

CHARLES DARWIN

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***Contacting the German department if you need more information/assistance:***

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Firstly, we are delighted that you are interested in and considering taking German A-Level at Charles Darwin School. An A-level in German is seen as a very desirable subject by universities.

Having an A-Level in a language shows you are a competent linguist and is sought-after by employers in all spheres of work. It is more than just a qualification and we hope that it will be the catalyst for exploring the language, culture and history of the German-speaking world.

German is a very important language in Europe and is widely used in business. Germany continues to play a leading role in Europe in politics, business and trade.

Learning a language at A-Level helps you really become an independent, confident language speaker. It is challenging, but speaking a language at this level will be a huge asset to you in whatever path you follow.

Viel Erfolg, Glück und Spaß im Sommer!

*Wishing you lots of success, luck and fun this summer!*

Frau Wood und Frau Kaye

**INDEPENDENT PREPARATION FOR YEAR 12 A LEVEL GERMAN**

Tasks for September are below:

1. **Film Choices**

We will be studying **‘Das Leben der Anderen’** (The Lives of Others). Watch the film in German with English subtitles.

We also recommend watching other films too throughout the course to improve and enhance your German cultural knowledge and listening skills.

These are all films that are on the AQA exam list of films that can be studied for A Level German:

* Goodbye Lenin
* Sophie Scholl
* Die Fetten Jahren sind vorbei
* Lola Rennt
* Almanya

**Choose one of the films above and watch in German with English subtitles. Watch the film in its entirety but bear in mind the points below to help you write a comprehensive film review. Write approximately 500 words in ENGLISH trying to make reference to the following points:**

* character (names/roles in the film, opinions on the characters)
* themes (e.g. love, suspicion)
* plot (main events)
* structure (how the story is sequenced)
* your opinion (would you recommend it/how does it make you feel)
* other films by the same director

1. **East and West Germany**

Research key events in East and West Germany in 1989 and 1990. Make a mind map/flow chart of following key events:

• living conditions in East Germany

• the Monday demonstrations (Montagsdemonstrationen)

• Stasi

• refugees in the Prague embassy (Flüchtlinge in der Prager Botschaft)

• Pan-European picnic.

<https://www.planet-wissen.de/geschichte/ddr/geteilte_stadt_berlin/index.html>

<https://www.planet-wissen.de/geschichte/ddr/das_leben_in_der_ddr/pwiealltaginderddr100.html>

Deutsche Welle – Die innerdeutsche Grenze <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlbAUFvh04k>

1. **Grammar**

Revise the present tense, cases and word order.

Complete the grammar sheets that were given to you in a booklet taken from the ‘Einfach Grammatik’ book. These are all grammar points that you will have covered, but will become very important for you to understand and start to apply the rules to all of your written and spoken work.

To understand any of the grammar points in more depth or to have a clearer explanations, you can always watch a YouTube video clip. These are often useful because of the use of animation and repetition of the learning point.

<http://www.nelsonthornes.com/secondary/modern_lang/ap/default.html>

<https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/Index.htm>

Nancy Thuleen is an American German college teacher and she has a website offering lots of help with German grammar. There are lots of grammar explanations and worksheets – [www.nthuleen.com](http://www.nthuleen.com)

1. **Family**

Research what family life is like in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Make a mind map/flow chart on:

• Different types of family

• The role of family in society

1. **Diary entry in German**

Write a diary first of all introducing yourself, saying what things you like/dislike, what things are important to you and what you would like to do in your free-time and then include a couple of activities you have done during the summer break (holidays/day trips).

**Write approximately 200 words in GERMAN.**

**Listening**

Listen to sounds clips based on everything to do with German culture at a reasonable speed and with accompanying transcripts to read as you listen – [www.slowgerman.com](http://www.slowgerman.com)

Listen to the news read slowly - <http://www.dw.com/en/langsam-gesprochene-nachrichten-learning-german/a2925601>

<http://gut.languageskills.co.uk/advanced/year12.html> - free to use after 4pm weekdays

<https://www.tagesschau.de/100sekunden/>

<https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de> - a selection of weekly videos and podcasts produced by Angela Merkel

**Reading**

<https://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/en/spr/unt/kum/dfj/alv.html>

This is a search engine that German kids use to find useful information and video clips on a variety of topics, such as ‘Die Berliner Mauer’ and ‘Weihnachten um die Welt’.

We recommend that you purchase the following resources for use during your A-Level course:

* We will be studying ‘der Vorleser’ (The Reader) – we recommend buying both the English and German versions of this book.
* A Level and AS German – Grammar and Translation Workbook (Oxford)
* “Wort für Wort” Advanced German Vocabulary book (for vocabulary revision and consolidation)
* Modern Languages Study Guides “Das Leben der Anderen” Hodder Education
* Modern Languages Study Guides “Der Vorleser” Hodder Education
* Collins German or Oxford Duden Dictionary
* A folder with file dividers
* A book on “German idioms”

**MATERIALS AND RESOURCES**

We recommend that you purchase the following resources for use during your A-Level.

* At Charles Darwin, we study using AQA Textbooks. We ask our students to purchase Year 1 book in Year 12 before starting in September. It is essential that students bring their textbook to every lesson. We have found very useful when students take notes or stick post-it notes in them.
* Students will also have the digital version Kerboodle.com and will be provided with a Username and Password at the start of the academic year.
* A Level and AS German – Grammar and Translation Workbook (Oxford by Steve Harrison
* “Wort für Wort” New Advanced German Vocabulary book (for vocab revision and consolidation)
* A folder with file dividers (see p.1)



**LESSONS AND LEARNING EXPECTATIONS**

What are lessons like?

In lessons, you will come across a wide range of activities, which will test your developing language skills. You might give presentations, take part in debates and role plays as well as more complex listening and reading texts. Often you will be looking at how issues relate to society in German-speaking country.

In addition to lessons, you will also have opportunities to speak German 1 to 1 or in a very small group each week. In 6th form you will be taking more initiative in organising your own studies. As well as set homework you will have opportunities for self-study to help you further develop and enhance your language skills, to broaden your general knowledge of Political and Cultural aspects of Germany and German countries as well as developing ways to enrich your independent learning.

Use your private study time to develop your independent study skills (not just to complete homework!). Use online resources such as Kerboodle (www.kerboodle.com) for explicit exam practice, or for more general information read German newspapers or blogs. Useful links can be found at the end of this document.

**ORGANISING YOURSELF AND YOUR STUDY FOLDER**

A well organised file is the key to success at A-Level German. If you keep to these guidelines you will have no difficulty in keeping yourself prepared for lessons and keeping up with what is expected of you.

Please label your file dividers as follows:

Topics to be covered in Year 12:

**• i) Aspects of German-speaking society: current trends**

• a) Family and relationships (marriage, partnerships, different forms of family life)

• b) New Technology (how does technology help your life? Benefits and dangers of the internet)

• c) Youth Culture – fashion, music and TV

**• ii) Artistic culture in the German speaking world**

• a) Festivals and traditions – in German speaking countries

• b) Art and architecture- influence of art and architecture in society

• c) Cultural life of Berlin – in the past and today

**iii) Grammar:**

Each week you will be asked to do specific independent exercises for grammar or another skill from the A-Level German and AS Grammar and Translation Workbook or from similar resources/materials.

**iv) Oral work & oral exam preparation**

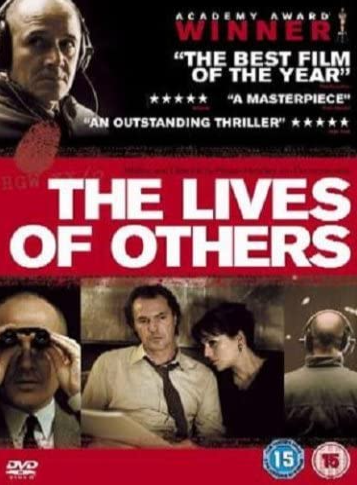
* When you are given handouts, please ensure that they are filed in the appropriate section of your folder. If you miss a lesson for any reason, it is your responsibility to get a copy of anything handed out.
* It is essential that you bring your file and textbook to every lesson.
* It is your responsibility to take good care of your textbook. (See textbook information above).
* Your teacher will tell you which books you will need for each lesson. In general you will need the AS AQA book for every topic lesson, and the grammar and vocabulary books can be used at home, to supplement your class work.
* Use your private study time to develop your independent study skills (not just to complete homework!). Use online resources such as Kerboodle for explicit exam practice, or for more general information read German newspapers or blogs. Useful links can be found at the end of this document.
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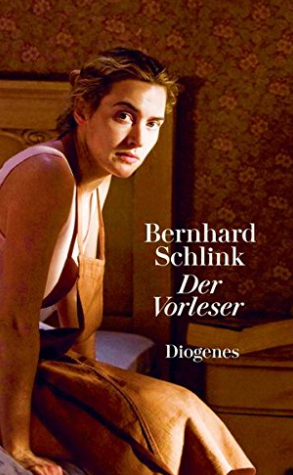
**Film and German Literature**

In lessons over the course of Year 12 and 13, we will study a classic modern film –“Das Leben der Anderen’ – a classic German book – “Der Vorleser” by Bernhard Schlink.

