



GERMAN: SECOND LANGUAGE

ATAR course

**Year 12 syllabus – What’s changing: Rationale and Aims
For teaching in 2027**

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.

Background

As part of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment for reviewing the nomenclature of courses, the Authority has updated the rationale and aims of each syllabus.

The revised rationale and aims are aligned with the mapping of the general capabilities to provide clear connections between the rationale, aims and syllabus content. The rationale outlines what the subject is about and why it is important. It describes what students can expect to study in the course, along with the knowledge, skills and understandings they will develop throughout the course. It also explains how these can be applied in everyday life and references potential future pathways, outlining how students might connect what they learn in the course to further education, training and employment opportunities.

Important information

WACE Refreshment: Reviewing the nomenclature of courses

This document contains information that will be included in the syllabus effective from 1 January 2027.

Users of the 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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Rationale

The German: Second Language ATAR course connects students with the official language of Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, and one of the official languages 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 provides students with a rich and challenging experience of the linguistic and cultural diversity of German-speaking communities. Through German, students explore their personal world and the perspectives of others, particularly within German-speaking communities, and the effect of change and current issues in the global community. Within these contexts, students reflect on their family, friendships and future plans. They explore environmentally friendly lifestyle choices, consider the impact of technology on entertainment and communication, and youth issues in the global community.

Students expand and consolidate their skills, knowledge and linguistic resources in German, to communicate effectively in a range of situations. They gain a broader and deeper understanding of the language and culture, fostering a stronger sense of intercultural awareness and empathy. The course also enhances students' literacy skills and awareness of their own language. By comparing information and ideas from German media, texts and cultural practices, students strengthen their critical thinking skills and learn to approach global issues from diverse perspectives.

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 German 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 inherent 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.

Aims

The German: Second Language ATAR course builds on students' skills and understanding of German 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.