



GERMAN: BACKGROUND LANGUAGE

ATAR course

Year 11 syllabus for teaching from 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

Important information

As part of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment, the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) has revised the course rationale and aims, and updated the General Capabilities to create clearer connections with the syllabus content.

This syllabus is effective from 1 January 2026.

Users of this syllabus are responsible for checking its currency.

Syllabuses are formally reviewed by the Authority on a cyclical basis, typically every five years.

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Contents

Rationale	1
Application for enrolment in a language course	2
Aims	2
Organisation	2
Structure of the syllabus	2
Organisation of content.....	3
Progression from the Years 7–10 curriculum	4
Representation of the General Capabilities	4
Representation of the Cross-curriculum Priorities	6
Unit 1.....	8
Unit description.....	8
Unit content	8
Unit 2.....	11
Unit description.....	11
Unit content	11
School-based assessment	14
Assessment table – Year 11.....	14
Grading.....	15
Appendix 1 – Grade descriptions Year 11.....	16
Appendix 2 – Suggested sub-topics to guide the treatment of topics in Unit 1 and Unit 2.....	18
Appendix 3 – Text types and kinds of writing.....	20
Appendix 4 – Elaborations of grammatical items	26

Rationale

The German: Background Language ATAR course connects students with the official language of Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, as well as an official language of Belgium and Luxembourg. It is also used as an official regional or auxiliary language in a number of other countries in Europe and Africa. As one of three procedural languages for the European Union, and the first language of 120 million Europeans, the German language showcases the cultural diversity and range of these German-speaking communities. In particular, the interplay between culture and language can be seen in the global influence of Germany's past and contemporary achievements in architecture, the arts, engineering, philosophy, recreational pursuits, and scientific innovations, particularly related to environmental sustainability.

The course is designed for students who acquired the language through immersion or interaction within their environment, such as through family, community, in-country, or cultural experiences. They explore their personal world and the perspectives of others, the effect of change and current issues in the global community. Within these contexts, students reflect on relationships and social pressures, explore the place of German-speaking communities in Australia, and examine a range of global issues and their impact on society.

Students build on their skills, knowledge and linguistic resources in German, enabling them to communicate confidently in a range of situations. They gain a deeper understanding of the global significance of German language and culture, fostering a heightened sense of intercultural awareness and empathy. Students analyse cultural practices and norms in an ongoing process of interpretation, self-reflection, comparison and negotiation, developing their cognitive skills through thinking critically and analytically, solving problems, and making connections.

Through the course, students engage with the linguistic and cultural diversity of our interconnected world, reflecting on their role in society and how they interact with others across various social contexts. Language learning is a powerful tool for personal growth and broadens students' worldviews.

Australia's cultural and linguistic diversity provides many opportunities to hear and use the language in real-life situations as well as through German media, and to make actual and virtual connections with German-speaking communities throughout the world.

Australia has strong personal, cultural, political and trade connections with German-speaking countries and proficiency in German provides students with enhanced vocational opportunities in a wide range of sectors. Studying German opens pathways for further academic study in fields like languages, international studies, and cross-cultural communication, and careers in areas such as academia and research, accounting and finance, industrial and manufacturing sectors, international business, medical and scientific fields, tourism and hospitality, and translation services. German also provides a foundation for learning other West Germanic languages, expanding career and intercultural opportunities. Ultimately, the course offers students valuable linguistic and intercultural skills, fosters personal growth and empathy, and enhances future academic and career prospects.

Application for enrolment in a language course

All students wishing to study a Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) language course are required to complete the *Application for permission to enrol in a WACE language course* via the Authority student portal in the year prior to first enrolment in the course.

Aims

The German: Background Language ATAR course builds on students' German Language proficiency and knowledge about the cultures of German-speaking communities. It enables students to:

- interact with others to exchange information, ideas, opinions and experiences in German
- analyse a range of texts in German to comprehend, and interpret meaning
- apply the skills they have acquired to produce texts in German to convey information and express ideas, opinions and experiences for specific audiences, purposes and contexts
- strengthen their intercultural communication skills in both the German and English languages
- demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of language as a system
- reflect on the relationship between language and culture.

Organisation

This course is organised into a Year 11 syllabus and a Year 12 syllabus. The cognitive complexity of the syllabus content increases from Year 11 to Year 12.

Structure of the syllabus

The Year 11 syllabus is divided into two units, each of one semester duration, which are typically delivered as a pair. The notional time for each unit is 55 class contact hours.

Unit 1

This unit focuses on the three topics: Young people and their relationships, Traditions and values in a contemporary society, and Our changing environment. Through these topics, students build on their intercultural and linguistic skills to gain a deeper understanding of the German language.

Unit 2

This unit focuses on the three topics: Pressures in today's society, German identity in the Australian context, and Media and communication. Through these topics, students build on their intercultural and linguistic skills to gain a deeper understanding of the German language.

Each unit includes:

- a unit description – a short description of the focus of the unit
- unit content – the content to be taught and learned.

Organisation of content

The course content is divided into five content areas:

- Learning contexts and topics
- Text types and kinds of writing
- Linguistic resources
- Intercultural understandings
- Language learning and communication strategies.

These content areas should not be considered in isolation, but rather holistically as content areas that complement one another, and that are interrelated and interdependent.

Learning contexts and topics

Each unit is defined with a particular focus, three learning contexts and a set of topics.

The learning contexts are:

- The individual
- The German-speaking communities
- The changing world.

Each learning context has a set of topics that promote meaningful communication and enable students to extend their understanding of the German language and culture. The placement of topics under one or more of the three learning contexts is intended to provide a particular perspective, or perspectives, on each of the topics.

Text types and kinds of writing

In learning a language, it is necessary to engage with, and to produce, a wide variety of text types and kinds of writing.

Text types are categories of print, spoken, visual, or audiovisual text, identified in terms of purpose, audience and features. Text types vary across languages and cultures and provide information about the society and culture in which they are produced. Students are encouraged to listen to, read and view a range of texts, and be provided with opportunities to practise them.

