

GCSE - GERMAN

UNIT 1 – ME, MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS

During the course of this unit, students will focus on revising vocabulary from KS3 describing their family and friends. They will build on this by discussing relationships between family and friends before moving on to explore the different types of families, partnerships and marriages.

UNIT 2 – TECHNOLOGY IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Students will learn to develop opinions and analyse the different pros, cons, benefits and dangers of social media and the internet. This unit allows students to employ their knowledge learnt from PSHE lessons, their previous knowledge of media and technology from KS3 and dictionary skills to write complex pieces of writing on the topic.

UNIT 3 – FREE-TIME ACTIVITIES

Students will have the opportunity to discover more about German culture through music, films and TV. This unit will be particularly interesting for fans of sport as they will be able to talk about the sports they play and their favourite sports people. Transactional vocabulary will also be acquired during this topic area as students prepare for ordering food in a restaurant.

UNIT 4 – CUSTOMS AND FESTIVALS

This unit focuses on festivities in German-speaking countries. This is especially relevant as we deal with this topic leading up to Christmas. Students will learn about different cultures in German-speaking countries, analysing the differences between north and south Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Students will also learn about festivals from various religions e.g. Eid al-Fitr and how this compares to Karneval/Fastnacht in Germany.

UNIT 5 – HOME, TOWN, NEIGHBOURHOOD AND REGION

The topic of home and region will allow students to describe their region to their German-speaking friends – hopefully tempting them to come visit. Students will have the opportunity to recycle vocabulary from previous units to talk about the things that they and tourists can do in their town or region. This topic is particularly useful as students speak with their exchange partners, talking about where they live, who with and what they can do when they visit.

Students will be feeling more confident with tenses now, so will be able to talk about what their town/region was like in the past and what they would like in the future. They will be given the opportunity to talk about where they would like to live in the future and why.

UNITS 6 AND 7 – SOCIAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES

The very interesting topics of global, social and health issues are explored over Units 6 and 7. Students will read, listen and talk about charity organisations and voluntary work that people do in the world and the work they would be interested doing if they were to go to a German-speaking country or further afield. This leads on to discuss homelessness and unemployment and what organisations are doing to help people in these situations.

Students move on to learn about local and global environmental problems and what we could do to help to improve the climate emergency we are facing.

Finally, students will be given the opportunity to talk about their lifestyle in the past comparing it with their current lifestyles and their resolutions for a healthy future. Health issues and bad habits will be discussed to ensure students are confident about what they should avoid to ensure they stay in good health.

Students will be able to use their knowledge from science and PSHE lessons to write complex pieces of writing on these topic areas.

UNIT 8 – TRAVEL AND TOURISM

This unit will build on previous knowledge allowing students to discuss their past and future holidays. They will talk about accommodation, areas they could visit, and what they could do when they are there. Weather will be revised so students know where they should go depending on whether they want sun or snow.

UNITS 9 AND 10 – MY STUDIES AND LIFE AT SCHOOL

The topic of school is revised during the course of this unit. The different school types in the countries will be discovered and students will be able to describe and compare their school to others. Favourite subjects and after school activities will be discussed expressing complex opinions when doing so. Students can link this topic easily to others for example talking about what sports they do or describing their school friends.

UNITS 11 AND 12 – EDUCATION POST-16, JOBS, CAREER CHOICES AND AMBITIONS

These final two Units will build on units 9 and 10 as students prepare to move on to further education. They will explore the choices available to them whether they plan to go to university, join an apprenticeship or choose a career.

GRAMMAR

Grammar is an important part of language which links all the vocabulary learnt in the topic areas together so students can express themselves clearly and with complexity. Building on their knowledge of adjectives, intensifiers, coordinating and subordinating conjunctions, students will be able to produce some interesting pieces of work with many impressive features.

Students will learn how to speak about past, present and future events in using many tenses and structures. Many types of verbs will also be introduced to students during the course of the two years to allow them to describe any situation with a range of vocabulary. Word order and the case systems will be explored further to ensure that students' work is understandable and coherent. Students are given ample opportunities over the two years to build on their knowledge from KS3 so they feel confident with writing and speaking.