



## ‘5 Hours in...’ A Level German

Research shows that the most successful students (i.e. those that make the most progress and get the highest grades) are doing between 20 and 25 hours of independent study per week by the end of Year 13. That may seem a lot, but it’s something that you would build up to over the course of your A-Levels. In Year 12, we’re talking something more like 15 hours per week. This equates to roughly **5 hours of independent** study per A-Level per subject.

Remember that your independent study is divided into three types - **Consolidation, Reactive and Proactive**. How this is divided may vary from week to week or between subjects but one approach could be:

### **Consolidation - 45mins**

Straight after a lesson, or that evening/ the following day you should re-read your notes, talk a topic through with somebody, write summaries, mindmaps, flashcards e.g. for vocabulary, statistics/facts you need to recall etc.

Also worth doing is “deep listening” – listen again to listening tasks, read along, repeat, practise pronunciation, intonation, notice certain phrases and practise these.

### **Reactive - 3hrs**

This is your 'homework'. Your teacher will give you at least 3 hours' worth of homework each week. This could be linked to upcoming vocabulary tests, end of topic assessments, strengthening your reading/listening/writing/speaking skills (including essay writing skills), and/or work which enriches your cultural understanding of the German-speaking world. This could include work from Kerboodle (the online version of the AQA textbook which you have access to), worksheets given to you in class, vocabulary practice using websites such as Memrise/Quizlet etc.

If you find this takes more than 3 hours, that’s fine, you can take this from the proactive phase (not from the consolidation phase though). Equally, if you find you finish your reactive work quickly, spend more time on your proactive work.

## Proactive - 1hr 15mins

This is the section that will broaden and deepen your overall understanding of the subject you are studying. It will not necessarily involve work that has been set by your teacher, but instead it is about **you** doing the extra practice questions, reading articles, watching videos, TED talks etc. In German, this is illustrated in the following pages. Make sure you are doing a *range of these activities* - don't just focus on one!

If you have any questions, please see your teacher. We are here to help and we want the best for you!

What	Why	How
<b>Learn Vocabulary</b>	Essential to succeed in the reading and listening exams – the more vocabulary you know, the more of the text you will understand.	<p>Little and often is best – weekly basis is key. Long chunks of vocab. learning a few weeks before the exam is not a good idea.</p> <p><a href="https://www.kerboodle.com/">https://www.kerboodle.com/</a> Log in to Kerboodle and go to the vocab. pages – there is one at the end of each topic. Go through the list and create flashcards for the vocab. where you write the German on one side and the English on the other side. Then test yourself – how about creating two piles – one pile for vocab. you are confident with and one pile for ones you didn't know? There are also interactive vocab builders.</p> <p><a href="https://www.memrise.com/">https://www.memrise.com/</a> <a href="https://community-courses.memrise.com/community/course/1234045/german-a-level-aqa-vocabulary-and-grammar/">https://community-courses.memrise.com/community/course/1234045/german-a-level-aqa-vocabulary-and-grammar/</a></p> <p>You should have an account on Memrise and have access to the AQA German A Level textbook, with all the vocab. from the exam board.</p> <p><a href="https://quizlet.com/gb">https://quizlet.com/gb</a> Search for A Level vocabulary exercises. Also great for making your own “flashcards”</p> <p><a href="http://www.leo.org">www.leo.org</a> dictionary</p> <p><a href="https://www.duden.de/synonyme">https://www.duden.de/synonyme</a> The Duden is the German authority on spelling etc. / synonyms expand your vocabulary</p>

<p><b>Verbs &amp; Tenses Practice</b></p>	<p>Every sentence needs a verb - if you know the meaning of the verb, and be able to recognise what tense it is, it will help you work out what the rest of the sentence means in the reading/listening exams.</p> <p>In the writing/speaking exams, being able to communicate your point is essential to scoring marks. If your verb is wrong, your communication will be confusing (e.g. imagine saying 'Last weekend I will go to the cinema').</p>	<p><a href="https://conjugator.reverso.net/conjugation-german.html">https://conjugator.reverso.net/conjugation-german.html</a> to use the verb in all tenses etc, even with examples how to use in context.</p> <p><a href="https://www.verbix.com/languages/german">https://www.verbix.com/languages/german</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z8j2tfr">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z8j2tfr</a> This is from a GCSE website, but still just as important and valuable at A Level. Choose from a list of tenses.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/">https://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/german/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/germanindex.html#Grammar&amp;gsc.tab=0">https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/germanindex.html#Grammar&amp;gsc.tab=0</a> Choose from a list of key grammatical concepts (not just tenses).</p>
<p><b>Facts and Statistics</b></p>	<p>In the speaking exam, you need to show the examiner you have done plenty of research about the German-speaking world. You need to be prepared to speak about statistics/facts/case studies on <i>each</i> of the topics. A good idea is to have one A4 sheet per topic.</p>	<p>Example - topic 'Familie im Wandel. Use the internet to research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what is the average age people get married in Germany?</li> <li>• how many marriages end in divorce in Germany/Austria/Switzerland?</li> <li>• What is "Kindergeld", who gets it and how much is it?</li> <li>• What are the differences between Kern-, Regenbogen- and Patchwork-Familien</li> </ul> <p>useful links: news for kids (this might make the German more accessible)</p> <p><a href="https://www.zdf.de/kinder/logo">https://www.zdf.de/kinder/logo</a></p> <p>obviously, the "proper" news are also important</p> <p><a href="https://www.zdf.de/nachrichten-sendungen">https://www.zdf.de/nachrichten-sendungen</a> <a href="https://www.tagesschau.de/">https://www.tagesschau.de/</a></p> <p>This one is using simplified language for learners: <a href="https://www.nachrichtenleicht.de/">https://www.nachrichtenleicht.de/</a></p> <p>Articles relating to all sorts of topics with statistics: <a href="https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/de">https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/de</a> click on "Themen", great for statistics for example "Migration und Integration" <a href="https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/de/migration-und-integration">https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/de/migration-und-integration</a></p>