Students should also be made aware of the defining characteristics of different texts and different kinds of writing. In school-based assessments and the ATAR course examinations, students are expected to respond to, or to produce, a range of spoken and written text types in German, and to produce the following kinds of writing: informative, evaluative, persuasive and reflective. Text types and kinds of writing for assessment and examinations are defined in Appendix 3.

Linguistic resources

Linguistic resources are the specific elements of language that are necessary for communication. Acquiring linguistic resources allows for the development of knowledge, skills and understandings relevant to the vocabulary, grammar and sound and writing systems of German.

In the German: Background Language ATAR course, students are required to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the structure of German. Students will need to use German at a sophisticated level, with a wide range of vocabulary and idiom, and a depth and breadth of language use,

particularly to accommodate the language necessary for communication within, and about, the topics.

Intercultural understandings

Intercultural understandings involve developing knowledge, awareness and understanding to communicate and interact effectively across languages and cultures. Students with a background in the German language and/or culture, already have experience of negotiating between that culture and language, as well as their Australian cultural identity. The German: Background Language ATAR course provides opportunities for these students to reflect and analyse cultural practices and norms in an ongoing process of interpretation, self-reflection, comparison and negotiation, and to enable them to learn more about, better understand, and eventually to move between their cultures and languages.

Language learning and communication strategies

Language learning and communication strategies are processes, techniques and skills relevant to:

- supporting learning and the acquisition of language
- making meaning from texts
- producing texts
- engaging in spoken interaction.

These strategies support and enhance the development of literacy skills, and enable further development of cognitive skills through thinking critically and analytically, solving problems, and making connections. Students should be taught these strategies explicitly and be provided with opportunities to practise them.

Progression from the Years 7–10 curriculum

The Western Australian Curriculum: Languages Year 7 to Year 10 is organised through two interrelated strands: Communicating and Understanding. Communicating is focused on using language for communicative purposes in interpreting, creating, and exchanging meaning, while Understanding involves examining language and culture as resources for interpreting and creating meaning.

These strands reflect three important aspects of language learning: engaging in communication, analysing various aspects of language and culture involved in communication, and understanding oneself as a communicator.

This syllabus continues to develop the knowledge, understandings and skills that ensure students communicate in German, understand language, culture and learning and their relationship, and thereby develop an intercultural capability in communication.

Representation of the General Capabilities

The General Capabilities encompass the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that will support students to live and work successfully now and into the future. They are not assessed unless identified within the specified unit content. Teachers should find opportunities to incorporate the following General Capabilities into the teaching and learning program for the German: Background Language ATAR course.

Critical and creative thinking

Students enhance their critical and creative thinking skills through their study of the German language and culture. Content in the course is presented through three contexts – The individual, the German-speaking community and The changing world – encouraging students to compare and evaluate information and ideas from diverse perspectives. By analysing and interpreting spoken and written texts, students strengthen their ability to identify and process, select and evaluate information and engage in logical and reflective thinking. By extending their skills, knowledge and understanding of the German language they learn to assess how language conveys meaning and how context, purpose, and audience influence communication.

Through the course, students learn and practise language learning and communication strategies. These strategies support and enhance the development of literacy skills and enable further development of cognitive skills through thinking critically and making connections. The process of transferring linguistic and cultural knowledge and applying it to new contexts fosters students' metacognition, problem-solving abilities and analytical skills.

Intercultural understanding

Intercultural understanding is central to the course as students learn to value their own cultures, languages and beliefs, and those of others. The main aim of learning German is to develop intercultural understanding, which is integral to communicating in the context of diversity, the development of global citizenship and lifelong learning. Students bring to their learning various preconceptions, assumptions and orientations shaped by their existing language/s and culture/s that can be challenged by the new language experience. Learning to move between two languages and cultures is integral to language learning and is key to the development of students' intercultural capability.

Learning German is an enriching and cumulative process that broadens students' communicative repertoire, providing additional resources for interpreting and making meaning. Through the contexts of The individual, The German-speaking communities and The changing world, they reflect on topics such as relationships, explore German traditions and migration experiences, and consider a range of global issues and their effect on society.

Students learn that interactions between different people through the use of different languages also involve interactions between the different kinds of knowledge, understanding and values that are articulated through language and culture. Successful intercultural communication is not only determined by what they do or say, but also by what members of the other language and culture understand from what they do or say.

Intercultural understanding is one of the five content areas of this course.

Literacy

Students enhance their literacy capacity as they use German to listen to, read, view and respond to a range of texts, participate in spoken interaction, and write texts in German for different purposes and contexts. They further expand their skills, knowledge and understanding of the German language and apply their knowledge of linguistic resources to exchange information, ideas and opinions in German.

For language learners, literacy involves skills and knowledge that need guidance, time and support to develop. These skills include the ability to decode and encode from sound to written systems; mastering grammatical, orthographic and textual conventions; developing semantic, pragmatic and

critical literacy skills; analysing a range of texts in German to comprehend and interpret meaning; and producing texts in German to convey information and express ideas, opinions and experiences. For learners of German, literacy development enhances and extends their knowledge and understanding of English literacy, which in turn supports their learning in German.

Addressing the other General Capabilities

Although the following General Capabilities have not been identified as a focus in the German: Background Language ATAR Year 11 syllabus, teachers may find opportunities to incorporate them into the teaching and learning program.

- Digital literacy
- Ethical understanding
- Numeracy
- Personal and social capability

Such opportunities may occur through the application of different contexts, pedagogical practices and/or assessment strategies that relate to the syllabus as part of the teaching and learning program.

Summary representation of the General Capabilities in the German:

Background Language ATAR course

The unit content and assessment types for this course provide students with the opportunity to develop the General Capabilities summarised in the table below.

Year	Course	Course type	General Capabilities						
			CCT	DL	EU	IU	L	N	PSC
Year 11	German: Background Language (AEGBL)	ATAR	✓			✓	✓		
Year 12	German: Background Language (ATGBL)	ATAR	✓			✓	✓		

Key

CCT: Critical and creative thinking, DL: Digital literacy, EU: Ethical understanding, IU: Intercultural understanding, L: Literacy, N: Numeracy, PSC: Personal and social capability

Representation of the Cross-curriculum Priorities

The Cross-curriculum Priorities address the contemporary issues that students face in a globalised world. Teachers may find opportunities to incorporate them into the teaching and learning program for the German: Background Language ATAR course. The Cross-curriculum Priorities are not assessed unless they are identified within the specified unit content.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures

Learning German provides opportunities to develop an understanding of concepts related to language and culture in general and make intercultural comparisons across languages, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia

In learning German, students may engage with a range of texts and concepts related to:

- Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia
- languages and cultures of Asia
- people of Asian heritage within Australia.

Sustainability

In learning German, students may engage with a range of texts and concepts related to sustainability, such as:

- the environment
- conservation
- social and political change
- how language and culture evolve.

Unit 1

Unit description

In Unit 1, students build on their intercultural and linguistic skills to gain a deeper understanding of the German language.

Unit content

This unit includes the knowledge, understandings and skills described below.

Learning contexts and topics

Unit 1 is organised around three learning contexts and a set of three topics. Engaging with the topics from the perspective of the different learning contexts provides students with opportunities to understand how language is created for particular purposes, and how it can be understood differently by different audiences. As a result, students develop the ability to express, in speech and in writing, their own insights and reflections, and compare them with those of others.

Learning contexts	Topics
The individual Students explore aspects of their personal world, aspirations, values, opinions, ideas, and relationships with others. They also study topics from the perspectives of other people.	Young people and their relationships Students reflect on their relationships with family and their connections with friends.
The German-speaking communities Students explore topics from the perspectives of individuals and groups within those communities, or the communities as a whole, and develop an understanding of how culture and identity are expressed through language.	Traditions and values in a contemporary society Students explore how the traditions and values of German-speaking communities are maintained.
The changing world Students explore information and communication technologies and the effects of change and current issues in the global community.	Our changing environment Students explore global environmental issues.

Refer to Appendix 2 for a list of suggested sub-topics for delivery of the unit topics.

Text types and kinds of writing

It is necessary for students to engage with a range of text types and kinds of writing. In school-based assessments, students are expected to produce the following kinds of writing: informative, evaluative, persuasive and reflective. They are also expected to respond to, and to produce, a range of text types in German from the list below.

- account
- advertisement
- announcement
- article
- blog posting
- cartoon
- chart
- conversation
- description
- diary entry
- discussion
- email
- film or TV program (excerpts)
- form
- image
- interview
- journal entry
- letter
- map
- message
- note
- plan
- review
- script – speech, interview, dialogue
- sign
- summary
- table

Refer to Appendix 3 for details of the features and conventions of the text types and characteristics of the kinds of writing.

Linguistic resources

Vocabulary

Vocabulary, phrases and expressions associated with the unit content.

Grammar

Students will be expected to recognise and use the following grammatical items:

Grammatical items	Sub-elements
Adjectives	present participle used as adjective†
Conjunctions	coordinating: • <i>entweder ... oder</i> • <i>weder ... noch</i> • <i>sowohl ... als auch</i>
Particles	modal particles †: • <i>doch, ja, denn, mal, schon, wohl, zwar, allerdings, freilich, überhaupt</i>
Prepositions	cases: • prepositions with the genitive: ▪ <i>wegen</i> ▪ <i>trotz</i> ▪ <i>während</i>
Pronouns	relative clauses
Sentence and phrase types	indirect questions
Verbs	imperfect tense
	pluperfect tense

† For recognition only

Refer to Appendix 4 for elaborations of grammatical items.

Sound and writing systems

In the German: Background Language ATAR course, students show understanding and apply knowledge of the German sound and writing systems to communicate effectively information, ideas and opinions in a variety of situations.

Intercultural understandings

The learning contexts and topics, the textual conventions of the text types and kinds of writing selected, and the linguistic resources for the unit, should provide students with opportunities to further develop their linguistic and intercultural competence, and enable them to reflect on the ways in which culture influences communication.

Language learning and communication strategies

Language learning and communication strategies will depend upon the needs of the students and the learning experiences and/or communication activities taking place.

Dictionaries

Students should be encouraged to use dictionaries and develop the necessary skills and confidence to do so effectively.

Unit 2

Unit description

In Unit 2, students build on their intercultural and linguistic skills to gain a deeper understanding of the German language.

Unit content

This unit builds on the content covered in Unit 1.

This unit includes the knowledge, understandings and skills described below.

Learning contexts and topics

Unit 2 is organised around three learning contexts and a set of three topics. Engaging with the topics from the perspective of the different learning contexts provides students with opportunities to understand how language is created for particular purposes, and how it can be understood differently by different audiences. As a result, students develop the ability to express, in speech and in writing, their own insights and reflections, and compare them with those of others.

Learning contexts	Topics
The individual Students explore aspects of their personal world, aspirations, values, opinions, ideas, and relationships with others. They also study topics from the perspectives of other people.	Pressures in today's society Students reflect on a range of personal and social pressures and the relevance of these in their own lives.
The German-speaking communities Students explore topics from the perspectives of individuals and groups within those communities, or the communities as a whole, and develop an understanding of how culture and identity are expressed through language.	German identity in the Australian context Students explore the place of German-speaking communities in Australia through migration experiences.
The changing world Students explore information and communication technologies and the effects of change and current issues in the global community.	Media and communication Students explore the media and new technologies and their impact on society.

Refer to Appendix 2 for a list of suggested sub-topics for delivery of the unit topics.

Text types and kinds of writing

It is necessary for students to engage with a range of text types and kinds of writing. In school-based assessments, students are expected to produce the following kinds of writing: informative, evaluative, persuasive and reflective. They are also expected to respond to, and to produce, a range of text types in German from the list below.

- account
- advertisement
- announcement
- article
- blog posting
- cartoon
- chart
- conversation
- description
- diary entry
- discussion
- email
- film or TV program (excerpts)
- form
- image
- interview
- journal entry
- letter
- map
- message
- note
- plan
- review
- script – speech, interview, dialogue
- sign
- summary
- table

Refer to Appendix 3 for details of the features and conventions of the text types and characteristics of the kinds of writing.

Linguistic resources

Vocabulary

Vocabulary, phrases and expressions associated with the unit content.

