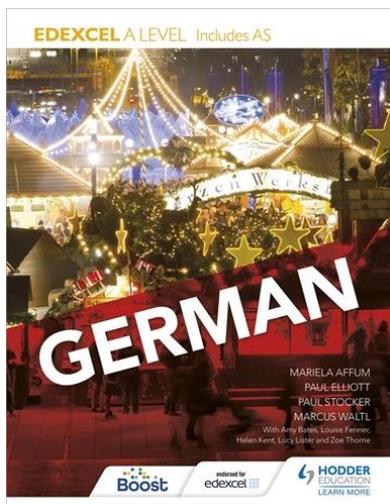


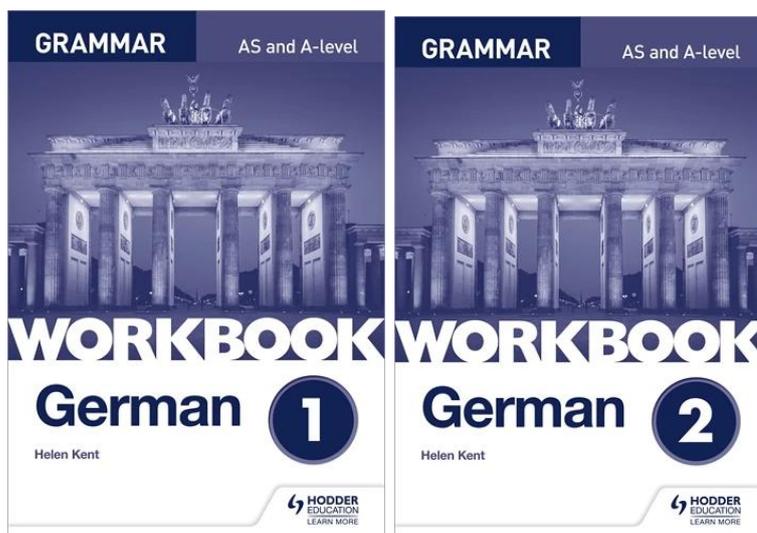
## German A-Level at AES

### Important materials

The textbook we use for both years of the A-Level course is published by Hodder. You should buy your own copy, if you can, as it will be useful both for classwork and for revision when the time comes. It is available on Amazon if you click [here](#).



The textbook is supported by two workbooks, which focus on the grammar we will cover together. These are well worth buying, too, again so that we can use them in class and so that you can come back to them when you need to revise. The first workbook is available from Amazon [here](#), and the second one [here](#).



### Course content

The themes which we cover in the German A-Level course are:

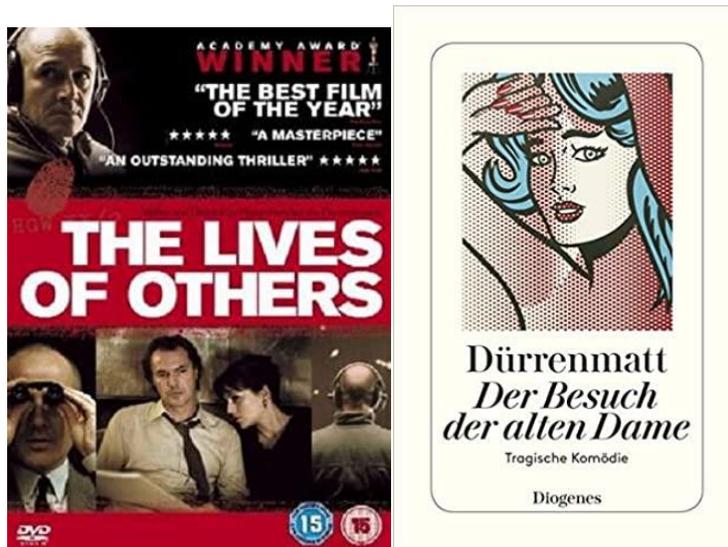
<b>Thema 1</b>	<i>Gesellschaftliche Entwicklung in Deutschland</i>	Natur und Umwelt Bildung Die Welt der Arbeit
<b>Thema 2</b>	<i>Politische und künstliche Kultur im deutschen Sprachraum</i>	Musik Die Medien Die Rolle von Festen und Traditionen
<b>Thema 3</b>	<i>Immigration und die deutsche multikulturelle Gesellschaft</i>	Die positive Auswirkung von Integration Die Herausforderungen von Immigration und Integration

		Die staatliche und soziale Reaktion zur Immigration
<b>Thema 4</b>	<i>Die Wiedervereinigung Deutschlands</i>	Die Gesellschaft in der DDR vor der Wiedervereinigung Ereignisse vor der Wiedervereinigung Deutschland seit der Wiedervereinigung

We will also study two cultural topics:

<b>Lower Sixth</b>	Film	<i>Das Leben der Anderen</i> by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck
<b>Upper Sixth</b>	Play	<i>Der Besuch der alten Dame</i> by Friedrich Dürrenmatt

It would be a very good idea to watch this film online or buy a copy of the DVD, available [here](#) on Amazon, before studying it. You should also buy a copy of the play to read in advance, if possible both in German (the version we will read together in class can be found on Amazon, [here](#)), and in English (a good version is [here](#)).