<p><b>Read (and listen to) authentic articles</b></p>	<p>Essential to succeed in the reading and listening exams – you need to get used to reading fairly complex texts, and get used to understanding the text even when you don't recognise every word in the text.</p> <p>For listening, you need to get used to the speed at which native speakers speak German. The more practice you do of this, the easier the listening part of the exam will be.</p>	<p>Spotify/YouTube - find a podcast in German on a theme from one of the A Level topics, or simply a subject you are interested in.</p> <p><a href="https://www.babbel.com/en/magazine/german-podcasts">https://www.babbel.com/en/magazine/german-podcasts</a> there is a list of 8 suggested podcasts, including news in slow German</p> <p><a href="https://soundcloud.com/dazpod-german-podcast">https://soundcloud.com/dazpod-german-podcast</a></p> <p>Deutsche Welle – this is the German radio station for all those who wants news about Germany abroad <a href="http://www.dw.de">www.dw.de</a> they also do YouTube channels like “Meet the Germans”, and “The Average German...”</p> <p>Das Magazin der Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung- publication on political education <a href="http://www.fluter.de">www.fluter.de</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.spiegel.de">www.spiegel.de</a></p> <p><a href="https://audio-lingua.ac-versailles.fr/spip.php?rubrique3&amp;lang=en">https://audio-lingua.ac-versailles.fr/spip.php?rubrique3&amp;lang=en</a> native German speaking audio files</p> <p>The Goethe Institut is the cultural branch of the German embassy – always worth checking out. <a href="https://www.goethe.de/">https://www.goethe.de/</a></p> <p>List of different radio stations/ podcasts/ etc <a href="https://www.radio.net/search?q=German">https://www.radio.net/search?q=German</a></p>
<p><b>Watch films/series in German</b></p>	<p>Ideally, watch a film/series that is originally German, so that you can gain some cultural understanding and have something interesting to talk about in the speaking exam. However, if this is not possible, it's still better to watch an English/series with the German audio on than listening/watching to nothing at all.</p>	<p>Netflix/Amazon Prime etc. and change the language to German. There are benefits to putting the German subtitles on (your brain will make connections with what you hear and how it's written, you will recognise more vocabulary) but there are also benefits to having the English subtitles, too (looking at the choice of translation can be interesting, and obviously you can find it easier to understand what they are saying if they spoke too fast or if you didn't recognise the vocabulary they were using).</p> <p>Write down some key words that you didn't recognise (you'll need to put the German subtitles) and use <a href="http://wordreference.com">wordreference.com</a> to find out the English translation.</p>

<p><b>(Re-)watch</b> <b>'Das Leben der Anderen</b></p> <p><b>(Re-)read key chapters in the book you are studying – Kafka "Die Verwandlung"</b></p>	<p>You need to be confident in answering a range of questions, without any notes to help you. Knowing the details of key scenes, when they take place in the film/book, and why they are important to the overall plot/theme is essential.</p>	<p>Make notes (mind maps/posters/summary sheets/Knowledge Organisers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- key scenes</li> <li>- key characters</li> <li>- key quotes</li> <li>- plot overview</li> <li>- social context</li> <li>- historic context</li> </ul> <p>I also recommend watching "Goodbye Lenin" and "Sonnenallee" to get a wider picture of life in East Germany and the changes after the fall of the wall</p>
<p><b>Past Paper practice</b></p>	<p>As long as you don't do this too early (i.e. first half of Year 12), then research shows this is the best way to prepare for your exams. Make sure you have done lots of the previous boxes before you tackle past papers.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.kerboodle.com">https://www.kerboodle.com</a> Log in to Kerboodle and choose a topic. Complete any of the activities you didn't complete in class or as homework (or re-do an exercise you didn't do so well in the first time)</p> <p><a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/german-7662/assessment-resources">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/german-7662/assessment-resources</a> Use the filters on the left-hand side to choose which paper you want.</p>