Grammar

Students will be expected to recognise and use the following grammatical items:

Grammatical items	Sub-elements
Adjectives	present participle used as adjective†
Conjunctions	coordinating: • <i>entweder... oder</i> • <i>weder ... noch</i> • <i>sowohl ... als auch</i>
Particles	modal particles †: • <i>doch, ja, denn, mal, schon, wohl, zwar, allerdings, freilich, überhaupt</i>
Prepositions	cases: • prepositions with the genitive: ▪ <i>wegen</i> ▪ <i>trotz</i> ▪ <i>während</i>
Pronouns	relative clauses
Sentence and phrase types	indirect questions
Verbs	imperfect tense
	pluperfect tense

† For recognition only

Refer to Appendix 4 for elaborations of grammatical items.

Sound and writing systems

In the German: Background Language ATAR course, students show understanding and apply knowledge of the German sound and writing systems to communicate effectively information, ideas and opinions in a variety of situations.

Intercultural understandings

The learning contexts and topics, the textual conventions of the text types and kinds of writing selected, and the linguistic resources for the unit, should provide students with opportunities to further develop their linguistic and intercultural competence, and enable them to reflect on the ways in which culture influences communication.

Language learning and communication strategies

Language learning and communication strategies will depend upon the needs of the students and the learning experiences and/or communication activities taking place.

Dictionaries

Students should be encouraged to use dictionaries and develop the necessary skills and confidence to do so effectively.

School-based assessment

The *Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Manual* contains essential information on principles, policies and procedures for school-based assessment that needs to be read in conjunction with this syllabus.

Teachers design school-based assessment tasks to meet the needs of students. The table below provides details of the assessment types for the German: Background Language ATAR Year 11 syllabus and the weighting for each assessment type.

Assessment table – Year 11

Type of assessment	Weighting
Oral communication Interaction with others to exchange information, ideas, opinions and/or experiences in spoken German. This can involve participating in an interview, a conversation and/or a discussion. Typically these tasks are administered under test conditions.	20%
Response: Listening Comprehension and interpretation of, and response to, a range of German spoken texts, such as interviews, announcements, conversations and/or discussions. Typically these tasks are administered under test conditions.	15%
Response: Viewing and reading Comprehension and interpretation of, and response to, a range of German print and/or audiovisual texts, such as emails, blog postings, films/television programs (excerpts), letters, reviews and/or articles. Typically these tasks are administered under test conditions.	15%
Written communication Production of written texts to express information, ideas, opinions and/or experiences in German. This can involve responding to a stimulus, such as a blog posting, an image and/or a chart, or writing a text, such as a journal/diary entry, an account, a review, a summary and/or an email. Typically these tasks are administered under test conditions.	20%
Practical (oral) examination Typically conducted at the end of each semester and/or unit. This can involve an interview or a conversation based on the topics in the unit(s).	10%
Written examination Typically conducted at the end of each semester and/or unit. In preparation for Unit 3 and Unit 4, the examination should reflect the examination design brief included in the ATAR Year 12 syllabus for this course.	20%

Teachers are required to use the assessment table to develop an assessment outline for the pair of units (or for a single unit where only one is being studied).

The assessment outline must:

- include a set of assessment tasks
- include a general description of each task
- indicate the unit content to be assessed
- indicate a weighting for each task and each assessment type
- include the approximate timing of each task (for example, the week the task is conducted, or the issue and submission dates for an extended task).

In the assessment outline for the pair of units, each assessment type must be included at least once over the year/pair of units. In the assessment outline where a single unit is being studied, each assessment type must be included at least once.

The set of assessment tasks must provide a representative sampling of the content for Unit 1 and Unit 2.

Assessment tasks not administered under test/controlled conditions require appropriate validation/authentication processes.

Grading

Schools report student achievement in terms of the following grades:

Grade	Interpretation
A	Excellent achievement
B	High achievement
C	Satisfactory achievement
D	Limited achievement
E	Very low achievement

The teacher prepares a ranked list and assigns the student a grade for the pair of units (or for a unit where only one unit is being studied). The grade is based on the student's overall performance as judged by reference to a set of pre-determined standards. These standards are defined by grade descriptions and annotated work samples. The grade descriptions for the German: Background Language ATAR Year 11 syllabus are provided in Appendix 1. They can also be accessed, together with annotated work samples, through the Guide to Grades link on the course page of the Authority website at www.scsa.wa.edu.au.

To be assigned a grade, a student must have had the opportunity to complete the education program, including the assessment program (unless the school accepts that there are exceptional and justifiable circumstances).

Refer to the *WACE Manual* for further information about the use of a ranked list in the process of assigning grades.

Appendix 1 – Grade descriptions Year 11

A	Written production and oral production Manipulates and uses German effectively to communicate a range of ideas and opinions relevant to context, purpose and audience. Formulates logical arguments and justifies points of view consistently, and shows highly effective use of textual references. Reflects on and applies knowledge and understanding of the relationships between language, culture and identity in a bilingual context, where relevant. Uses German with a high degree of accuracy and uses vocabulary and language conventions effectively. Influence of accent/dialect may be evident in pronunciation, choice of vocabulary or sentence structure; however, meaning is fluently conveyed. Organises information coherently and expresses ideas effectively.
	Comprehension Competently summarises all key points, synthesises information and nuances in texts, and provides detailed and insightful analysis.
B	Written production and oral production Uses German mostly effectively to communicate a range of ideas and opinions relevant to context, purpose and audience. Formulates logical arguments and justifies points of view. Shows effective use of textual references. Applies knowledge and understanding of the relationships between language, culture and identity in a bilingual context. Uses vocabulary and a range of language conventions accurately. Influence of accent/dialect may be evident; however, meaning is effectively conveyed. Organises information logically and develops ideas clearly.
	Comprehension Able to extract most relevant key points and synthesises information in texts, with some analysis and interpretation.
C	Written production and oral production Uses German satisfactorily to communicate ideas and opinions relevant to context, purpose and audience. Shows some ability to express and support a point of view. Applies some knowledge of the relationships between language, culture and identity in a bilingual context. Uses vocabulary and language conventions mostly accurately. Some influence of accent/dialect may be evident; however, meaning is mostly accurately conveyed. Shows some organisation and sequencing of ideas and information.
	Comprehension Extracts and summarises some relevant information from texts, with limited analysis and interpretation.

