German: Second Language

ATAR course

Year 12 syllabus

**Acknowledgement of Country**

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**Important information**

This syllabus is effective from 1 January 2024.

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Syllabuses are formally reviewed by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) on a cyclical basis, typically every five years.

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# Rationale

### The place of the German culture and language in Australia and in the world

German is an official language of Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, as well as of Belgium and Luxembourg. It is also used as an official regional or auxiliary language in a number of other countries in Europe, and Namibia in Africa. As one of three procedural languages for the European Union, and the first language of 120 million Europeans, 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 conceptual understandings that sit behind this influence, are an integral part of the selection of text types and key concepts, through which students will have opportunities to use German actively.

### The place of the German language in Australian education

German has been taught in schools, universities and communities in Australia since the mid 1800s, and by the 1930s was a well-established part of the Australian educational landscape. As a core element of the tradition of a broad humanistic education, German can also be seen as a cultural marker of the waves of immigration from Western Europe. Migration from German speaking countries is ongoing; thus continuing the contribution that German speakers have made in shaping Australian culture from the time of the first German settlements.

Strong partnerships have developed with organisations such as the Goethe-Institut, the German Embassy, the German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Bavarian Youth Ring student exchange organisation (BJR), and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), to provide solid support to the teaching and learning of German in Australia.

### The nature of German language learning

German and English are both derived from the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family, and share many similar lexical items (cognates), as well as grammatical features. Consequently, a native speaker of English has some immediate access to spoken and written German, and from an early stage learners can engage with authentic texts. Modern German also borrows from modern English, for example, *der Computer*, as does English from German, for example, ‘kindergarten’. German has different regional and national varieties, although all users understand ‘*Hochdeutsch*’, so called ‘Standard German’, that is taught in Australian schools and universities.

German is a largely phonetic language with many of the same sounds as English, and the same Roman alphabet. In addition to the standard 26 letters, there is the use of the *umlaut* (*Ä/ä*, *Ö/ö*, and *Ü/ü*) and the *eszett* (*ß*). A major difference in orthography from English is the capitalisation of all nouns, a feature that assists the comprehensibility of written texts.

German is well known for its morphological creativity in forming long words through compounding. The German language has two different forms of address, formal and informal, dependent on the relationship between the communicators. German speakers generally rely more heavily than native speakers of
Australian English, on the use of the imperative to effect action, thus sometimes appearing to be more direct.

Another distinct feature of German is the case system. Changes in the articles of nouns, in pronouns and adjective endings, mark the four cases, indicating subject, and direct and indirect objects, as well as possession. Marking cases in this way leads to flexibility in word order, which is not possible in English. Sentences may appear long to English users, but the case markers and clear and consistent punctuation rules aid comprehension.

### The diversity of learners of German

The cohort of learners of German in Australian schools generally comprises students who are second language learners. Within this pathway, learners demonstrate a range of exposure to, and experience in, German. Some learners will have little familiarity with German, although they will most likely have experience of English, another Germanic language; while others will have German heritage, or a family member who has knowledge of German, and/or connections with German-speaking countries.

### The WACE German courses

In Western Australia, there are three German courses. The courses are differentiated; each focusing on a pathway that will meet the specific language learning needs of a particular group of senior secondary students. Within each of these groups, there are differences in proficiency in using the German language and cultural systems.

The following courses are available:

* German: Second Language ATAR
* German: Second Language General
* German: Background Language ATAR.

**The German: Second Language ATAR course**

This course progresses from the Year 7–10 curriculum and focuses on further developing a student’s knowledge and understanding of the culture and the language of German-speaking communities. Students gain a broader and deeper understanding of the German language and extend and refine their communication skills.

The German: Second Language ATAR course can connect to the world of work, further study and travel. It also offers opportunities for students to participate in the many sister school and student exchange programs between Western Australia and German-speaking communities. The German: Second Language ATAR course is designed to equip students with the skills needed to function in an increasingly globalised society, a culturally and linguistically diverse local community, and to provide the foundation for life-long language learning.

This course is aimed at students for whom German is a second, or subsequent, language. These students have not been exposed to, or interacted in, the language outside the language classroom. They have typically learnt everything they know about the German language and culture through classroom teaching in an Australian school, or similar environment, where English is the language of school instruction. Students have typically studied German for 200–400 hours at the commencement of Year 11, and may have experienced some short stays or exchanges in a country where the language is a medium of communication.