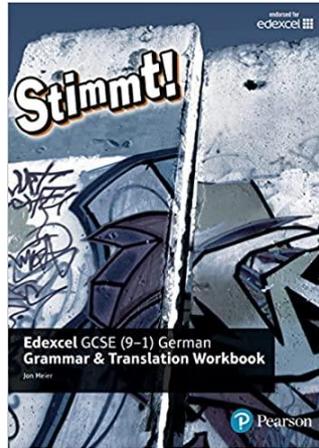


Looking further ahead, you will have to prepare an independent research project (IRP) in the Upper Sixth which will form the basis of your final speaking exam at the end of the course. You can choose absolutely anything of interest to you as long as it is grounded in German-speaking culture (so Austrian or Swiss topics are fine too).

### **Bridging work before the start of the course**

Cultural topics: try to get hold of the film and the play (see above) so that you are familiar with them before the start of the course.

Grammar: try to master the grammar that was covered as part of the GCSE course, as it will be built upon during the A-Level course. There is an excellent grammar and translation workbook you can use to help you, which is available [here](#) on Amazon.



Translation: this accounts for 40 marks across two exam papers. You will have to be able to translate confidently and accurately from German into English, and from English into German. The mark scheme is very strict, so as much grammar practice as possible (using the above grammar books or online drills) is vital. Here are some examples of some “easy” translation exercises for you to have a go at:

### Easy: Umweltfreundliches Verhalten zu Hause

10 marks – 1 mark per section

1	Das Ökosystem ist mir äußerst wichtig.	
2	Seit einem Jahr versuche ich, meinen Fleischkonsum einzuschränken.	
3	Auf Hamburger zu verzichten, ist nicht einfach,	
4	aber der Umwelt zuliebe ist es notwendig.	
5	Mein Bruder fährt immer mit dem Fahrrad, obwohl er ein Auto hat,	
6	und meine Eltern passen immer auf,	
7	dass wir Energiesparlampen verwenden.	
8	Leider sind meine Freunde echte Verschwender.	
9	Sie interessieren sich gar nicht	
10	für ihren ökologischen Fußabdruck.	

## Easy: The German school system

Total 10 marks – ½ mark per section

+		
1	I spent a year	
2	at a German grammar school	
3	and the system	
4	was very different.	
5	The main difference is	
6	that every state	
7	has its own structure,	
8	which I found problematic.	
9	What if you move?	
10	In my opinion,	
11	repeating a year	
12	is a good idea,	
13	but sometimes	
14	students find it embarrassing.	
15	Foreign languages are more important in Germany,	
16	which I really like.	
17	Finally,	
18	the best thing is that	
19	some schools	
20	have no lessons in the afternoon!	
		□

IRP: you might wish to start thinking about this now and do a bit of preparatory research online. Some ideas from previous cohorts include:

*The Bundesliga and its specific 50+1 rule*

*Germans and their love of alcohol: is it possible to celebrate in Germany without having a beer?!*

*Ostalgie and how it is presented in German cinema*

*The Bauhaus architecture movement*

*The rise and fall of the German Tennis Association*

*Helmut Kohl and his political legacy*

*Aldi supermarket – how did it become so successful?*

### Useful German websites

It is always a good idea to keep listening to as much authentic German as possible as regularly as possible. There are some excellent series on Netflix, including the science-fiction series *Dark*, which you can watch with subtitles. You can also subscribe to [News in Slow German](#), which includes transcripts to read.

The [Goethe Institut](#) is an excellent source of information. We are close enough that you can visit their building in Kensington, but their website also has lots of information on the latest developments in Germany and events that are taking place in London.

The [Deutsch XXL](#) section of the Deutsche Welle website has lots of activities and information aimed at learners, and the [Nicos Weg](#) story on the same website is also very useful and, hopefully, fun!

Other sites to dip into when you can are the [Reverso German verb conjugator](#) (more reference than anything, but useful nonetheless), [Spiegel](#) for the latest news, and [DaF](#) for plenty of worksheets on various themes and grammar points.

