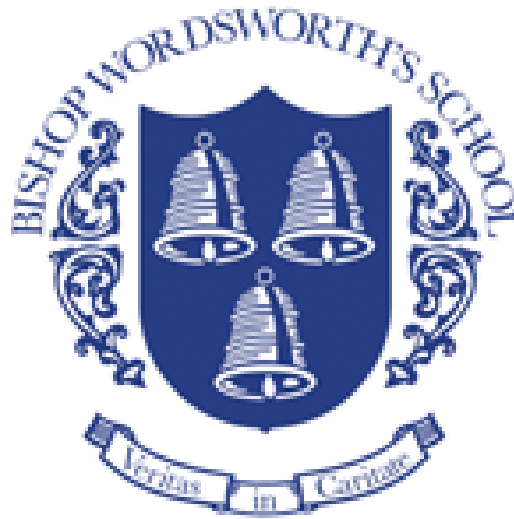


German

Revision Tips

The Edexcel Certificate in German



Bishop Wordsworth's
School

Effective Revision

To be effective, revision must be:

- **Active** - always work with a pen and paper, note down key vocabulary and test yourself. Don't just sit down and read the textbook for a set period. Focus on tasks, not time. If you just read notes you'll only retain about 10% of the information.
- **Organised** - always ask yourself at the start of a study session "What do I want to have completed in this session?" Have a plan for what you want to cover by the end of the week. Try and organise your German revision into the following topic areas:

Topic Areas

Topic area A

Home and abroad
Life in the town and rural life
Weather and climate
Travel, transport and directions
Holidays and tourist information
Services (eg telephone, bank, post office)
Customs and religion
Everyday life, traditions and communities in a German-speaking country

Topic area B

Education and employment
Childhood
School life and routine
Work/careers
Future plans

Topic area C

Helping around the house
Food and drinks
Types of home
Information about self, family and friends
House, home and daily
Routines

Topic area D

The modern world and the environment
Current affairs and social issues
Environmental issues
The media (eg TV, film, radio, newspapers)
Information and communication technology (eg internet, mobile phones, email)

Topic area E

Social activities, fitness and health
Special occasions
Hobbies, interests, sports and exercise
Shopping and money matters
Accidents, injuries, common ailments and health Issues

Grammar

Grammar	Example	Page	√
Genders & Cases	der, die, das, den, des, dem	201-202	
Possessive adjectives	mein (my), dein (your), sein (his, its), ihr (her its, their), unser (our) and ihr (your polite)	202	
Prepositions	<i>With the accusative:</i> durch, für, gegen, ohne, um, wieder, entlang <i>With the dative:</i> aus, außer, bei, mit, nach, seit, von, zu, gegenüber <i>With the accusative or dative (depending on movement):</i> an, auf, hinter, in, neben, über, unter, vor, zwischen	202-203	
Adjectives	Adjective endings depend on the gender and the case of the noun.	203-204	
Comparatives	Add –er to an adjective in German, e.g cooler or kreativer, to say that something is cooler or more creative.	204	
Superlatives	Add –st or –est to an adjective, e.g. längst or interessantest to say that something is ‘the longest’ or ‘the most interesting’.	204	
Time phrases	Manchmal, oft, nie, ab und zu, dann und wann, letztes Jahr usw.	205	
Intensifiers	Use words to add emphasis! Ein bisschen, ein wenig, einfach, ganz, gar nicht, kaum, sehr, total usw.	205	
Pronouns	Ich, mich, mir Du, dich, dir Er, ihn, ihm usw....	206	
Relative pronouns	These mean ‘that’, ‘which’ or ‘who’. Relative clauses send the verb to the end: <i>Das ist die Band, die ich gestern gesehen habe.</i> That is the band that I saw yesterday.	206	
Modal verbs	Können, mögen, müssen, sollen, wollen, dürfen These normally need another verb to complete the meaning. This verb is sent to the end of the clause. Ich darf mit meinen Freunden nach London fahren.	207	
Tenses	Present, perfect, imperfect, future, pluperfect, conditional.	208-209	
Time-Manner-Place	If there are several adverbs or adverbial phrases, they must be in this order. <i>Wir fahren jeden Tag mit dem Rad durch die Stadt</i> – Every day we cycle through town.	210	
Coordinating conjunctions	These do not change the word order! Und, aber, oder, denn	210	
Subordinate clauses	These words send the verb to the end of the clause: als, damit, dass, ob, obwohl, während, wenn, weil	210	
Passive Voice			

