paths linked to languages, and build vocabulary with apps like Quizlet or Memrise. |

**Careers links:**

**Goethe-Institut – Career Path Germany**

Information on topics such as the German job market, application processes, and workplace culture including materials like CV templates and information on the German higher education system.

https://www.goethe.de/prj/dlp/en/teachingmaterials/career_path_germany?utm_source=chatgpt.com

**Goethe-Institut – German Plus Career Orientation**

This project connects German language learning with career-oriented content, covering areas like internships, business communication, and intercultural competence.

https://www.goethe.de/prj/dlp/en/teachingmaterials/german_plus_career_orientation?utm_source=chatgpt.com

**Twinkl – Jobs, Careers and Ambitions Knowledge Organiser**

This resource provides key vocabulary, phrases, and grammatical structures related to jobs in German.

https://www.twinkl.fr/resource/t4-de-12-jobs-careers-and-ambitions-higher-tier-german-knowledge-organiser?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Aspiration Compassion Independence Respect