

# German GCSE Student Guide

## Is this the right subject for me?

If you enjoy meeting and talking to people from other countries, finding out about their cultures and learning how language works, then studying GCSE German is an excellent choice for you!

## Why should I study a language?

Learning languages allows you to:

- Meet people from different countries and find out more about them
- Learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, be confident about speaking in public, use problem solving strategies and write coherently
- Add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many employers and higher education providers want
- Have greater opportunities to work and/or study abroad, or work for companies in the UK with international links
- Discuss your interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak the language
- Learn more about countries where the language is spoken, and the people who speak it.

## What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

If you've studied German before, you're well prepared to do this GCSE course however you can also start it from scratch! If you have studied German before, you already know a lot of the vocabulary and grammar you'll need for GCSE: you know how to talk about yourself, your family and friends, your hobbies, where you live, school, holidays, food and drink. You'll build on this knowledge during your GCSE course, and move on to new topics. If you are starting this as a new language for GCSE you can be confident in knowing that, through your previous studies in other subjects, you have already built up a lot of valuable skills which will help you to learn a new language.

## What can I do after I've completed the course?

People with language skills and knowledge usually have an advantage over people without them. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons. Taking GCSE German means you will:

- Add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress anyone who reads your CV
- Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links or improve employability if you would like to work abroad
- Be able to work or study in a German-speaking country in later life
- Be able to study AS and A level German courses to further your knowledge of the language and culture
- Find it easier to learn other languages later if you want to

## What will I learn?

GCSE German helps you explore a wide range of topics, from celebrations and festivals, through getting by as a tourist in Germany to international campaigns and events. You will learn about German culture through a range of interesting topics which will add to your understanding of the language and country.

## How will I be assessed?

You will take four exams worth 25% each. You can take foundation or higher level, and you will be given a grade between 1 and 9, with 9 being the highest.

Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
This requires you to listen to recordings in German and answer questions on what you hear. Some of these questions will be multiple-choice and some will need you to write short answers in English and German.	The reading section will give you passages to read and questions to answer. Some of these questions will be multiple-choice and some will need you to write short answers in English and German. Passages will be from German sources such as emails, magazines and books. You will also need to translate sentences or a short passage from German into English.	In the foundation paper you will write about a photo, write a short passage and write a longer passage on one of a choice of two topics. In the higher paper you will write longer passages about two topics from a choice of four. At both levels there is also a translation exercise, from English into German.	In this part of the exam you will do a short role play with the examiner and talk about a photo. You will also talk about two of the topics you have studied.

## Example questions

### An example of a multiple choice question

In der Nacht vor meinem achten Geburtstag konnte ich nicht richtig schlafen.

Question: Erika was so excited she could not ...

A	get up.	[ ]
B	eat.	[ ]
C	sleep.	[ ]
D	speak	[ ]

Answer: C

### An example of a question where you need to write a few words

Experten sprechen von einer intelligenten und ernsten Generation in Deutschland.

Question: What do experts think about teenagers?

Answer: They are intelligent/serious.

## Examples of instructions in German

### Listening paper

#### Foundation

German rubric	English meaning
Sie ... und hören dieses Gespräch. Kreuzen Sie die jeweils richtige Antwort an [x].	You are ... and hear this conversation. Put a cross [x] against the correct response for each question.

#### Higher

German rubric	English meaning
Sie ... und hören dieses Gespräch. Kreuzen Sie die jeweils richtige Antwort an [x].	You are ... and hear this conversation. Put a cross [x] against the correct response for each question.