Getting started

- **Where?** Find a fixed place to study (a particular desk/room at home, a spot in the library, etc.) that becomes firmly associated in your mind with productive work. All the equipment and materials you need should be within reach, and the room should be well lit and ventilated, but not too comfortable! Turn your room into a positive learning environment. Keep books and notes on the desk to a minimum and decorate your walls with colourful notes and key vocab. Music is fine as long as it helps you to study and blocks out distracting noises. The very best sound to study to is thought to be that of Baroque composers or Mozart.
- **When?** It's impossible to 'cram' for a languages exam! 'Little and often' is the best policy when it comes to German revision. You will work out a system that suits you, but many people find that three 30-40 minute sessions of German revision per day is more effective than doing 2-3 hours at a time. For example, you could start off by learning some vocabulary in the morning, do some listening before lunch and a few reading exercises in the afternoon. However, the most important thing is that you're concentrating and working hard!
- **What and how?** Remember that it's all about being active and *focused on tasks, not time!* Know at the start of a session what you want to have completed by the end of the period. Make the tasks specific and realistic, not vague and large.

Vocabulary

- You should aim to learn 5 words per day. Choose from the Minimum Core Vocabulary List on the GDrive.
- It's best to spend 10-20 minutes in the morning revising them, then ask a friend or family member to test you on them at lunchtime or the end of the day.
- Make a list of all the words you find most difficult to remember and return to these every couple of days.
- Write the words out and colour-code them (masculine nouns, feminine nouns, neutral nouns, plural nouns, verbs, adjectives, other words). Write them on Post-It notes (German on one side, English on the other) and stick them around the house.
- Remember to revise how the words **sound**, not just how it looks. Use www.dict.cc or www.leo.org to check the pronunciation. Just type in the word and click on the speaker icon.
- If you're a visual learner, try making a mind-map for each topic area or sub-topic. Do this without your vocabulary list/dictionary first, and then allow yourself 2 minutes to look at your vocabulary list before adding to it.

Useful Vocabulary Websites

- Languages Online <http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/>

Online Dictionaries

look up individual words for pronunciation guidance and meaning.

- Leo www.leo.org
- Dict www.dict.cc

Listening

- Completing past exam papers is the best way to revise for this exam. Past AQA, OCR and Edexcel Certificate papers are all available on the ODrive and online.
- Build up your listening stamina! Start with one listening exercise, then build up to three or four per revision session
- Look at the question. What's the topic? Which words can you expect to come up? How could the examiner try and catch you out?
- Numbers can be tricky. Listen out for ages, dates, times and prices and note them down.
- Always listen to a passage at least twice before committing to an answer. Try and repeat sentences to yourself more slowly so the words sink in.
- Look at the transcript (if available) and write down any vocabulary you didn't recognise. Add these words to your vocabulary list.
- Try listening to German radio for 5 minutes (increasing this with time) and make notes in English. Do this with a friend and compare what you've written!

Useful Listening Websites

Past Papers

AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/german-2660/past-papers-and-mark-schemes>

OCR

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-german-j731-j031-j131-from-2012/>

EDEXCEL CERTIFICATE

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses-and-edexcel-certificates/edexcel-certificate-german.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FExam-materials>

Reading & Listening Questions

- **BBC Bitesize** - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/german/>

GCSE-style Listening and Reading questions that you can mark online. Do the Foundation as well as the Higher activities. The Grammar section is useful for those annoying little words (try *Pronouns* and *When, where and how much*)

- **Gut!** <http://gut.languageskills.co.uk/index.html>

<http://gut.languageskills.co.uk/index.html> - This site is available for free apart from weekdays from 10am – 4pm. Listening and Reading exercises divided into topic areas.

- **Languages Online** <http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/>

A variety of exercises. Grammar and topic units are good for a challenge!

German Radio

- **Radio** www.listenlive.eu/germany.html

Comprehensive list of stations streaming online.

