COURSE CONTENT

Subject content

Core content

- 1. Social issues and trends
- 2. Political and artistic culture
- 3. Grammar

Options

4. Works: Literary texts and films

Paper 2: Writing

What's assessed One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification Grammar

How it's assessed Written exam: 2 hours 80 marks in total 20% of A-level

Paper 3: Speaking

What's assessed Individual research project One of four themes (Aspects of Germanspeaking society or Artistic culture in the German-speaking world or Multiculturalism in German-speaking society or Aspects of political life in German-speaking society)

How it's assessed Oral exam: 21 23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time) 60 marks in total 30% of A-level

Subject content

The A-level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and to society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or to further study, including a modern languages degree.

The specification has been designed to be studied over two years. The suggestions below relating to content for year one and content for year two are based on the knowledge that the course will generally be taken over two years. Schools and colleges are free to choose how and when to cover the content.

The approach is a focus on how German-speaking society has been shaped socially and culturally and how it continues to change. In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of German-speaking countries. In the second year, further aspects of the social background are covered, alongside the German political landscape, both in relation to Germany itself and its place in Europe. The past and its role in shaping the present is viewed through the reunification and its consequences while the focus on young people and politics looks forward to shaping the future of German-speaking countries.

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where German is spoken, and their language skills. They will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in German.

The choice of works (literary texts and films) offers opportunities to link with the themes so that for example aspects of Die Wiedervereinigung are relevant to the film and aspects of Multiculturalism in German-speaking society are reflected in by Segfried Lenz.

3.3 Grammar

A-level students will be expected to have studied the grammatical system and structures of the language during their course. Knowledge of the grammar and structures specified for GCSE is assumed.

In the exam students will be required to use, actively and accurately, grammar and structures appropriate to the tasks set. The mention of an item in the A level lists implies knowledge of both its forms and its functions at an appropriate level of accuracy and complexity.

Students must also study either one book and one film or two books from the lists in this specification. They must appreciate, analyse and be able to respond critically in writing in German to the work they have studied. Their understanding of the work must include a critical appreciation of the concepts and issues covered and a critical and analytical response to features such as the form and the technique of presentation as appropriate to the work studied (eg the effect of narrative voice in a prose text or camera-work in a film).

3.4.1 Literary texts and films

Students must study either one text and one film or two texts from the list below. Abridged versions should not be used.

Heinrich Böll Bertolt Brecht Friedrich Dürrenmatt Max Frisch Heinrich Heine Jana Hensel Franz Kafka Wladimir Kaminer Segfried Lenz Bernhard Schlink

3.4.1.2 Films

Wolfgang Becker (2003) Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (2006) Hans Weingartner (2005) Yasemin Samdereli (2011) Marc Rothemund (2005)

Tom Tykwer (1998)