### Speaking paper

#### Foundation

German rubric	English meaning
Sagen:	Say:
Fragen:	Ask:
Gruß	Greeting
Schau dir das Foto an und sei bereit, über folgendes zu sprechen:	Look at the photo and be prepared to talk about the following:

#### Higher

German rubric	English meaning
Sagen:	Say:
Fragen:	Ask:
Gruß	Greeting
Schau dir das Foto an und sei bereit, über folgendes zu sprechen:	Look at the photo and be prepared to talk about the following:

## Reading paper

### Foundation

German rubric	English meaning
Lies die Werbung.	Read the advertisement.
Füllen Sie die Lücke in jedem Satz mit einem Wort aus dem Kasten. Es gibt mehr Wörter als Lücken.	Complete the gaps in each sentence with a word from the box. There are more words than gaps.
Lies diesen Blog von ... .	Read this blog by ... .
Wähle die richtige Antwort [X].	Choose the correct answer [X].
Lies dieses Infoblatt für ... .	Read this information sheet about ... .
Was passiert wo? Trage entweder ... , ... , ... <b>oder</b> ... ein.	What goes where? Choose from ..., ..., ... <b>or</b> ... .

### Higher

German rubric	English meaning
Lies diesen Blog von ... .	Read this blog by ... .
Wähle die richtige Antwort [X].	Choose the correct answer [X].
Lies dieses Infoblatt für ... .	Read this information sheet about ... .
Was passiert wo? Trage entweder ... , ... , ... <b>oder</b> ... ein.	What goes where? Choose from ..., ..., ... <b>or</b> ... .
Lies diesen Artikel über ... .	Read this article about ... .
Beantworte die Fragen <b>auf Deutsch</b> . Vollständige Sätze sind nicht nötig.	Answer the questions <b>in German</b> . You do not need to write in full sentences.

## Writing paper

### Foundation

German rubric	English meaning
Beschreibe das Foto und schreibe deine Meinung zum Thema ... .	Describe the photo and give your opinion on ... .
Schreibe ungefähr 20–30 Wörter <b>auf Deutsch</b> .	Write approximately 20–30 words <b>in German</b> .
Schreiben Sie eine formelle E-Mail ... mit folgenden Informationen:	Write a formal email ... with the following information:
Schreiben Sie ungefähr 40–50 Wörter <b>auf Deutsch</b> .	Write approximately 40–50 words <b>in German</b> .
Schreibe eine Antwort an ... .	Write a response to ... .
Du <b>musst</b> die folgenden Punkte einschließen:	<b>You must</b> include the following points:
Schreibe ungefähr 80–90 Wörter <b>auf Deutsch</b> .	Write approximately 80–90 words <b>in German</b> .
Übersetzen Sie <b>ins Deutsche</b> .	Translate <b>into German</b> .

### Higher

German rubric	English meaning
Schreibe eine Antwort an ... .	Write a response to ... .
Du <b>musst</b> die folgenden Punkte einschließen:	<b>You must</b> include the following points:
Schreibe ungefähr 80–90 Wörter <b>auf Deutsch</b> .	Write approximately 80–90 words <b>in German</b> .
Escribe aproximadamente 80–90 palabras <b>en español</b> .	Write approximately 80–90 words <b>in German</b> .
Schreiben Sie einen Zeitungsartikel ...	Write a newspaper article ... .
Rechtfertigen Sie Ihre Ideen und Meinungen.	Justify your ideas and opinions.
Schreiben Sie einen offiziellen Brief an ... .	Write an official letter to ... .
Schreiben Sie ungefähr 130–150 Wörter <b>auf Deutsch</b> .	Write approximately 130–150 words <b>in German</b> .
Escribe un informe para una revista española para convencer a los lectores de la importancia de la tecnología.	Write a report for a German magazine to convince the readers of the importance of technology.
Übersetzen Sie <b>ins Deutsche</b> .	Translate <b>into German</b> .

## Next steps

Talk to your teacher about taking GCSE German.

Visit the Edexcel website ([www.edexcel.com/gcse2016](http://www.edexcel.com/gcse2016)) for more information about what you will be studying and how you will be assessed.

**Important:**

*This draft qualification has not yet been accredited by Ofqual. The draft specification is published to enable teachers to have early sight of our proposed approach for GCSE German. Further changes may be required and no assurance can be given at this time that the proposed qualification will be made available in its current form, or that it will be accredited in time for first teaching in 2016 and first award in 2018.*

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