For information on the German: Second Language General and German: Background Language ATAR courses, refer to the course page on the Authority website at [www.scsa.wa.edu.au](http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/).

**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 an online application for permission to enrol in a WACE language course in the year prior to first enrolment in the course.

# Course outcomes

The German: Second Language ATAR course is designed to facilitate achievement of the following outcomes.

### Outcome 1 – Listening and responding

Students listen and respond to a range of texts.

In achieving this outcome, students:

* use understandings of language, structure and context when listening and responding to texts
* use processes and strategies to make meaning when listening.

### Outcome 2 – Spoken interaction

Students communicate in German through spoken interaction.

In achieving this outcome, students:

* use understandings of language and structure in spoken interactions
* interact for a range of purposes in a variety of contexts
* use processes and strategies to enhance spoken interaction.

### Outcome 3 – Viewing, reading and responding

Students view, read and respond to a range of texts.

In achieving this outcome, students:

* use understandings of language, structure and context to respond to texts
* use processes and strategies to make meaning when viewing and reading.

### Outcome 4 – Writing

Students write a variety of texts in German.

In achieving this outcome, students:

* use understandings of language and structure when writing
* write for a range of purposes and in a variety of contexts
* use processes and strategies to enhance writing.

# 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 12 syllabus is divided into two units which are delivered as a pair. The notional time for the pair of units is 110 class contact hours.

### Unit 3

This unit focuses on ***Hier und jetzt* (Here and now)**.Through the three topics: Relationships, Lifestyle choices, and Technology and communication, students extend and refine their communication skills in German and gain a broader and deeper understanding of the language and culture.

### Unit 4

This unit focuses on ***Was nun?* (What next?)**. Through the three topics: Preparing for life beyond school, Studying and working in a German-speaking country, and Youth issues, students extend and refine their communication skills in German and gain a broader and deeper understanding of the language and culture.

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 organised into five content areas:

* Learning contexts and topics
* Text types and textual conventions
* 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 textual conventions

Text types are categories of print, spoken, visual, or audiovisual text, identified in terms of purpose, audience and features.

In learning a language, it is necessary to engage with, and produce, a wide variety of text types. Text types and textual conventions 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.

Textual conventions are the features, patterns and rules of texts, which are determined by the text type, context, audience and purpose of the text. They also include protocols for participating in communication, such as ways of initiating conversations, framing requests, disagreeing, and responding. Students should be made aware of the defining characteristics of different texts.

In school-based assessments and the ATAR course examinations, students are expected to respond to, and to produce, a range of spoken and written text types in German. Text types for assessment and examinations are outlined in each unit, and textual conventions are defined in Appendix 2.

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.

As well as enabling communication, developing an understanding of the linguistic resources also enhances intercultural understandings, literacy skills and awareness of one’s own language.

Intercultural understandings

Intercultural understandings involve developing knowledge, awareness and understanding of one’s own culture(s) and language(s), as well as that of the German-speaking world. The study of the learning contexts and topics, text types and textual conventions and linguistic resources, will enable the development of intercultural understandings which enhances the ability to communicate, interact and negotiate within and across languages and cultures, and to understand oneself and others.

The development of intercultural competence can be described as moving from a stage, where students are not aware of, or do not understand or practise cultural norms, to where cultural practices are so internalised that the student no longer notices them. It is not expected that second language learners will develop this degree of cultural competence without spending considerable time in-country. It is expected, however, that students will develop cultural self-awareness and become aware of cultural issues which govern speech and behaviour in German-speaking communities, and begin to apply these in order to communicate effectively.

Language learning and communication strategies modes

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.

## Representation of the general capabilities

The general capabilities encompass the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that will assist students to live and work successfully in the twenty-first century. Teachers may find opportunities to incorporate the capabilities into the teaching and learning program for the German: Second Language ATAR course. The general capabilities are not assessed unless they are identified within the specified unit content.

Literacy

For language learners, literacy involves skills and knowledge that need guidance, time and support to develop. These skills include:

* developing an ability to decode and encode from sound to written systems
* mastering of grammatical, orthographic, and textual conventions
* developing semantic, pragmatic, and critical literacy skills.

For learners of German, literacy development in the language also extends literacy development in their first language and English.

Numeracy

Learning languages affords opportunities for learners to develop, use and understand, patterns, order and relationships, to reinforce concepts, such as number, time, and space, in their own and in different cultural and linguistic systems.

