

# A level German 2024

Gain insights into other cultures and contemporary societies

Develop awareness of global current issues

Enhance your employability prospects and university applications

Small classes to quickly build your confidence

Lots of teacher support with an emphasis on communication rather than perfect accuracy

Build on knowledge acquired at GCSE

Study interesting topics such as music, the Berlin Wall and film

**German**

- 100 million L1 speakers
- 20 million L2 speakers
- 11th most spoken language in the world
- Most spoken L1 in E.U.
- Official language in:  
Germany, Austria, Switzerland\*, Belgium\*, Luxembourg\*, and Liechtenstein

\* 1 of multiple official languages

LANG FOCUS

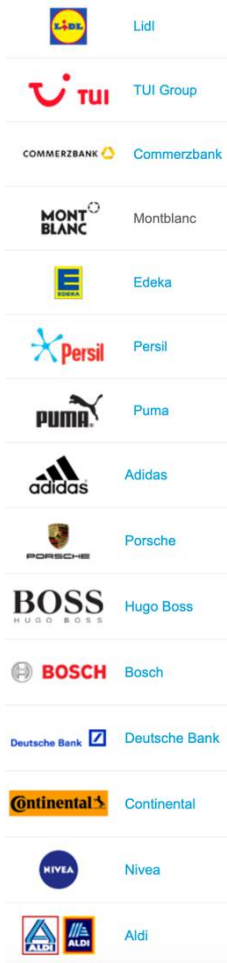


A level in German works well alongside many other subjects such as History, English, Geography, Sociology, Art, Music and demonstrates communication skills required for many different careers.

## Current course:

### German contemporary society

- **The environment** - German is a world leader in recycling, renewable energy, sustainability
- **School** - the cultural differences of school life in Germany, such as *sitzenbleiben*, and school stress as well as training
- **Work** - working abroad, workers' rights and directives, German industry



### Politics and Culture in the German speaking world

- **The power and influence of music** - from school shootings blamed on hard rock lyrics to inclusion of all with idols such as Austrian Conchita Wurst.
- **Media** - the influence of digital, print, and online media
- **Festivals and traditions** - from strange traditions on New Year's Eve, to the Oktoberfest and traditional customs



### Immigration and German multicultural society

- **The positive effects** for host countries
- **Challenges** faced by immigrants and asylum seeker
- **Discrimination and prejudices** - right wing ideologies and politics



### Historical context

- **Socialist and Capitalist ideologies** - a divided Germany
- **Former East Germany** - Building and fall of the Berlin wall
- **German reunification** - modern day Germany

**One film: Goodbye, Lenin!**

Set in Berlin - a comedy about life in former East Germany

**One play: Der Besuch der alten Dame**

A story of betrayal and revenge!

**Trips** - opportunities offered to travel to Germany: become a Language leader and accompany younger students on residential trips to Germany to visit Christmas markets or as part of enrichment week.



**What sort of work is involved?**

An A level in a modern language will involve reading and listening to a wide variety of media texts - news and magazine articles and broadcasts, as well as interviews. You will also be able to develop your skills in speaking and writing through class-based discussion and through using the language to produce different types of written text. You will write essays and shorter pieces such as summaries and practice translation from English to German and from German to English. You will also develop independent research skills and present your findings to your teacher and classmates. In many ways the A level course equips you equally well for work or university and is often cited as one of the A levels most valued by universities today. An A level in a modern language provides a particularly good foundation for a degree in History, English, Politics, International Relations, Media, Business or Law.

**What can you do now?**

Start listening to German music on YouTube and Spotify, download the text with English translation, and find what you like! Visit the [audio-lingua.eu](http://audio-lingua.eu) website to see what's current (link below).

Watch German TV series and films on YouTube and Netflix.

