OXFORD
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

A Level German

Sixth Form study options

A Level German

Years 12 and 13 A Level

What is required:

- A general interest in and curiosity about Germany and German-speaking countries
- An enjoyment of independent reading
- An enthusiasm for speaking and writing in another language
- A good grade at GCSE German
- It is, of course, always beneficial if students can spend time in a German-speaking country during the course. The department offers an exchange trip to Munich at Easter every other year

The aims of the course:

- To teach students to understand language spoken at normal speed by native speakers. Students will hear a lot of German spoken in the classroom by the teacher, and we have a German Assistant with whom the students have weekly conversation lessons in small groups.
- To help students to understand German from many different sources, including newspapers, magazines, films, TV, novels, poetry and plays. We endeavour to attend performances where possible; we have, for example, been to Mendelssohn and Schubert recitals at the Oxford Lieder Festival, and have attended performances of Brecht plays in Stratford and Birmingham. Year 12 Germanists have also enjoyed a poetry and song afternoon at The Queen's College, exploring the Faust legend. It is part of the A Level course to gain an appreciation of literary texts and other cultural topics; this year we have chosen Dürrenmatt's *Der Besuch der alten Dame* and the film *Das Leben der Anderen*.
- To gain a thorough knowledge of German grammar, and thus to enable students to speak German fluently, naturally and accurately, and to write with clarity and precision
- To develop awareness and understanding of other cultures and civilisations

The AQA syllabus at A Level:

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing

Themes: aspects of German-speaking society, artistic culture, multiculturalism and political life (further details given below).

Paper 2: Writing

One literary text and one film.

Paper 3: Speaking

Discussion of one of the four themes outlined for Paper 1. Presentation and discussion of individual research project.

Themes

Aspects of German-speaking society

- The changing state of the family
- The digital world
- Youth culture: fashion and trends, music, television

Artistic culture in the German-speaking world

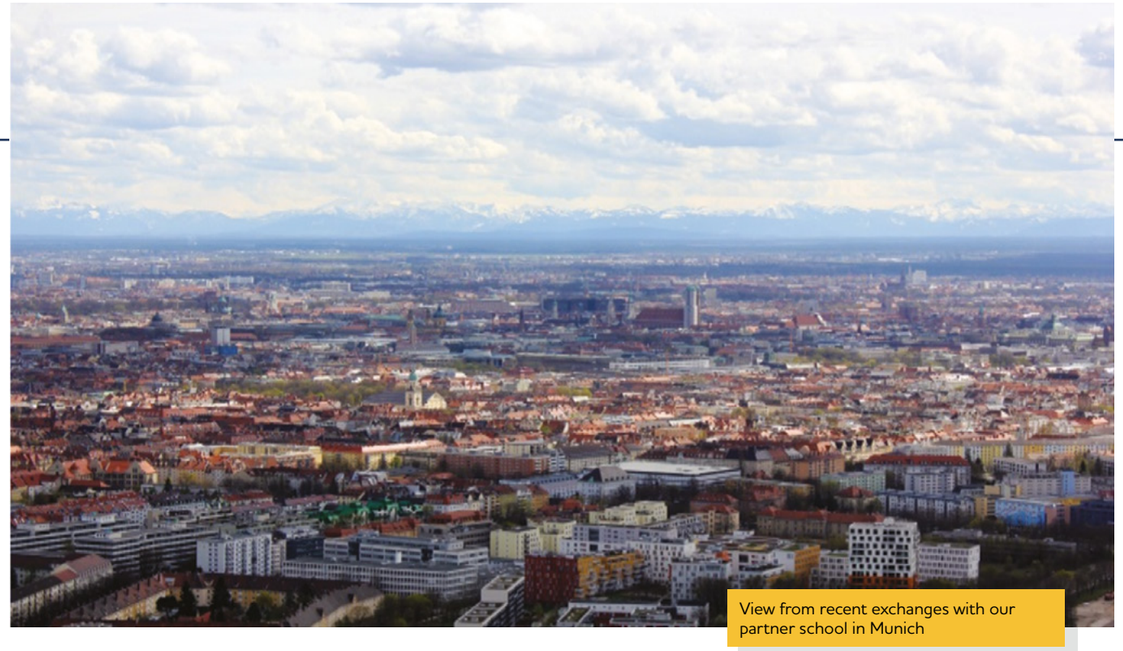
- Festivals and traditions
- Art and architecture
- Cultural life in Berlin, past and present

Multiculturalism in German-speaking society

- Immigration
- Integration
- Racism

Aspects of political life in the German-speaking world

- Germany and the European Union
- Politics and youth
- German re-unification and its consequences



View from recent exchanges with our partner school in Munich

Maibaum, Munich

Enrichment

Sixth Formers help to run a very popular lower school German Club. As members of the Oxford German Network, Sixth Formers are invited to attend reading groups, film showings and theatrical performances within the university, to go to a German social evening and to participate in the annual Oxford German Olympiad.

Sixth Formers are invited to enter the Anthea Bell Prize translation competition, and the Stephen Spender Prize poetry translation competition.

The UK-German Connection organises annual competitions for Sixth Formers, and OHS Germanists in the past five years have won places on summer language courses in Bremen, Mönchen-Gladbach and Weimar (and online courses in 2020) and participated in a youth conference in Berlin.

Destinations of A Level Germanists at OHS

An A Level in German can help to open doors to a range of degree courses. In the past five years OHS Germanists have gone on to study:

French and German	Bristol, St Andrew's, Birmingham and Durham
German and Arabic	Clare College, Cambridge
History with German	Edinburgh
German and Linguistics	Birmingham

Oxford High School
Belbroughton Road
Oxford, OX2 6XA

oxfordhigh.gdst.net

OXFORD
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST