

## Preparation for A Level German

You will have a couple of months before you start your year 12 course, so it is important to keep up and even improve your German in preparation for September. I would suggest little and often is best for language learning and would suggest you do something from each of the categories below on a weekly basis.

Read the A Level German specification to familiarise yourself with the content of the course.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/german-7661>

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## Grammar

Please revise and extend your knowledge of GCSE grammar by doing the following:

- Read through any grammar notes you have in your exercise book
- [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk) : click on Deutsch, then choose grammar
- Work through the GCSE section of your revision guide.

## Vocabulary

The A Level German course builds on what you have done at GCSE. The first units in year 12 are Familie im Wandel (the changing family), die digitale Welt (digital world), Jugendkultur: Mode, Musik und Fernsehen (youth culture: fashion, music and TV) and Feste und Traditionen (Festivals and traditions). You can see that these echo the topics you did in Theme 1 Identity and Culture, so I would advise you in the first instance to focus on this theme, though any vocab learning is useful!

## Vocabulary learning resources:

- GCSE vocabulary lists -you should have your small Stimmt vocab booklet to learn from...make sure you include the higher lists too!
- [www.memrise.com](http://www.memrise.com) and [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) are free vocabulary learning websites - just search GCSE German.

## Listening and Reading

It's important to keep up your comprehension skills too! The easiest way to do this is to go back to the topics you did in year 10 and 11. Use your exercise books and your AQA revision guides which have the CD to enable you to complete listening tasks. Read/listen to texts in your text book that you haven't done before or don't remember well. You can do the tasks that go with them to check your comprehension or just look up any vocab you don't know to get a better understanding.

## Fun stuff!

**“Find something that you are interested in like music or an artist and use it to learn German”**

If you do activities you enjoy, you are much more likely to do them more often and for longer. Here are some ideas:

### Film/Series:

If you have Netflix or Amazon Prime, there are lots of German language films and series available, you can also find some films on youtube - make sure you set the language to German and the subtitles to English. Some recommendations:

- Balloon - film available for free on Amazon Prime about an East German family's attempt to escape to the West
- Deutschland '83/'86 - spy series, available on Channel 4 and also on Amazon Prime (but you have to pay!)
- Charité - historical hospital drama series set in Berlin (Netflix)
- Ku'damm '56/'59 - series set in a dance school in Berlin (Netflix)
- Dark - science-fiction series (Netflix)

### Music:

the easiest website to use is [www.lyricstraining.com](http://www.lyricstraining.com) - choose German as your language, choose a song/video, then just listen and follow the words or have a go at the karaoke gap-fill tasks.

• [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) - you can search for clips in German on anything that interests you but there is also some useful grammar stuff uploaded by teachers such as Jon Blackburn and Herr Antrim

• [www.dw.de](http://www.dw.de) log on and click on “Learn German” then scroll down to find the langsam gesprochene Nachrichten (slowly spoken news); this is uploaded daily. It only lasts between 5- 10 mins but will keep you up to date with what's going on in Germany and develop your listening skills. Read the transcript as you listen - don't expect to understand very much, just listen for gist or simply words that you recognise.

## Historical and background knowledge

At A Level, you obviously develop your language skills but you also expand your knowledge of German-speaking countries. Any background research you can do will be helpful - this can be in English as well as German!

• If you have studied history at GCSE you will probably have learned about the World War 2 and the Cold War but have you thought about it from a German perspective? What happened in Germany at the end of WW2? How did Germany become divided? How did young Germans feel if they found out their parents had fought in the war? How did Germany recover economically? What was life like in East Germany? When did Germany reunify? What happened next...was it all positive?

• You probably have some knowledge about Germany but what about Switzerland and Austria?

• Watch/read/listen to the news...check out anything that refers to the 3 main Germanspeaking countries in Europe - what's happening there? Keep up to date with the news generally - you need to have opinions at A Level and the best way to develop your own opinions is to be well informed.

**VIEL SPASS! BIS SEPTEMBER!!** 😊