



The Grey Coat Hospital

Modern Foreign Languages

German GCSE to A Level Transition

Summer 2026

Willkommen!

A-Level German Key Words: spontaneity, accuracy, debating, rephrasing and summarising, essay writing, translation, critical appreciation of issues and trends, critical appreciation of literature and film, independent research.

This is a very rewarding course which will challenge you in many ways. To be as best prepared as possible, we would like you to develop further your active grammatical understanding and to start to explore German-language culture and society.

You will be required to:

- enhance your **linguistic skills** and promote and develop your capacity for **critical thinking** on the basis of your knowledge and understanding of the **language, culture and society** of the country or countries 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 an increasingly confident, accurate and independent user of the language
- develop knowledge about **matters central to the society and culture, past and present**, of the country or countries where the language is spoken
- develop as an **independent researcher** through the language of study.

To this end you should:

- consolidate and extend your knowledge of grammatical structures by revising the key structures in this booklet and extending at <https://german.net/exercises/>
- start to read / watch / listen to the German news such as at <https://www.nachrichtenleicht.de/>
- watch German films, find out about German music and read German fiction
- find out about aspects of German culture and society that interest you, eg art, politics, history, science, fashion...
- Keep a German notebook / diary to record your observations about the news and your independent cultural research. Be ready to discuss in September!

We would like you to hand in your notebook in September with at least 4 activities completed.

Example List of Work to do this summer:

1. Watch a German-language film and write a review. You might like to sign up to the BFI discount scheme for young people so that you can see films for £4: [BFI under 25s](#). You should also sign up to the Goethe Institut's online library here <https://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/en/kul/lue/onl.html>
2. Explore German art for free in London museums/ galleries. Good places to look are the National Gallery, the Tate Modern and Tate Britain, the Courtauld Gallery, or the Wiener Holocaust Library. Try and see the Anselm Kiefer exhibition at the White Cube. Make notes about what you see and research one of the artists in modern depth at home.
3. Explore German-language music and keep a log of what you are listening to and your reflections. Find out about the artists and write down what you find out.
4. Watch the news every week and keep a log. Write up one news story eg at <https://www.nachrichtenleicht.de/>
5. Listen to a podcast about a historical / philosophical movement at In our Time and write your reflections. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qykl/episodes/downloads>
6. Watch documentary clips which interest you and make a bank of new vocabulary and phrases as at: <https://www.youtube.com/@FOCUSTVReportagen>
7. Read the novella *Die Verwandlung* by Franz Kafka in German / English and jot down your reflections.
8. Read three articles on the website <https://fluter.de/>. For each article, write a very short summary in German and make a list of new vocabulary / expressions that come up.
9. Listen to three episodes from the excellent podcast [Germany: Memories of a Nation](#) and write a short summary in German of each one.

GCSE German Higher Tier / A-Level Transition: Checklist of Verbs and Tenses

Explanations here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zk92tfr>

The case system

Possessive adjectives

Adjective endings

Adjectives and comparatives

Relative pronouns

Prepositions

Verbs

- Reflexive verbs
- Verbs with prepositions (sich freuen auf)
- Seperable verbs
- Modal verbs
- Infinitive constructions
- Present tense, regular and irregular verbs
- Perfect tense
- Imperfect tense
- Future tense with ‚werden‘
- Conditional tense with ‚würde‘
- The imperfect subjunctive of core verbs (wäre, hätte, könnte)

Word order rules and connectives

- Inversion
- Subordinating conjunctions

Further Websites to Explore

<https://www.verblisten.de/> (verb lists – conjugations and prefixes)

<https://www.nthuleen.com/teach/grammar.html> (worksheets on all topics)

<https://german.net/> (online exercises with solutions)

<http://www.deutschseite.de/> (worksheets on all topics)

<https://mein-deutschbuch.de/startseite.html> (grammar on all topics)

<https://www.dw.com/de/deutsch-lernen/s-2055> (German language articles videos with work sheets)

<https://www.germanverveasy.com/> (vocab and grammar)

<https://yourdailygerman.com/> (daily blog about tricky/interesting German words)

<https://www.frustfrei-lernen.de/> (German language site designed for German schools)

<http://www.goethe.de/ins/us/saf/prj/stg/enindex.htm> (German culture topics with worksheets)

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/de/philippjahner/arschkarte> (German language expressions)

<https://www.spokengerman.net/umgangssprachliche-verben/> (German slang/colloquial verbs)

https://farkastranslations.com/bilingual_books.php (parallel texts)

<https://sonix.ai/languages/transcribe-german-audio> (transcribe German audio)

https://annotext.dartmouth.edu/texts?language_id=10000 (German literature with annotated vocabulary)