D**Written production and oral production**

Communicates simple, personal ideas and basic information in German.

Displays some ability to express a point of view using predominantly well-rehearsed, simple vocabulary and language conventions.

Shows some awareness of the relationships between language, culture and identity in a bilingual context.

Uses familiar vocabulary, simple sentence structures and learned expressions mostly accurately.

Influence of accent/dialect may be evident and may affect fluency and ability to convey meaning clearly and effectively.

Comprehension

Extracts and summarises some relevant information from texts, with limited analysis.

E

Does not meet the requirements of a D grade.

Appendix 2 – Suggested sub-topics to guide the treatment of topics in Unit 1 and Unit 2

Each unit has a number of topics with which students will engage in their study of German. The following suggested sub-topics are provided to guide students and teachers as to how the topics may be treated. The list is neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Learning contexts	Unit 1	Unit 2
The individual Students explore aspects of their personal world, aspirations, values, opinions, ideas, and relationships with others. They also study topics from the perspectives of other people.	Young people and their relationships Students reflect on their relationships with family and their connections with friends. Suggested sub-topics: - the nature of friendship - the importance of family - relationships with family and friends - changing relationships between generations - popular youth culture - peer group pressure and conflict.	Pressures in today's society Students reflect on a range of personal and social pressures, and the relevance of these in their own lives. Suggested sub-topics: - coping with change - tolerance of others - peer and social pressures - gender roles in today's society - self-image.
The German-speaking communities Students explore topics from the perspectives of individuals and groups within those communities, or the communities as a whole, and develop an understanding of how culture and identity are expressed through language.	Traditions and values in a contemporary society Students explore how the traditions and values of German-speaking communities are maintained. Suggested sub-topics: - the role of traditions and values - lifestyles, past and present - rural and urban life: a comparison - leisure pursuits - the importance of preserving tradition - the family in contemporary society - the individual and the community.	German identity in the Australian context Students explore the place of German-speaking communities in Australia through migration experiences. Suggested sub-topics: - the contribution of the German-speaking communities to the Australian community - the Australian-German identity - migration experiences - vice versa: an Australian in a German-speaking community - ethnic and national identity - adapting to new cultures (education, work, lifestyle) - bicultural identity - maintaining the German culture in Australia.

Learning contexts	Unit 1	Unit 2
The changing world Students explore information and communication technologies and the effects of change and current issues in the global community.	Our changing environment Students explore global environmental issues. Suggested sub-topics: • preserving the environment • traditional and renewable energy sources • environmental pressure groups • ecotourism.	Media and communication Students explore the media and new technologies and their impact on society. Suggested sub-topics: • media in a contemporary society • the social effects of new technologies • advertising and the language of persuasion • the culture of celebrity.

Appendix 3 – Text types and kinds of writing

These lists are provided to enable a common understanding of the text types and kinds of writing listed in the syllabus.

Text Type	Definition
Account	In both spoken and written form, accounts retell something that happened: a story. Accounts have a title and are often in the first person. They describe a series of events or experiences, are often presented in a logical manner and at the conclusion there may be a resolution. Language is either formal or informal, with time words used to connect ideas, and action words used to describe events.
Advertisement	Advertisements promote a product or service. Emotive, factual or persuasive language is used in an informal or colloquial register. They often use abbreviated words and sentences, comparatives and superlatives, and may be in spoken, written or graphic form.
Announcement	In both spoken and written form, announcements present factual information about an event that has recently occurred or is about to occur. They may also be in graphic form. Announcements can sometimes use a formal register, but may also be in informal or colloquial register. They include factual, straightforward language with little elaboration, and present information in a logical sequence.
Article	Articles consist of a section of text from a newspaper, a magazine, a web page, or other publication. Typically, articles have a title that indicates the content. They are usually in a formal register and the language in an article can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on the context. Within an article, ideas or opinions are developed. Articles often end with a statement of conclusion or advice to the reader. They may be accompanied by a graphic, if necessary. Articles can be reproduced directly, or can be modified to make the language more accessible for students.
Blog posting	Web logs (blogs) are basically journals that are available on the World Wide Web. Many blogs provide commentary or news on a particular subject; others function as more personal online diaries. Typically, blogs combine text, images, and link to other blogs, web pages, and other media related to their topic. Students will generally be required to write a response to a blog (a posting). Postings can sometimes use a formal register, but may also be in informal or colloquial register. The language in a blog posting can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on the context.

Text Type	Definition
Cartoon	Cartoons or comic strips represent a drawing or sequence of drawings arranged in panels to display brief humour, or form a narrative, with text in balloons and captions. The language in a cartoon or comic strip can be subjective or objective, descriptive, factual, judgemental, humorous, emotive or persuasive, depending on the context, and may involve a range of tenses. A cartoon or comic strip may illustrate or describe an event, or series of events, often presented in a logical sequence, and at the conclusion there may be a resolution.
Chart	Charts organise and represent a set of data in a diagram or table. They may also visually represent knowledge, concepts, thoughts, or ideas. They are typically graphical, and contain very little text. Charts include a title that provides a succinct description of what the data in the chart refers to, and contain key words that readers are looking for. They are usually in a formal register.
Conversation	In both spoken and written form, conversations often begin with an exchange of opening salutations, are followed by a question or statement, and then a two-way sustained interaction. The language is often authentic, informal and conversational in style, sometimes with interjections, incomplete sentences, and pauses and fillers. The register of conversations will often depend on the context and relationship between participants.
Description	Descriptions of people, places, animals, events or feelings, or a combination of these, can often be found within another context (letter, article etc.). Information can be presented in an objective or subjective way. Details are presented to create a clear image for the reader. Extravagant language or superlatives may be used to emphasise an impression, atmosphere or mood. Descriptions may contain references to sight, sound, smell, touch, taste or feelings.
Diary entry	Diary entries record personal reflections, comments, information or experiences of the writer. The language of diary entries should generally be informal and colloquial and entries are often written in the first person. Entries use subjective language to give a clear sense of the writer's personality, and to explain their feelings and emotions. The layout should appear authentic, provide a sense of time and sequence, and possibly a place name.
Discussion	In both spoken or written form, discussions are used to present different ideas and opinions on a particular issue or topic. They often use a formal register, but may also be informal. The language of discussions uses comparison and contrast words, linking words, and language that indicates judgements and values.