Follow famous German celebs or sport stars on Insta or Twitter

Watch the news on Deutsche Welle or Blinde Kuh (websites below)

Practise some Grammar on languages online

Useful websites:

<http://www.goethe.de/ins/us/saf/prj/sig/mus/enindex.htm>

(Discover the amazing world of German music and find out why German music rocks! Listen to podcasts about the German music scene, watch the 'video clip of the month', watch music videos and download lyrics and worksheets, look at the German charts)

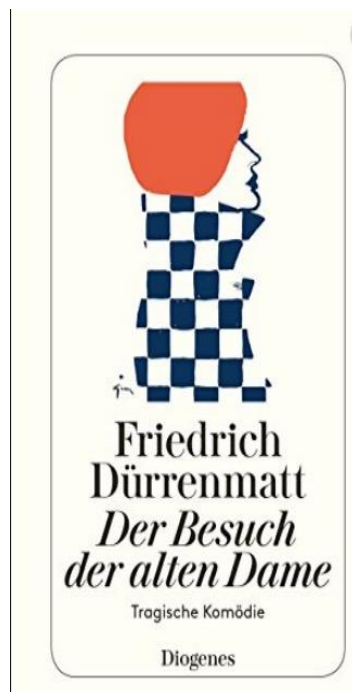
<https://www.blinde-kuh.de/index.html> (magazine website aimed at children, but great for A level learners!)

[www.audio-lingua.eu/](http://www.audio-lingua.eu/) (lots of recordings to revise all topics - short and easy to understand)

<https://languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/index.html> (grammar and topics)

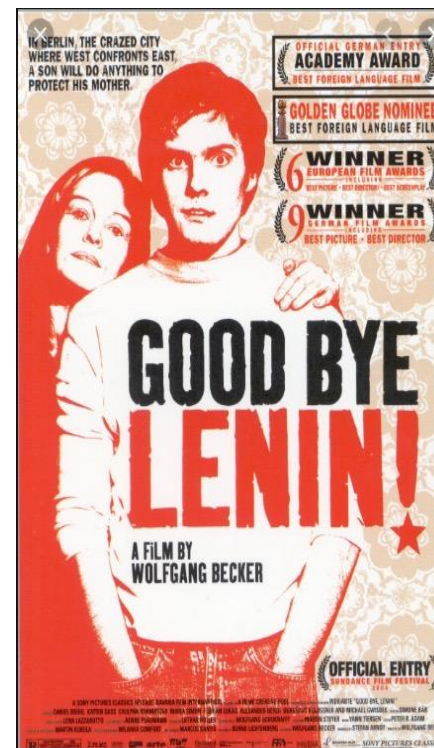
[www.spiegel.de](http://www.spiegel.de) (online version of popular German magazine. Great for language and culture)

<https://www.dw.com/en/langsam-gesprochene-nachrichten-learning-german/a-2925601> (improve your listening skills and get the latest news read slowly with the transcript attached)



*Der Besuch der alten Dame* tells the story of an enormously wealthy woman returning to her hometown after forty-five years to exact revenge on the man that betrayed her—or, as she puts it, to “buy justice.” In exchange, she will provide enough money to revitalize the decrepit town.

“This is titled “A Tragicomedy”. Perfect for a very dark play that had some humour. The moral of the story? Money corrupts! A universal truth.”



In October 1989, right before the fall of the Berlin Wall, Alex Kerner (Daniel Brühl) is living with his mom, Christiane (Kathrin Sass), and sister, Ariane (Maria Simon). But when the mother, a loyal party member, sees Alex participating in an anti-communist rally, she falls into a coma and misses the revolution. After she wakes, doctors say any jarring event could make her have a heart attack, meaning the family must go to great lengths to pretend communism still reigns in Berlin.

“Pro-democracy riots and cheering mobs of happy Germans are the images most often associated with the fall of the Berlin Wall. Director Wolfgang Becker aims to capture a unique aspect of the event in his critically acclaimed film *Goodbye, Lenin!*, by depicting the effects of German reunification on everyday people.”