Reading

- Look at the question first. What's the topic? Which words can you expect to come up? How could the examiner try and catch you out?
- Read the passage carefully. Identify key words, then look for those tricky little words that can change the meaning of a sentence.
- Find the verbs. What tense are they in? Is the writer talking about the present (ich **spiele**), past (ich **habe gegessen** , ich **aß**), future (Ich **werde essen**) or a possibility (Ich **würde essen**, ich **möchte essen**)?
- If you're reading a series of statements by several people, and the question asks you to write the name of one of the people, try writing a brief summary of what each person has said in English.
- Check your work thoroughly and write down any vocabulary you didn't recognise.

Useful Reading Websites

Past Papers

AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/german-2660/past-papers-and-mark-schemes>

OCR

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-german-j731-j031-j131-from-2012/>

EDEXCEL CERTIFICATE

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gces-and-edexcel-certificates/edexcel-certificate-german.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FExam-materials>

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Speaking

Section A: Presentation and discussion based on a single picture

- Maximum four minutes:
 - Presentation: maximum of one minute.
 - Discussion: maximum of three minutes.

Students will give a presentation for up to **one minute** on a picture they have chosen. A discussion with the centre-appointed interviewer will then follow, for up to **three minutes**.

In order to prepare fully for this part of the exam, you will need to:

- **Ensure that your 1 minute presentation is your BEST German.**
- **Learn your 1 minute presentation.**
- **Ensure that you have thought of answers to possible questions that could come up in the exam. Here are some examples:**
 - Was macht diese Person im Bild?
 - Was trägt diese Person?
 - Wie ist das Wetter?
 - Wie sieht die Frau im Vordergrund aus?
 - Welche Person findest du am interessantesten? Warum?
 - Was haben die Personen gemacht, bevor sie hierher gekommen sind?
 - Was könnten sie als nächstes machen?
 - Beschreib eine Person auf dem Bild.
 - Was kann man noch auf dem Bild sehen?
 - Wer sind diese Leute, deiner Meinung nach?
 - Welche Person gefällt dir am besten auf dem Bild? Warum?
 - Wie wäre das Bild vor zehn Jahren anders gewesen?
 - Was sagen die zwei Leute im Vordergrund, meinst du?
 - Was wird er/sie später machen?
 - Warum hast du dieses Bild gewählt?
 - Was sieht man auf der linken/rechten Seite?
 - Was sieht man in der Mitte des Bildes?
 - Was sieht man oben rechts/oben links?
 - Was sieht man unten rechts/unten links?

Section B: Two conversations

- Maximum six minutes.

Students will take part in conversations with the centre-appointed interviewer on **two** separate topic areas. These topic areas will be different from the topic area chosen by the student for Section A.

Section B will last up to a maximum of **six minutes**, with approximately three minutes for each conversation.

In order to prepare for this part of the exam, you will need to:

- **Ensure that you have completed the highlighted questions of all speaking banks (topics A-E).**
- **Use the corrected speaking banks for your revision.**
- **Practise asking and answering the questions.**

You could:

- Ask a family member or friend to ask you the questions (even if they don't understand your answer).
- Write the questions on one side of a flashcard and the answer on the back. Pick up a flashcard and attempt an answer. You could then compare it with your prepared answer.
- Record yourself asking and answering the questions. You could listen to this on your way to or from school.

Writing

Writing Task 1

In the first extended writing task (question 3b), students will be required to write about 50 words in the target language, on a topic related to the preceding reading passage. The response will be assessed for communication and content and knowledge and application of language.

In order to prepare for this part of the exam, you will need to:

- **Familiarise yourself with the mark scheme (available on the ODrive).**
- **Revise the *OMIST* structures (opinions, modals, intensifiers, subordinate clauses and tenses).**
- **Practise answering questions from past papers and include *OMIST* structures**

Writing Task 2

For the second piece of extended writing (question 6), students will select **one** writing task from a choice of three. They will be expected to write a continuous response, of about 150 words, in German. Students aiming at grade C and above will be expected to express opinions and to use a variety of structures, including a range of tenses (see page 3).

The tasks for question 6 will encompass a variety of writing styles, such as narrative, descriptive, discursive, and a range of formats such as a formal or informal letter, a report, an article, a page from a diary, the script of a speech etc.

In order to prepare for this part of the exam, you will need to:

- **Familiarise yourself with the mark scheme (available on the ODrive).**
- **Revise the structures from page 3.**
- **Practise answering questions from past papers and include as many structures as possible from page 3.**