Text Type	Definition
Email	The language of email messages could be formal or informal, depending on the context. A message from one friend to another should be colloquial. A message that is business-related should use a more formal register. Although authentic emails often do not have either a salutation at the beginning, or a signature at the end, they should have both in assessment usage, in order to indicate more clearly the context of the message.
Film or TV program (excerpts)	Excerpts are segments taken from a longer work of a television program or a film. They are often used to illustrate and strengthen understanding of a topic, provide a description of characters and settings, or present a series of events in a logical progression. Depending on the context, excerpts may be either in formal or informal register, present a range of tenses, or contain language that can be subjective or objective, descriptive, factual, judgemental, humorous, emotive, or persuasive.
Form	Forms contain a series of questions asked of individuals to obtain information about a given position, focus or topic etc. In their design, they have a title, contact details and questions. Forms may include categories. The language of forms is often objective and includes descriptive words, a range of tenses, and a variety of questions to address. As a response, students could be asked to complete a form or respond to questions or criteria in an application, for example, for a job.
Image	Images can frequently be used on their own, as they communicate ideas in much more complete and complex ways than words alone. At other times, they are included with a title or caption or other text as a stimulus for response. Images should always complement and provide information on the topic or text.
Interview	In both spoken or written form, interviews often begin with an exchange of opening salutations, are followed by a question or statement, and then a two-way sustained interaction. The language is often authentic, informal and conversational in style, sometimes with interjections, incomplete sentences and pauses and fillers, to maintain the conversation. The register of interviews will often depend on the context and relationship between participants.
Journal entry	Journal entries record personal reflections, comments, information, or experiences of the writer. The language of journal entries should generally be informal and colloquial, and entries are often written in the first person. Entries use subjective language to give a clear sense of the writer's personality, and to explain their feelings and emotions. The layout should appear authentic, provide a sense of time and sequence, and possibly a place name.

Text Type	Definition
Letter	Formal letters are written communication in formal contexts to convey/request information, to lodge a complaint, or to express an opinion. The layout of a formal letter must include the date, the address of sender and recipient, and a formal greeting and phrase of farewell. The language should be in formal register, and deal with a business or other specific topic. Common features of a formal letter are the use of objective language, full sentences and paragraphs, frequent use of formulaic language, and a logical and cohesive sequence of ideas. Informal letters are written communication with acquaintances, friends and family, to inform or to amuse. The layout of an informal letter can be less stylised than a formal letter; possibly with only the date, the address of the sender, a casual greeting and a phrase of farewell. The language can be informal and colloquial and the content can be simple and casual. Common features of an informal letter are the use of subjective language, sentence structure often less complex than in formal letters, and a logical and cohesive sequence of ideas.
Map	Maps are a form of symbolisation, governed by a set of conventions that aim to instruct, inform or communicate a sense of place. Maps are usually in a formal register and frequently use formulaic expressions. They should have a title, orientation, scale, longitude and latitude, an index grid and a symbols translator. They can be reproduced directly or can be modified to make the language more accessible for students.
Message	In both spoken and written form, messages are objects of communication that inform, request, instruct or remind. The written forms are less formal than informal letters and are often used to convey information left on an answering machine, on a mobile phone, or in a telephone call. They have a salutation and a signing off, but the content should be brief and to the point, and convey a specific piece of information with little extra detail.
Note	Notes are written to inform, request, instruct or remind. They are less formal than informal letters. Notes have a salutation and a signing off, but the content should be brief and to the point, and convey a specific piece of information with little extra detail.
Plan	Plans are created by individuals to record what they are going to do. They can be any diagram or list of steps, with timing and resources used, to achieve an objective. Plans provide specific details, and depending on the context, may be either in formal or informal register, present a range of tenses, or contain language that can be subjective or objective, descriptive, factual, judgemental, humorous, emotive or persuasive. Plans can also be a form of symbolisation, governed by a set of conventions, that aim to instruct, inform, or communicate a sense of place. Plans are usually in a formal register and frequently use formulaic expressions. They should have a title, orientation, scale, longitude and latitude, an index grid and a symbols translator.

Text Type	Definition
Review	Reviews are evaluations of publications, such as films, songs, musical performances, novels or stories. The plot summary and description of the work or performance form the majority of the review. The language and structure are formal; however, more personal and evaluative comments are often included. A title should be given.
Script – speech, interview, dialogue	Scripts are written forms of speeches, interviews or dialogues that communicate and exchange ideas, information, opinions and experiences. Scripts would generally have only two speakers, possibly an interviewer and an interviewee, but each speaker must be clearly identified. A script often begins with an exchange of opening salutations, is followed by a question or statement, and then a two-way sustained interaction. The language is often authentic, informal and conversational in style, sometimes with interjections, incomplete sentences, and pauses and fillers, to maintain the conversation. The language level of scripts will often depend on the context and relationship between participants.
Sign	Signs convey a meaning. They present factual information about an object, a situation that exists, or an event that is about to occur. Signs use a formal register and are most often in graphic form.
Summary	Summaries present the essential points and relevant details from an original text. A summary will often have a title, an introduction, content and a conclusion. They often require the use of full sentences and may contain reported speech. The language of summaries may either be formal or informal.
Table	Tables organise and represent a set of data in a diagram or table. They may also visually represent knowledge, concepts, thoughts, or ideas. Tables are typically graphical, containing very little text; however, they do include a title that provides a succinct description of what the data in the chart or table refers to. They are usually in a formal register.

