

Year 11 Transition to A-Level German

Exam Board: Edexcel



Below are some tasks for you to complete if you are interested in taking A-level German. They aim to support you in making the transition from GCSE to A-level. In order to be successful at A-level, it is important to have a good grasp of the GCSE basics. Ensure you are confident with the following:

- **GCSE vocabulary:**
 - Theme 1: Identity and Culture
 - Theme 2: Areas of Interest
 - Theme 3: Study and Employment
- **The tenses:**
 - Present: ich spiele / er fährt / wir gehen
 - Perfect: ich habe gegessen / er ist gefahren / wir sind gegangen
 - Imperfect: ich sah / es war / es hatte
 - Pluperfect: Ich hatte getrunken / sie war geblieben / wir waren gefahren
 - Future: Ich werde ... sehen / er wird ... besuchen / wir werden ... essen
 - Conditional: Ich würde ... machen / sie würde trinken / wir würden ... kaufen
 - Conditional perfect (A-level grammar): Ich hätte gemacht / er wäre gefahren
- **Word order:**
 - Use of subordinating conjunctions (i.e. weil, wenn, da)
 - Use of time phrases at the beginning of sentences
 - The time – manner – place rule
 - The verb comma verb rule
- **Modal verbs:**
 - Present tense: ich muss / er kann / wir dürfen
 - Imperfect tense: ich wollte / sie konnte / du solltest

We recommend that you spend a approximately 1 hour each week revising the above. Use the following websites to help you:

www.senecalearning.com

<http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/germanindex.htm#Grammar>

www.german.about.com

<http://webgerman.com/german/webexercises/>

At A-level, you will study the film *Goodbye, Lenin!* and the novel *der Vorleser* (the Reader). There is a an English film adaptation of the novel, which is very accessible. You should watch both films and write a short summary of the plot in English. You should also give your opinion of the films.

Listen to the slowly spoken news (langsam gesprochene Nachrichten) on <http://www.dw.com/de/deutsch-lernen/nachrichten/s-8030>. This site is updated each day with the current news being read a little slower than normal. It is great for training your ear, but do not expect to understand every other word. Over time, you will begin to notice a difference in your listening work. It also has an audio script available. When you listen to the news, you should write a few bullet points about what you understand and make a note of at least five new words.

Resources

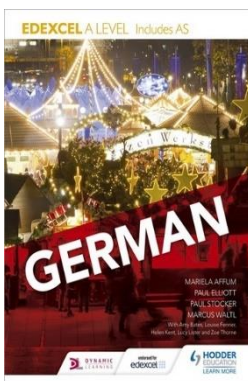
If you're really keen to do A-level German, it is worth purchasing some of the resources early. In order to have best chance of success in this examination, we suggest that you purchase the following:



Collins Easy Learning German Grammar & Practice, Second edition

ISBN 978-0008141653

This book contains explanations of all aspects of grammar you will need for Year 12 and includes grammar exercises which will be set and reviewed by your teacher regularly throughout the year. It can be obtained for around £10 in bookshops or online and must be bought for Year 12.

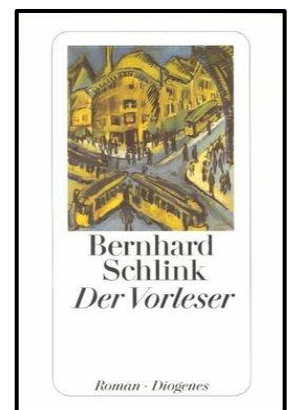


Edexcel A-Level German published by Hodder Education ISBN 9978-1-4718-5823-9

This is the main textbook we use and can be bought amazon.co.uk for around £30.

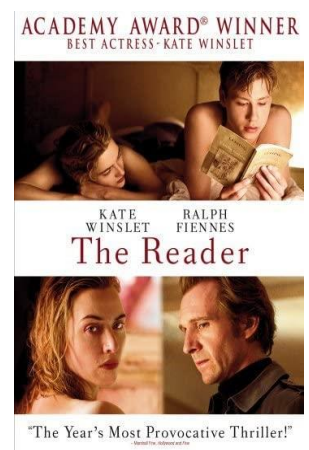
Der Vorleser by Bernhard Schlink, ISBN-13 9783257229530

This is the novel you will study in year 13 and can be bought on wordery.com for around £8.



The Reader

The English film will help you to understand the novel and can be bought on amazon.co.uk for around £8.



Goodbye, Lenin!

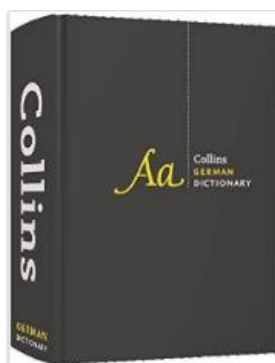
This is the film you will study in year 12 and can be bought amazon.co.uk for around £13.



To help you with your independent study and to improve your grammar and range of vocabulary, we also recommend the following books:

Wort für Wort 6th edition: German vocabulary for Edexcel A level, Paul Stocker ISBN 978-1510434851

This book can be bought online for around £9 and has very good lists of vocabulary on many topics, as well as phrases to help you improve your essay writing skills.



Collins German Dictionary: Complete & Unabridged ISBN 978-0007510832

This can be bought on amazon.co.uk for around £20 and is a must have for the A-level course. It is much more comprehensive than smaller dictionaries you will have used at GCSE, easier to use than online dictionaries and contains grammar explanations and help with writing letters, for example.

Barron's 501 German verbs 5th edition ISBN 978-1438075860

This can be bought online for around £10 and is generally considered to be the language bible. It conjugates 501 common verbs into every person and every tense and is an excellent resource for checking your work and learning the conjugation of irregular verbs.

