

A Level German

Having looked over the list of names for studying A level German, I saw yours on it! To make sure that you are able to make a flying start to the course, I have put together the following suggestions for some ways that you can keep up your German over the long summer months. Some are non-negotiable and **MUST** be done; others are suggestions to keep up your interest in the subject.

Required

To ensure a smooth transition from GCSE to A level, the following activities are **essential** to your long-term success in German.

1) Grammar:

- You will need to purchase a copy of the '**A Level German: A Level and AS: Grammar & Translation Workbook**', and complete the Transition section. If you search the title of the book or input the ISBN, you should be able to order one on Amazon. ISBN: 978-0-19-841551-0
- You need to make sure that you are comfortable with using the basics in German: past, present and future tenses with regular, irregular, modal, separable, and reflexive verbs as well as prepositions, articles and adjectives. The booklet '**Advanced Level German Summer Work**', which will be given to you, provides explanations and exercises to consolidate this (you should complete these too), but you could also access <http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/> to consolidate and practise.
- This website lists the 55 most common/important and provides testing opportunities: <http://esl.fis.edu/learners/fis/german/quiz3/50.htm>. It is vital that you know all parts of these verbs, including meanings.

2) Background Project:

As speaking forms such an important part of the A level course, I would like you to do a short presentation (3-5 minutes) covering the following:

1. Talk about yourself,
2. Tell me about what you have done over the summer holiday,
3. Why do you want to do A level German?

This will be in one of your lessons in the first week of term, so you will need to be preparing it over the summer holidays. You can either do this in front of the group, or if you would prefer, just with your teacher. It should **NOT** be a case of you learning it from a script though. The way you speak German at A level needs to be more natural and spontaneous, so be prepared to respond to some questions too.

3) Research Project:

You will need to research and give a short presentation on one of the topics to do with the film *Good Bye, Lenin*. All instructions are at the back of the '**Advanced Level German Summer Work**' booklet.

Recommended

An A level in a modern foreign language is a challenging, yet thoroughly rewarding qualification to achieve and over the course of the next two years we hope you will develop a real passion for many things related to the countries that speak German. Bear in mind too that for the A level exam in year 13 you will have to study a German book and a film, so this is a good way of developing an interest early on! To help you with this, I have made the following recommendations that you might enjoy doing over the summer holiday:

Music - Try listening to German songs and try to work out the lyrics; there are great versions of Disney songs in German if that is your kind of thing!
AlexTV is a great listening resource where American and English pop songs have been translated into German with comical effect. Google AlexTV and watch his videos on Youtube.

Films - To maintain your German, who not try watching a German film? Try one of the following:

- Lola Rennt (Run Lola Run)
- Goodbye, Lenin
- Die Edukators
- Nirgendwo in Afrika (Nowhere in Africa)
- Das Wunder von Bern (The Miracle of Bern)
- Das Leben der Anderen (The Lives of Others)
- Die letzten Tage der Sophie Scholl (The last days of Sophie Scholl)
- Nordwand

You could always watch it twice; once with English subtitles and the second time with German subtitles!

Reading - Try reading a book in German! Your first port of call should be a book you are already familiar with in English (Harry Potter?) because you'll probably remember the story. Have a look on Amazon.de or pick up a German magazine either from WHSmith or on holiday in Germany! We have a number here at school as well which you are welcome to borrow. Whilst there are lots of very good online dictionaries available, like wordreference.com, it may also be useful to buy a medium-sized dictionary in addition.

Websites – My particular favourites are:

- www.kaleidos.de - all sorts of information about daily life in Germany. Short texts and some listening.
- www.deutschlern.net is also good for easier resources (you need to create a user name and password).
- <http://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/lon/prj/asa/enindex.htm> - some excellent links to A level topics via the Goethe Institut.
- http://www.goethe.de/ins/us/saf/prj/sig/enindex.htm?wt_sc=stepintogerman
- Step into German; another Goethe Institut site based around football and music.

I hope you have a good break and I look forward to seeing you in September.

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