

Willkommen!

We are delighted that you are interested in taking German for A-level. The sixth form course will

- a) help you develop your practical language skills, i.e. your reading and listening comprehension as well as your writing and speaking, and
- b) give you an insight into the culture of German-speaking countries.

This is what we would like you to do before your first lesson in September:

To help you with your language skills:

1. Open the document **Verb Tenses** and complete the task.
2. Familiarise yourself with the document **Grammatical Terms** and complete the task.
3. Read the text in the document **Transition Reading Task** and answer the questions.

There might be tasks you cannot do. If so, don't worry about it. You are however expected to have a good go at all of these tasks.

To help you understand the cultural context:

People are conditioned by the culture they grow up in to react in certain ways to certain things. For instance, while the majority of UK citizens might see their armed forces as a bunch of patriotic guys risking their lives for a good cause, a sizeable proportion of Germans, particularly better educated Germans, would regard the military with distinct distaste and would not want to be associated with it in any way. Why is that so? The explanation is of course to be found in Germany's history. History impacts on a large number of attitudes and values people have.

4. Spend 60 to 90 minutes researching
 - the reasons why the Nazis came to power
 - the reasons for the foundation of two separate German states in 1949.

For each topic, document your most important findings by writing down **in your own words** a maximum of ten **brief** bullet points in English. Be prepared to talk about your findings when we meet in September.

The tasks listed above are compulsory. Please bring your work with you to your first German lesson.

If you want to do more work to help you prepare well for your A-level course, here are two suggestions:

- The more you read, the better you get at German. Explore the website of “Deutsche Welle”, which contains lots of texts aimed at learners who have different standards of German. Use the texts as a source of new vocab and write down any new words you encounter. You can expect to come across rather a lot of them.
- Practice your German speaking as much as you can. Find someone like-minded and have regular conversations in German with him/ her. Accuracy does not matter for once, if the message gets across then your mission has been accomplished. If you need a word which you don't know and which you cannot find an alternative expression for, just put the odd English word in your speech.

If you cannot find someone to converse with, talk to yourself in German, **aloud**, as often as possible.

We are looking forward to having you in our German class. 😊