Information and communication technology capability

Information and communication technology (ICT) extends the boundaries of the classroom and provides opportunities to develop information technology capabilities as well as linguistic and cultural knowledge.

Critical and creative thinking

As students learn to interact with people from diverse backgrounds, and as they explore and reflect critically, they learn to notice, connect, compare, and analyse aspects of the German language and culture. As a result, they develop critical thinking skills as well as analytical and problem-solving skills.

Personal and social capability

Learning to interact in a collaborative and respectful manner is a key element of personal and social competence. Recognising that people view and experience the world in different ways is an essential aspect of learning another language.

Ethical understanding

In learning a language, students learn to acknowledge and value difference in their interactions with others and to develop respect for diverse ways of perceiving the world.

Intercultural understanding

Learning a language involves working with, and moving between, languages and cultures. This movement between languages and cultures is what makes the experience intercultural. Intercultural understandings is one of the five content areas of this course.

## Representation of the cross-curriculum priorities

The cross-curriculum priorities address contemporary issues which students face in a globalised world. Teachers may find opportunities to incorporate the priorities into the teaching and learning program for the German: Second 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 3

## Unit description

The focus for this unit is ***Hier und jetzt* (Here and now)**. Students expand their skills, knowledge and understandings through the study of the unit content. They extend and refine their communication skills in German and gain a broader and deeper understanding of the language and culture.

## Unit content

An understanding of the Year 11 content is assumed knowledge for students in Year 12. It is recommended that students studying Unit 3 and Unit 4 have completed Unit 1 and Unit 2.

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

### Learning contexts and topics

Unit 3is organised around three learning contexts and a set of three topics. The placement of a topic under a particular learning context is intended to provide a specific perspective for the teaching and assessment of the topic.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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. | **Relationships**Students reflect on their relationships within the family and their connections with friends, socialising and coping with the pressures these relationships may bring. |
| **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. | **Lifestyle choices**Students explore current issues related to making environmentally friendly lifestyle choices: recycling, organic food, and commuting. |
| **The changing world**Students explore information and communication technologies and the effects of change and current issues in the global community. | **Technology and communication**Students consider the impact of technology as a mode of entertainment and communication. |

### Text types and textual conventions

It is necessary for students to engage with a range of text types. In school-based assessments and the ATAR course examinations, students are 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 2 for details of the features and conventions of the text types.

### 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** |
| --- | --- |
| Prepositions | cases: |
| * dual-prepositions with the dative or the accusative
 |
| * formation and use of compounds with *da*(*r*) and *wo*(*r*)
 |
| Pronouns | relative: |
| * accusative
 |
| * dative
 |
| relative clauses |
| Verbs | verbs taking prepositional objects |
| infinitives with verbs of perception, motion and with *lassen* |
| verbs taking the dative |

Refer to Appendix 3 for elaborations of grammatical items.

**Sound and writing systems**

Development and consolidation of the sound and writing systems of German, and in particular:

* use of *ß*, with particular reference to the *Neue Rechtschreibung*
* *Neue Rechtschreibung*.

### Intercultural understandings

The learning contexts and topics, the textual conventions of the text types selected, and the linguistic resources for the unit, should provide students with opportunities to enhance understanding of their own language(s) and culture(s) in relation to the German language and culture, 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 4

## Unit description

The focus of this unit is ***Was nun?* (What next?)**. Students consolidate their skills, knowledge and understandings through the study of the unit content. They extend and refine their communication skills in German and gain a broader and deeper understanding of the language and culture.

## Unit content

This unit builds on the content covered in Unit 3.

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

### Learning contexts and topics

Unit 4 is organised around three learning contexts and a set of three topics. The placement of a topic under a particular learning context is intended to provide a specific perspective for the teaching and assessment of the topic.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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. | **Preparing for life beyond school**Students reflect on their plans for the future. |
| **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. | **Studying and working in a German-speaking country**Students explore the future for young Germans living in German-speaking communities: education and employment. |
| **The changing world**Students explore information and communication technologies and the effects of change and current issues in the global community. | **Youth issues**Students consider youth issues in the global community related to coping with pressures: stress, drugs and alcohol. |

### Text types and textual conventions

It is necessary for students to engage with a range of text types. In school-based assessments and the ATAR course examinations, students are 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 2 for details of the features and conventions of the text types.

