German A Level

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
Dr Catherine Ames

HEAD OF GERMAN
Alexander Street

EXAM BOARD
AQA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A-Level German at The Grey Coat Hospital covers an integrated programme of study with a focus on language, culture and society. It explores how German-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. It will enable you 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 German-speaking world.

If you are curious about German culture and society and are keen to express your ideas in ever more sophisticated ways then you will very much enjoy this course. A-Level German is a highly respected course and can lead to a number of different university disciplines and future careers.

SKILLS REQUIRED

- 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
- Ability to interact effectively with users of the language in speech and in writing
- Engagement with critically and intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in German, developing an appreciation of sophisticated and creative uses of the language and understanding them within their cultural and social context
- Understanding about matters central to German-speaking society and culture, past and present
- Ability to learn other languages
- Capacity for critical and analytical thinking
- Independent research skills

EXAMINATION RESULTS

German A-Level results in 2026 were as follows: A*– A 33% A*– B 67% A*– C 78%

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Listening, Reading and Writing

2 hours 30 minutes

50% of total A Level

Writing

2 hours

20% of total A Level

Speaking

21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)

30% of total A Level

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

We make the most of the wealth of cultural opportunities on offer in London including visits to exhibitions, plays, films and concerts. We are close to the Goethe Institut in South Kensington which is fantastic for their large collection of German resources and regular cultural events. We have a very longstanding exchange programme with a school in Münster and all our Year 12s are invited to take part. As a PASCH School, we benefit from close ties with Goethe Institut and the many opportunities afforded to us through that prestigious partnership.

FUTURE CAREERS

Studying German can lead to a wide variety of very well respected university degrees and future careers. You might choose to study German on its own or combine it with another subject such as History or Economics as part of a joint honours degree. There is also a huge variety in content: some degree courses for instance will allow you to focus on specific content areas such as Literature or Politics so it is important to choose the right course for you.

Having German A-Level on your CV will be very attractive to future employers in a very wide range of sectors. Some careers might not be directly related to German but there could be opportunities to use your language skills. Many big graduate employers are multinational organisations and are keen to recruit candidates who are willing to work overseas and can liaise effectively with international colleagues. Studying German is likely to develop interpersonal and communication skills that graduate recruiters value, as well as other key strengths.

In financial terms, The Guardian newspaper reported that in careers such as sales, marketing or technical support, languages can open doors for you, and that having a language can add between 10% and 15% to your salary.

At The Grey Coat Hospital we regularly promote a range of university taster days and summer schools and we have an established link with the London Centre for Communications and Culture and Pembroke College, Oxford. We also run specific Oxbridge preparation sessions and mock interviews.

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Students study the following themes and sub-themes **in relation to at least one German-speaking country.**

- Social trends (for example the changing nature of family)
- Social issues (for example immigration)
- Artistic culture (for example festivals and traditions; art and architecture)
- Political life (for example the role of Germany in the EU)
- Grammar (see the AQA scheme of work for details)
- Works: Literary text(s) and/or films (*Die Verwandlung,* Franz Kafka and *Good Bye, Lenin!*, Wolfgang Becker)
- Individual Research Project (a subject or a key question which is of interest to you and which relates to a country or countries where German is spoken).

Greycoat Place
Westminster
London SW1P 2DY
www.gch.org.uk