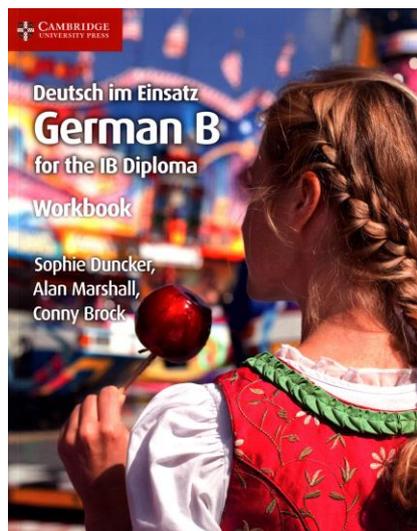
## German IB at AES

### Important materials

The coursebook we use for both years of the IB course (Standard and Higher) is published by Cambridge. You should buy your own copy, if you can, as it will be vital both for classwork and for revision when the time comes. It is available on Amazon if you click [here](#).



The coursebook is supported by a workbook, which is full of IB-style questions for you to work through. This is well worth buying, too. The workbook is available from Amazon [here](#).



### Course content

The themes which we cover for Standard and Higher German IB are:

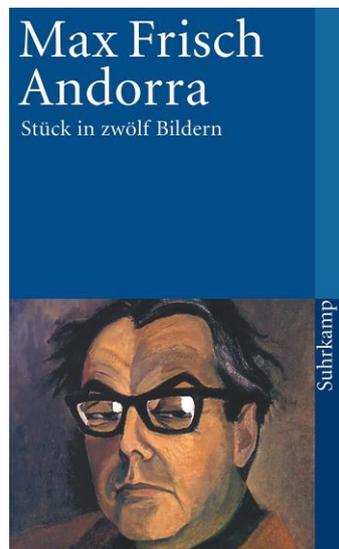
<b>Thema 1</b>	<i>Identitäten</i>	Wer bin ich? Gesundheit und Wohlbefinden Werte und Glauben Wir und die Anderen
<b>Thema 2</b>	<i>Erfahrungen</i>	Prägende Einflüsse Eine kulinarische Reise Feste und Traditionen Die Sehnsucht nach dem Leben
<b>Thema 3</b>	<i>Menschliche Erfindungsgabe</i>	Fernsehen: die Macht des Publikums

		Kino mal auf Deutsch Musik heute Werbung: Spaß, Verdummung oder Manipulation?
<b>Thema 4</b>	<i>Soziale Organisation</i>	Die digitale Welt Jugend heute – und die Menschen um sie herum Schule – für das Leben Die geregelte Welt
<b>Thema 5</b>	<i>Ein Planet für alle</i>	Der Mensch als globaler Konsument Der Mensch in der Natur Der Mensch und seine Mitmenschen Der Mensch braucht Energie

For the Higher course will also study two cultural topics:

<b>Lower Sixth</b>	Play	<i>Andorra</i> by Max Frisch
<b>Upper Sixth</b>	Play	<i>Der Besuch der alten Dame</i> by Friedrich Dürrenmatt

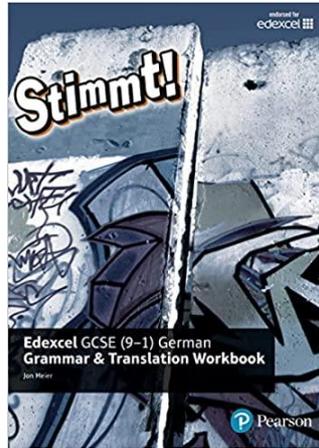
It would be a very good idea to buy a copy of each of the plays to read in advance, if possible both in German (*Andorra* can be found [here](#), *Der Besuch der alten Dame* [here](#)), and in English (*Andorra* [here](#), and *The Visit* [here](#)).



### Bridging work before the start of the course

Cultural topics (for Higher only): try to get hold of the plays (see above) so that you are familiar with them before the start of the course.

Grammar: try to master the grammar that was covered as part of the GCSE course, as it will be built upon during the A-Level course. There is an excellent grammar and translation workbook you can use to help you, which is available [here](#) on Amazon.



IB reading skills: there are some very specific skills required by the IB examinations, so it would be a great idea to get hold of the workbook listed above to start looking at the sorts of things you can expect.

### Useful German websites

It is always a good idea to keep listening to as much authentic German as possible as regularly as possible. There are some excellent series on Netflix, including the science-fiction series *Dark*, which you can watch with subtitles. You can also subscribe to [News in Slow German](#), which includes transcripts to read.

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