

German curriculum overview: amendments.

Assessment.

Students are assessed during lessons in order to check on progress. Vocabulary learning is tested regularly and more formal assessments in listening, reading, writing (including translation into and from German) and speaking take place towards the end of each unit. There is also an end of year examination based on the format of the GCSE examination.

2018 examination cohort.

A foreign language was a GCSE Option for this cohort. Students are preparing for the new AQA GCSE examination which will be graded under the 9-1 system.

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

What does the new GCSE cover?

Year	Topic area
Year 10	Me, my family and friends Home, neighbourhood, town and region My studies Free-time activities Social issues Life at school / college Customs and festivals in German-speaking countries / communities Travel and tourism Education post-16
Year 11	Marriage and partnership Global Issues: the environment Social issues: charity / voluntary work Career choices and ambitions Technology in everyday life Global issues: poverty and homelessness Revision and preparation for assessment

How is the Subject Assessed?

GCSE German has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9).

There will be Assessments in each of the four skills: Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing, which are each worth 25% of the final mark. Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All of the assessments are taken at the end of the course.

The Listening exams will be 35 minutes (Foundation) or 45 (Higher) minutes long. They will be divided into two sections: Section A has questions in English; Section B has questions in German. Both sections will include some non-verbal questions, where you have to select the correct image.

The Reading exams will be 45 minutes (Foundation) or one hour (Higher) long. They will be divided into three sections: Section A has questions in English; Section B has questions in German. Both sections A and B will include some non-verbal questions, where you have to select the correct image. Section C will be a translation from German into English. This will be 35 words for Foundation, and 50 words for Higher.

The Speaking assessment will have the same overall format at Foundation and Higher. The Foundation test will be shorter (about 8 minutes) and slightly simpler than the Higher (about 11 minutes). Both Tiers will include a role play, a photo card and a general conversation.

The Writing assessments will be one hour (Foundation) and one hour fifteen minutes (Higher) long. Both Tiers start with easier tasks and move on to more challenging ones. There is a limited choice of the topics you will write about and both tiers include translation from English into German. This will be 35 words for Foundation, and 50 words for Higher.