

St Peter's students say...

‘I find learning about other cultures interesting. I particularly like developing my knowledge of cultures through language and appreciate the expertise of my teachers. Learning another language challenges and deepens my understanding of my own language.’

Course

A level German

Exam Board

AQA

Entry requirements

Grade 6 at GCSE

Why study German?

Spoken in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and (of course) Liechtenstein, German is Europe's most widely spoken first language. If you have become fascinated by the strange word order and enjoy breaking up long normal everyday words, why not consider German at A level? The early part of the course gives you the chance to bring together prior learning and build up your confidence with a broader vocabulary and you will go on to master a wide range of grammatical concepts.

You will soon increase your ability to communicate on a wide range of relevant topic areas and expand your understanding of the German-speaking world. Students will be moving away from reliance on pre-prepared work and focus on becoming increasingly spontaneous and exploring the culture and history of German speaking countries.

Course content

The themes listed below are covered over the two year course, with grammatical concepts taught in context.

- Current trends in German-speaking society.
- Current issues in German-speaking society.
- Artistic culture in the German-speaking world.
- Political life in the German-speaking world.

You will also study a film and a book or play and carry out an extensive Individual Research Project on a topic of your choice.

Assessment

Paper 1: 160 marks, 40% of total A level.

Listening, reading and writing (translation German into English and English into German) 2hr 30 minutes.

Paper 2: 90 marks, 30% of total A level.

Writing, 2 essays on the 2 literary works studied. 2 hours.

Paper 3: 60 marks, 30% of total A level.

Speaking. Discussion of a sub-theme studies and a presentation and discussion on the student's chosen topic for the Individual Research Project.

Speaking exam lasts between 21 & 23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)

Progression after Sixth Form

A large proportion of students who take a language at A level at St Peter's go on to study languages at university. Others opt for vocational courses with a foreign language. It is also possible and increasingly useful, to combine a foreign language at degree level with an unrelated subject such as a Science, Law or Business Studies. This opens the door to placements abroad and increased job opportunities.

Career opportunities

Many employers value competence in a foreign language, not only for the ability you will have to communicate effectively with other nationalities but also for the fact that it demonstrates good organisational skills, determination to succeed over an extended period and the ability to retain key information.

Studying a language can lead to careers in teaching, translation, the travel industry, journalism, customs and all businesses involved in exporting and importing goods and services.

Course available subject to numbers

For more information contact Head of Department:
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