

# GERMAN: TECHNICAL INFORMATION

## GCSE

GCSE Course Title	Code	Awarding Body
German	GCSE 8668F/8668H	AQA

Paper	Code	Method of Assessment	Weighting
1) Listening	8668	Examination	25%
2) Speaking	8668	Oral examination conducted by own teacher	25%
3) Reading	8668	Examination	25%
4) Writing	8668	Examination	25%

## GERMAN

German can be studied as the core language at GCSE. In addition French may also be studied as one of your option subjects.

### Background Knowledge and Qualifications

In Years 8 and 9 you have become familiar with the sounds and structural patterns of German and also the culture of the German speaking countries. You already have a useful vocabulary on a wide range of everyday topics. All of this will be of great benefit as you prepare for GCSE. A strong interest in the language and a committed approach are obviously important, especially as the language is not studied in Year 7 but rapid progress brings its own opportunities and rewards for all girls studying German at this level.

### Course Description

In Year 10 familiar topics are revisited and new situations introduced. As your knowledge of the language deepens key structures are explained in context. Material is lively and up to date and offers practice in all four language skills. You will be able to discuss your own ideas and share opinions on issues of interest to you. You will have regular conversation lessons with the German Assistant in small groups and there is the opportunity for an exchange visit in Year 10 or Year 11. Regular use of the multimedia language laboratories offers further access to the language and the chance for independent learning. You will be encouraged to build up your own bank of language which will prove invaluable in preparation for all sections of the examination including the oral. The main elements of the GCSE syllabus are covered in Year 10 and the mock examinations in Year 11. Subject content is divided into "Themes". These are: Identity and culture (e.g. family, media,

music, cinema); Local, national, international and global areas of interest (e.g. home, town, health, environment); Current and future study and employment (e.g. school, career).

### **Use of Course and Qualification**

Studying a language will give you many important personal skills. You will learn to listen carefully to people from a different cultural background, to analyse ideas and above all develop communication strategies. You will need to be organised and tackle problems independently using your knowledge in a creative and imaginative way. Trying to get your message across to a "sympathetic native speaker" is a genuine challenge.

Any knowledge of languages is also a great asset when choosing a career either at home or abroad. German is a major European language. It shares its linguistic roots with English and is an introduction to Dutch, Danish and other Scandinavian languages. It is also widely used in the countries of Eastern Europe which are currently developing their economies. The German speaking countries are at the very heart of the "EU" and will feature strongly on the political and economic scene in the years ahead not only in Europe but throughout the world. You can acquire a life skill, broaden your horizons and stand out from the crowd.