

Beths Grammar School

A level induction materials for Year 11 students

A level German (AQA)

Preparation for courses to begin teaching in September 2021



The course

The first year of the A Level course comprises 6 really interesting and eye-opening units under two main headings:

Students may study all sub-themes in relation to any German-speaking country or countries.

Social Issues and Trends

The changing state of the family

Beziehungen innerhalb der Familie

Partnerschaft und Ehe

Verschiedene Familienformen

The digital world

Das Internet

Soziale Netzwerke

Die Digitalisierung der Gesellschaft

Youth culture: fashion and trends, music, television

Mode und Image

Die Bedeutung der Musik für Jugendliche

Die Rolle des Fernsehens

Political and artistic culture

Festivals and traditions

Feste und Traditionen – ihre Wurzeln und Ursprünge

Feste und Traditionen – ihre soziale und wirtschaftliche Bedeutung heute

Vielfältige Feste und Traditionen in verschiedenen Regionen

Art and architecture

Künstler und Architekten

Kunst und Architektur im Alltag

Kunst und Architektur – Vergangenheit, Gegenwart, Zukunft

Cultural life in Berlin, past and present

Berlin – geprägt durch seine Geschichte

Theater, Musik und Museen in Berlin

Die Vielfalt innerhalb der Bevölkerung Berlins

In the second year, we study multiculturalism and political life, as well as studying a film and a play. During the two year course, you will learn about the above units in the context of Germany and German speaking countries through reading exercises, listening exercises, translations, discussions, debates and independent research. You will acquire facts and statistics, as well as develop reasoned opinions, to be able to confidently undertake your speaking exam; part of which requires you to discuss one of the units at random via a photo card in 5 minute discussion with your examiner (your teacher).

We ask that students do a lot of independent research to broaden and further their knowledge, so, why not start now?... Why not conduct research into units from above that interest you or that you feel you know little about and/or would like to know more about. You could do this in a mixture of both German and English. Ask yourself and investigate questions such as:

Wie ist die moderne Familie im Vergleich zu alten Familien?
Wie viele Kinder gibt es in einer Familie? (Was ist der Durchschnitt?)
Mit wie vielen Jahren heiraten die Leute?
Und die Scheidungsrate?
Was für eine Rolle haben Väter und Mütter in einer Familie heutzutage?

You could investigate German traditions and festivals, German food and its influences, the different dialects in German speaking countries and the associated regional identities. You may like to research an artist, a musician or an architect for the Cultural Heritage unit.

Any research you do will be useful as you will be informing yourself about German history, society and culture.

You need to know the facts and statistics for what you research, but you also need to have and be able to fathom **reasons** (e.g. *what is the purpose of festivals in the German speaking world?*) and you also need to be able to give **reactions and opinions** to everything (e.g. I find surprising that there are so many different festivals in Germany but during my studies I have found out that they are not only important but also essential in promoting a feeling of community. It has to be mentioned that Christmas is particularly important as it generates lots of money for businesses as well as local government. In a similar way, other festivals generate a community feeling, such as the May-Tree celebrations. It is not surprising that after a long cold winter, people want to socialise with their community when the weather is warmer in the Spring.) **So, as you carry out research, be thinking – how do you react to this information? What are your opinions?**

High- Level Language

In order to succeed in all areas of the course, we have created Beths' Steps to Success. This comprises useful, high level opinion phrases, justifications, linking words and reaction structures, which will make what you say and write all that more impressive. You should aim to learn as much of this as possible before starting.

<https://app.memrise.com/course/5727035/german-a-level-steps-to-success-phrases/>

Grammar

We also want you to start the course confident in your grammar basics. These are great websites that explain and get you practising the different tenses you will have seen as well as new ones and other grammar elements. Minimum: Be sure to know your present, perfect, imperfect, future and

conditional regular conjugations and some key irregulars (sein, haben and modal verbs are the big ones!)

- <https://deutsch.lingolia.com/en/grammar>
- <https://german.net/exercises/>
- <https://languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/germanindex.html#Grammar>

The first 6 weeks of the course

We start the course with six weeks of 'bridging the gap' between GCSE and A Level: We visit GCSE topics but in a more A Level way (to ease you in) – with greater depth and complexity. We ask that you go through the following vocabulary lists (little and often) now/over the summer holidays, write down any words that you had forgotten or didn't know and learn it ahead of joining us!

Please bring your written out (and learnt!) words with you to your first lesson:

<https://app.memrise.com/course/5962330/beths-mfl-german-stimmt-gcse-8/>

<https://app.memrise.com/course/5816219/beths-mfl-german-simmt-gcse-1/>

You may also like to buy a copy of the first year text book:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Level-Year-German-Student-Book/dp/0198366892/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=german+a+level+aqa+textbook&qid=1589375676&sr=8-3

Extra

For random, extra German vocab., try Babadum:

- <https://babadum.com/>

To practise sentence structure, try Duolingo:

- <https://www.duolingo.com/course/de/en/Learn-German>

To practise **extensive reading** (for pleasure):

- <https://www.dw.com/de/german-news-service/s-101393> they also have podcasts and news bulletins recorded at a slower pace for language learners
- <https://www.spiegel.de/> is an on-line German newspaper

Why not challenge yourself to read an article every week!

To practise **listening** (for pleasure):

- <https://www.zdf.de/> is a TV channel with live programmes and catch up service
- <https://www.zdf.de/kinder/logo> it also has a simpler version
- <https://www.tagesschau.de/> has news bulletins each day and is also available on some smart TVs
- <https://lyricstraining.com/de/> sees you listening to songs and filling in lyric gaps!

Viel Glück!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Cato-Sargeant

Mscato-sargeant@beths.bexley.sch.uk