We will discuss the aspects of each piece and relate it to topics that we learn during the 2 years. This is a great way to develop oral and written structured discussions.

What is my Point? Where is my Evidence? What is my Analysis? Drawing conclusions from your arguments is a Key Skill for A-Level German.





**ASSESSMENTS**

We have a number of key assessments in German which will initially be in Listening, Reading, and Translation. You will be able to use your own headphones with a computer for the Listening section, so that you can listen to the material as many times as you like within a specific time limit. Later on in the year you will be expected to do a speaking exam on the topics covered and write essays based on the film.

You will be given feedback with strategies to improve for the next assessment.

**EXAMS AND ASSESSMENTS**

You will be taking all of your exams at the end of the two years, i.e at the end of Year 13.-

These will consist of:

**Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (Reading, Listening and Translation** paper covering all of the topics from the two years)

**Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes; total raw mark: 100**

**Paper 2: Writing** (You write two essays on the film and book you have studied, as well as doing an English to German translation)

**Duration: 2 hours; total raw mark: 80**

**Paper 3: Speaking** (discussions of 1 of the topics you have studied, entitled a Stimulus Card, as well as your Independent Research Project which you will undertake over the course of the two years.)

**Duration: 21–23 minutes; total raw mark: 60**

During Year 12 you will also have a series of assessments and mock exams in order to prepare you and also ensure your progress. For the essay it is important to check for grammatical accuracy. The following ideas should be helpful.

**Check verbs** - tense & person + endings, **check cases and adjectival agreements** and remember you want to try to **include a variety of structures and tenses** eg:

* Aus diesem Grund
* Impersonal – man + verb
* Adverbs : wahrscheinlich
* Negative – nicht/ kein/keine
* Advanced opinions: Diesen Standpunkt kann man aber heute nicht mehr vertreten
* Check spellings and remember you are in control – it’s your opportunity to shine and show the progress you’ve made since GCSE– if you know something is incorrect –do not use it!

**WHAT CAN I DO TO BE READY FOR THE COURSE AND SUBSEQUENT ASSESSMENTS?**

Revise key vocabulary from the topics covered throughout the year (see below) but it is also a good idea to look over GCSE vocabulary too.

* Revise verbs, tenses and grammar points covered for GCSE.
* All vocab is listed in Kerboodle and you will have a vocabulary booklet.
* Use useful revision sites (look at the sites listed at the end of this booklet)

**TIPS ON HOMEWORK WHAT CAN I DO TO REVISE?**

* Revise key vocabulary from the topics covered throughout the year (see earlier page) but it is also a good idea to look over GCSE vocabulary too.
* Look through previous Listening, Reading and Writing practice, especially past papers.
* Revise verbs, tenses and grammar points covered this year (see list below)
* Use your grammar notes
* Use useful revision sites (see links in this document)

**IMPORTANT NOTE FOR HOMEWORK**

* All homework must be completed for the due date and all tasks completed/attempted.
* It must be referenced appropriately: student’s name, date, chapter title/grammar point studied, page and exercise number, name of teacher concerned.
* Once feedback has been given from teacher, action must be taken by students to correct their own mistakes (this must be done in a different colour pen).
* All homework must be filed appropriately in your German folder or written in your German exercise book.
* Independent learning must be completed regularly in your grammar workbook or filed in your German folder.
* All written work in German must be proof-read: Please check the following

o spellings

o accents

o adjectival agreements

o verb endings

o tenses

o word order

Once feedback has been given by the teacher, students to correct their own mistakes (this must be done in a different colour pen).

**GRAMMAR**

* Nouns
* Cases
* Word Order
* Quantifiers/Intensifiers
* Adjectives
* Comparisons
* Superlatives
* Possessives
* Adverbs
* Pronouns
* Prepositions
* Conjunctions
* Negatives
* Verbs – Active, Passive and Subjunctive Moods