Kinds of writing	
Informative	Informative texts convey information as clearly, comprehensively and as accurately as possible. The language should generally be formal, and in an objective style with impersonal expressions used. Normally, no particular point of view is conveyed; rather, facts, examples, explanations, analogies, and sometimes statistical information, quotations, and references are provided as evidence. The language is clear and unambiguous, and information is structured and sequenced logically. The writing contains few adjectives, adverbs and images, except as examples or analogies in explanation.
Evaluative	Evaluative texts give a balanced view of both sides of a case, weighing up two or more items or ideas, in order to convince the reader rationally and objectively, that a particular point of view is correct. The writing presents two or more important aspects of an issue or sides of an argument, and discusses these, using evidence to support the contrasting sides or alternatives. The style is objective, appealing to reason rather than emotion, in order to create an impression of balance and impartiality. The writing often includes expressions of cause, consequence, opposition and concession.
Persuasive	Persuasive texts aim to convert the reader to a particular point of view or attitude in order to convince them to act or respond in a certain way. The writer attempts to manipulate the reader's emotions and opinions, giving logical reasons and supporting evidence to defend the position or recommend action. The language used may be extravagant, using exaggeration, superlatives, and humour, to create a relationship between the writer and the reader.
Reflective	Reflective texts explore opinions or events for greater understanding, and try to convey something personal to the reader. Generally using a personal voice, these texts allow the writer to examine their own beliefs, values and attitudes. The language used is often emotive, as writing involves personal responses to experiences, events, opinions and situations.

Appendix 4 – Elaborations of grammatical items

Elaborations are examples that accompany the grammatical items and sub-elements. They are intended to assist teachers to understand what is to be taught. They are not intended to be complete or comprehensive, but are provided as support only.

Unit 1

Grammatical items	Sub-elements	Elaborations
Adjectives	present participle used as adjective†	<i>die weinenden Kinder</i>
Conjunctions	coordinating: <i>entweder ... oder</i> <i>weder ... noch</i> <i>sowohl ... als auch</i>	<i>Entweder du kommst mit mir oder du bleibst bei deiner Großmutter.</i> <i>Sie ist weder glücklich noch traurig.</i> <i>Sowohl meine Eltern als auch meine Großeltern sind in Europa geboren.</i>
Particles	modal particles †: <i>doch, ja, denn, mal, schon, wohl, zwar, allerdings, freilich, überhaupt</i>	<i>Das ist ja schön.</i> <i>Was machst du denn?</i> <i>Was willst du überhaupt machen?</i>
Prepositions	cases: - prepositions with the genitive: <i>wegen</i> <i>trotz</i> <i>während</i>	<i>Wegen des schlechten Wetters konnte die Maschine nicht abfliegen.</i> <i>Trotz der Kälte ist er schwimmen gegangen.</i> <i>Während der Schulferien arbeiten viele Jugendliche.</i>
Pronouns	relative clauses	<i>Wie heißt der Fluß, an dem Heidelberg liegt?</i>
Sentence and phrase types	indirect questions	<i>Weißt du nicht, wo er wohnt?</i>
Verbs	imperfect tense	<i>er ging, sie machte</i>
	pluperfect tense	<i>Er war gegangen.</i> <i>Sie hatte es gemacht.</i>

† For recognition only

Unit 2

Grammatical items	Sub-elements	Elaborations
Adjectives	present participle used as adjective†	<i>die weinenden Kinder</i>
Conjunctions	coordinating: <i>entweder... oder</i> <i>weder ... noch</i> <i>sowohl ... als auch</i>	<i>Entweder du kommst mit mir oder du bleibst bei deiner Großmutter.</i> <i>Sie ist weder glücklich noch traurig.</i> <i>Sowohl meine Eltern als auch meine Großeltern sind in Europa geboren.</i>
Particles	modal particles †: <i>doch, ja, denn, mal, schon, wohl, zwar, allerdings, freilich, überhaupt</i>	<i>Das ist ja schön.</i> <i>Was machst du denn?</i> <i>Was willst du überhaupt machen?</i>
Prepositions	cases: - prepositions with the genitive: <i>wegen</i> <i>trotz</i> <i>während</i>	<i>Wegen des schlechten Wetters konnte die Maschine nicht abfliegen.</i> <i>Trotz der Kälte ist er schwimmen gegangen.</i> <i>Während der Schulferien arbeiten viele Jugendliche.</i>
Pronouns	relative clauses	<i>Wie heißt der Fluß, an dem Heidelberg liegt?</i>
Sentence and phrase types	indirect questions	<i>Weißt du nicht, wo er wohnt?</i>
Verbs	imperfect tense	<i>er ging, sie machte</i>
	pluperfect tense	<i>Er war gegangen.</i> <i>Sie hatte es gemacht.</i>

† For recognition only

Assumed learning

Before commencing the study of Unit 1 and Unit 2, it is assumed that students have, through prior experience or study, already acquired an understanding of the following German grammatical items:

Grammatical items	Sub-elements	Elaborations
Adjectives	common adjectives	<i>klein, groß</i>
	adjectives derived from place names	<i>Schweizer Schokolade</i> <i>das Brandenburger Tor</i> <i>Münchner Bier</i> <i>im Kölner Dom</i>
	attributive:	
	• nominative	<i>der, die, das, die, ein, eine, ein, keine</i> <i>eine schöne stadt</i> <i>Der blaue Rock steht mir gut.</i>
	• accusative	<i>der, dem, der, einen, eine, ein, keine</i> <i>Petra hat einen neuen Freund.</i>
	• dative	<i>dem, der, dem, den, einem, einer, einem, keinen</i> <i>die schöne stadt</i> <i>den anderen Leuten</i> <i>Wir fahren mit dem nächsten Bus.</i>
	• genitive	<i>des Weines, der Wurst, des Biers, des kalten Weines, der kalten Wurst, des kalten Biers</i> <i>Das Haus meiner alten Großmutter ist schön.</i>
Adverbs	expressions of time	<i>morgen, heute, gestern</i>
	positive, comparative and superlative forms	<i>schnell, schneller, am schnellsten</i> <i>viel, mehr, am meisten</i> <i>gern, lieber, am liebsten</i> <i>Ich trage lieber ein Kleid.</i> <i>Ich trage am liebsten Jeans.</i>
Articles	definite	<i>der, die, das</i>
	indefinite	<i>ein, kein</i>
	possessive	<i>mein, dein, sein, ihr, unser, euer, Ihr</i> <i>Das ist mein Fahrrad.</i>
	demonstrative	<i>jener, solcher, dieser</i> <i>Dieser Mantel ist mir zu klein.</i>
Conjunctions	coordinating	<i>und, aber, den, oder, sodern</i> <i>Ich gehe schwimmen und sehe auch fern.</i>
	subordinating	<i>weil, wenn, als, daß, obwohl, während ...</i> <i>Wenn das Wetter schlecht ist, fahre ich mit dem Bus.</i>

