

We seek to use lively minds, to work hard, to develop all our talents and to grow through sharing, to be the best version of ourselves



**A LEVEL
GERMAN
TRANSITION
MATERIAL**

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Einleitung (Introduction)

We're delighted that you've made the decision to take German at A level, and so give you a life-long skill which will allow you to broaden your horizons and provide you with many opportunities in your future life and career.

The A level German course is stimulating: the topics are interesting and you will get a lot out of it. Those who are most successful and get the most out of their A level studies are the ones who engage in the subject outside of the classroom and explore their particular interests in the subject through wider reading and listening. You are in a fortunate position of having virtually limitless access to the language at your fingertips, via the internet. This gives you the perfect opportunity to get your teeth into the subject and improve your language skills even before you start the A level course!

Over the summer, you can be developing fantastic independent learning habits. The wonderful thing about independent learning in a language is that you can improve rapidly by reading things and listening to programmes, podcasts etc. on topics that interest you! So, if you enjoy history, get into the habit of reading articles or watching programmes on history. If you are a science-fiction fan, there are programmes available which will appeal. If you enjoy science and nature, there are thousands of programmes, reading resources etc. If you are a literature buff, then similarly, it's never too early to start exploring. It is also a fantastic investment of your time to start to get familiar with events and trends in Germany relating to whatever topics appeal to you.

What follows are some basic tips and guidelines on what you should/can be doing over the summer in the way of listening, reading and generally getting into good habits. You will see very quickly that developing good habits of regularly listening and reading will allow you to really fly in the language.

I've divided the main part into listening and reading. Following that, there are some tips on how to get your grammar up to scratch before we start the A level course proper.

Viel Spaß!

LISTENING

With broadband and TV and radio now broadcasting their programmes via the internet, you have a wonderful opportunity to improve the level of your German immeasurably. Through accessing German media on a regular basis, you will very quickly expand your comprehension skills, your vocab and your own accent and intonation (for speaking purposes). This should not be an onerous task, but one which you should enjoy. Initially, listening to and watching German TV may be difficult, **BUT:** you are not expected to understand every word!! Focus on 'getting the gist' and listening out for words that you do recognise.

Regular access to LOGO

It is a ten-minute programme which summarises the news of that day in lively, digestible and accessible form. The images and visuals used to accompany the reports are a great aid to understanding. Here are the instructions to access the programme.

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It is worth keeping a diary/notebook of the programmes you watch, briefly sketching down the date, the basic content of the reports and noting down any interesting words/phrases that you may have picked up. Overleaf is a template for an 'independent listening worksheet' that might help you record your listening.

To access LOGO follow these steps

1. Go to the website www.zdf.de
2. Click on the SUCHE tab (to the middle right at the top of the page)
3. Type in LOGO! which will take you to the programme (you will be able to get all programmes from that week)
4. I recommend you watch with the subtitles (there is a little icon which looks like a speech bubble to get these. You can only get subtitles on a computer (not a tablet I think!))
5. There is an option to download the programme (so you can watch anywhere)

In the appendix to this booklet is an independent notes sheet for the LOGO programmes.

Deutsche Welle

[DEUTSCH LERNEN](#)

Go to the Deutsch Lernen section of the Deutsche Welle website (link given above)
There are a whole variety of excellent listening practice materials to help your listening skills get into top shape!

- a. Langsam gesprochene Nachrichten (slowly spoken news).

This is on daily and the link is on the first page of the above website. Even better is the fact that there is a manuscript so you can read along.

[Langsam gesprochene Nachrichten](#)

- b. Video Thema:

This is a weekly mini-programme addressing an aspect of German culture or world events. It is accompanied by exercises and the transcript as well as a glossary. Brilliant practice and often fun topics!

[Video-Thema](#)

- c. Top Thema:

Similar to the above with more current affairs based events. Again, the LEKTION section offers some nice exercises, the transcript of the programme and also a glossary for vocabulary!

[Top-Thema](#)

Easy German

[Easy German](#)

Easy German produce short videos and a Podcast all aimed at German learners, and mostly created by a couple who live in Berlin.

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ARD website

The German public service broadcast is a brilliant resource to search topic areas that appeal to you. Please get into the habit of using this! Just scroll along the main topics and you are sure to find something of interest.

[ARD Mediathek Suche: Finde deine Lieblingsinhalte](#)

ZDF website

The other main public service broadcast provider also has a Mediathek with a vast range of TV programmes. As with the ARD website, you can explore the categories, depending on what your interests are. I would recommend the ‚Fernsehfilm der Woche‘ – often a good thriller

<https://www.zdf.de/>

Radio

In addition to these two main channels, you can access German radio. Sometimes it’s great just to have on in the background. You pick things up ‘subconsciously’. This website takes you to all radio stations which can be livestreamed.

<https://tunein.com/radio/Germany-r100346/>

READING

It is equally important that you get into the habit of accessing written German articles which are not necessarily part of the curriculum. Again, this will hone your reading skills. Start early and reading will become more fun!

You should aim to read articles not only relating to the contemporary world and your A level topics but, more importantly, you should access websites of issues which interest you: music, film, fashion, history, science: anything and everything is good.

You should get into the habit of reading at least a few articles a week for enjoyment.

Here are some other suggestions for general websites and more specific areas of interest:

General

www.spiegel.de (the most prominent German current affairs magazine (with articles on many things). Go to the tab ‘Dein Spiegel’ which has many articles for young people and is in more accessible language.

www.planet-wissen.de This is a superb site which will take you to topics on anything and everything and give links to other articles on other web pages.

www.zeit.de (another popular, but relatively high-brow German weekly publication)

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www.bravo.de – probably the best known and most popular youth magazine (and amusingly cheesy!) General trash culture!

More specific areas of interest:

Pop music

www.rollingstone.de

www.musikexpress.de

Sport

www.spowo.ch (a Swiss sports magazine online)

www.kicker.de (a very famous and popular football magazine)

www.tennismagazin.de

Fashion

www.brigitte.de

www.vogue.de

www.elle.de

History

[Startseite | Zeitklicks](#)

BOOKS:

We have an expanding German library where you can borrow ‘**Easy Reader**’ books and short novels for teenagers, which you will find accessible and fun to read and help you improve your reading skills very quickly.

In addition, there is a brilliant website which offers free access to online books. I am giving you the link for Kinderbücher here (not because I think you are children, but that this is the best place to start when you are setting out reading longer texts in German. Besides they are fun and there are lots of classic tales which you will be able to access!)

[https://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/DE_Kinderbuch_\(Bücherregal\)](https://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/DE_Kinderbuch_(Bücherregal))

Other ways to improve and prepare yourself for A level – grammar and language practice.

I have no doubt whatsoever that reading and listening are the things you should be doing the most and they are also the best ways to really ignite your interests and explore which areas of German culture you are interested in! In addition, however, there are a number of other things you can be doing to get yourself ahead of the game before we start A level proper.

The website www.nthuleen.com is a superb website. Go to the grammar section and you can tackle any area you wish to revise. There will be quite a lot here that looks unfamiliar and which we will tackle in class, so don't worry about doing things which are completely unfamiliar.

Learn German with Herr Antrim is a quirky and funny site with an American German teacher who covers a whole range of topics and useful scenarios where you can practise your German.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MrLAntrim/featured>

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