Grammatical items	Sub-elements	Elaborations
Nouns	cases: • nominative • accusative • dative • genitive	<i>Der Mathelehrer heißt Herr Lenz.</i> <i>Hast du den Mantel gekauft?</i> <i>Wir fahren mit dem Bus</i> <i>das Haus meiner Eltern.</i>
	gender	<i>Der Mann, die Frau, das Kind</i>
	number	<i>Das Betreten des Rasens ist verboten.</i>
	adjectival	<i>Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!</i>
Numbers	cardinal	<i>eins, zwei, drei etc.</i>
	ordinal	<i>erste, zweite, dritte etc.</i> <i>am ersten, am zwölften etc.</i>
Prepositions	cases:	
	• prepositions with the accusative	<i>bis, durch, entlang, für, gegen, ohne, um</i>
	• prepositions with the dative	<i>aus, bei, mit, nach, seit, von, zu, entgegen, gegenüber</i>
	• prepositions with the genitive	<i>trotz, während, statt, anstatt, wegen</i> <i>Wegen des Wetters kann ich nicht kommen.</i>
	• dual prepositions with the accusative or the dative	<i>an, auf, hinter, in, neben, über, unter, vor, zwischen</i> <i>Ich gehe jetzt in die Schule.</i> <i>Ich lerne Deutsch in der Schule.</i>
	formation and use of compounds with <i>da(r)</i> and <i>wo(r)</i>	<i>womit, wozu, damit, dazu, dabei, darauf, worauf</i>
	prepositions of time:	
	• time expressions and temporal phrases	<i>vor einiger Zeit</i> <i>letztens</i> <i>vor Kurzem ...</i> <i>Gestern war ich im Kino.</i> <i>Nächste Woche mache ich das.</i> <i>Vor einem Jahr habe ich das nicht gewusst.</i> <i>Wir studieren seit einem Jahr in Berlin.</i>
Pronouns	personal:	
	• accusative	<i>mich, dich, ihn, sie, uns, euch, sie, Sie etc.</i> <i>Wir wollen dich besuchen.</i>
	• dative	<i>mir, dir, ihm, ihr etc.</i> <i>Gabi wohnt bei uns.</i>
	• nominative	<i>ich, du, er, sie, es etc.</i> <i>Hast du Peter gesehen?</i>

Grammatical items	Sub-elements	Elaborations
	interrogative	<i>wer, was, wann, wo, warum, woher, wohin, wie viel, wie viele, wie lange etc. was für ein welcher ... Was für ein Auto ist das?</i>
	relative: - accusative - dative	<i>der, die, das etc. Der Mantel, den sie gekauft hat, ist schön. Die CD, die er zum Geburtstag bekommen hat, funktioniert nicht. Kennst du die Frau, mit der Karl spricht? Kennst du den Mann, mit dem Karl gerade spricht.</i>
	relative clauses	<i>Wie heißt der Fluß, an dem Hamburg liegt?</i>
	reflexive	<i>mich, dich, sich, uns, euch etc. Ich wasche mich.</i>
Sentence and phrase types	statements	<i>Morgen kaufe ich ein Kleid. Heute gehe ich in die Stadt.</i>
	questions	<i>Ich heiße..., Wie alt bist du? Wohnst du in Perth? Warum kommst du nicht mit? Bringst du Wurst oder Salat?</i>
	commands	<i>Bleib hier!</i>
	main clauses	<i>Am Dienstag spiele ich Fußball.</i>
	position of <i>nicht</i>	<i>Er hat seine Hausaufgaben nicht gemacht.</i>
	position of adverbs and adverbial phrases: time, manner, place	<i>Er fährt jeden Tag mit dem Bus zur Arbeit. Ich fahre morgen mit Peter nach Perth.</i>
	position of the past participle and auxiliary verb	<i>Er hat seine Hausaufgaben schon gemacht. Hast du eine Postkarte geschrieben?</i>
	phrases expressing wishes and abilities	<i>Ich möchte gerne ... Ich kann Tennis spielen.</i>
Verbs	present tense of common regular and irregular verbs	<i>Ich lerne Deutsch. Bist du krank?</i>
	using the present tense + an adverb to indicate the future	<i>Morgen fährt er nach Bamberg.</i>
	verbs taking prepositional objects	<i>Ich freue mich auf deinen Besuch. Sie entschuldigt sich bei der Lehrerin.</i>
	infinitives with verbs of perception, motion and with <i>lassen</i>	<i>Ich hörte ihn kommen. Wir gehen schwimmen. Meine Mutter läßt mich nie fernsehen.</i>

Grammatical items	Sub-elements	Elaborations
	verbs taking the dative	<i>Ich danke dir. Er hilft seinem Freund. Das gehört ihm. Das gefällt mir.</i>
	separable verbs	<i>Morgen fängt die Schule an.</i>
	modals: • present • past	<i>mögen, können, müssen, wollen, dürfen, sollen durfte, sollte</i>
	perfect tense: • common regular and common irregular verbs	<i>Gestern sind wir ins Kino gegangen. Er hat seine Hausaufgaben schon gemacht. Ich habe den Wagen gekauft. Hast du den Film gesehen? Wir sind nach Rom geflogen.</i>
	future tense	<i>Du wirst in den Ferien arbeiten. Ich werde in Paris wohnen. Wir werden die Wahl gewinnen.</i>
	imperfect tense: • common regular and irregular verbs	<i>Es war kalt und dunkel im Wald. Hänsel und Gretel verlieben sich im Wald. Damals wohnte sie auf dem Land.</i>
	subjunctive II: • <i>haben, sein</i> and modals • in requests • conditional clauses	<i>würde, hätte, wäre, könnte, müsste, sollte, möchte, dürfte, wollte Würden Sie mir bitte noch ein Stück Kuchen reichen? Würden Sie mir bitte noch einen Tee einschenken? Ich würde mitgehen, wenn ich dürfte. Wenn ich reich wäre, könnte ich viel reisen.</i>