### 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 | attributive: |
| * genitive
 |
| Nouns | cases: |
| * genitive
 |
| Prepositions | cases: |
| * prepositions with the genitive
 |
| Verbs | subjunctive II: |
| * *haben*, *sein* and modals
 |
| * in requests
 |
| * in conditional clauses
 |

Refer to Appendix 3 for elaborations of grammatical items.

**Sound and writing systems**

Development and consolidation of the sound and writing systems of German, and in particular:

* use of *ß*, with particular reference to the *Neue Rechtschreibung*
* *Neue Rechtschreibung*.

### Intercultural understandings

The learning contexts and topics, the textual conventions of the text types selected, and the linguistic resources for the unit, should provide students with opportunities to enhance understanding of their own language(s) and culture(s) in relation to the German language and culture, 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 tables below provide details of the assessment types for the German: Second Language ATAR Year 12 syllabus and the weighting for each assessment type.

### Assessment table practical component – Year 12

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Type of assessment | Weighting | To SCSA | Weighting for combined mark |
| Oral communicationInteraction 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. | 50% | 100% | 30% |
| Practical (oral) examinationTypically conducted at the end of each semester and/or unit and reflecting the examination design brief for this syllabus. | 50% |

### Assessment table written component – Year 12

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Type of assessment | Weighting | To SCSA | Weighting for combined mark |
| Response: ListeningComprehension and interpretation of, and response in English to, a range of German spoken texts, such as interviews, announcements, conversations and/or discussions.Typically these tasks are administered under test conditions. | 15% | 100% | 70% |
| Response: Viewing and readingComprehension and interpretation of, and response in English 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 communicationProduction 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% |
| Written examinationTypically conducted at the end of each semester and/or unit and reflecting the examination design brief for this syllabus. | 50% |

Teachers are required to use the assessment table to develop an assessment outline for the pair of units.

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.

The set of assessment tasks must provide a representative sampling of the content for Unit 3 and Unit 4.

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. 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: Second Language ATAR Year 12 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](http://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.

# ATAR course examination

All students enrolled in the German: Second Language ATAR Year 12 course are required to sit the ATAR course examination. The examination is based on a representative sampling of the content for Unit 3 and Unit 4. Details of the written and practical (oral) ATAR course examinations are prescribed in the examination design briefs on the following pages.

Refer to the *WACE Manual* for further information.

## Practical (oral) examination design brief – Year 12

**Time allocated**

Examination: 27 minutes

**Provided by the candidate**

Standard items: pens (blue/black preferred), pencils (including coloured), sharpener, correction fluid/tape, eraser, ruler, highlighters

Special items: one combined print dictionary (German/English and English/German dictionary) **or**

 two separate print dictionaries (one English/German dictionary and one German/English dictionary)

 Note: Dictionaries must not contain any notes or other marks. No electronic dictionaries are allowed.

**Provided by the supervisor**

Three stimulus items

A preparation booklet

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Section** | **Supporting information** |
| **Part A** **Viewing and preparation of stimulus**One stimulus item from a choice of threeDuration: 15 minutes | Each stimulus item has an image and one or more focus questions in German related to the topics of Unit 3 and/or Unit 4.The candidate is provided with a preparation booklet to make notes related to the stimulus item. The candidate takes these notes into the examination room and can refer to them during Part B of the examination.The candidate can refer to a print German/English and/or English/German dictionary during the preparation time. Dictionaries are not used during Part B and Part C of the examination. |
| **Part B****Discussion of stimulus**35% of the practical examinationApproximate duration: 4 minutes | The marker asks the candidate a question in German to confirm the stimulus item chosen. The marker then asks the focus question(s) provided with the stimulus item as a prompt to initiate discussion. The candidate talks in German about the stimulus and how it relates to the topics of Unit 3 and/or Unit 4. The marker asks questions to progress the discussion. Questions provide the candidate with the opportunity to express ideas and/or opinions.The candidate can refer to their notes in the preparation booklet during Part B, but should ensure that they do not read from the notes.At the end of Part B, the marker asks the candidate for their preparation booklet.Dictionaries are not used during Part B of the examination. |
| **Part C****Conversation**65% of the practical examinationApproximate duration: 8 minutes | The candidate participates in a conversation in German with the marker. The marker asks questions to encourage the candidate to speak about the topics from Unit 3 and Unit 4. The range and depth of questions vary to allow an accurate assessment of the candidate’s linguistic ability.Dictionaries are not used during Part C of the examination. |

## Written examination design brief – Year 12

**Time allowed**

Reading time before commencing work: ten minutes

Working time for paper: two and a half hours

**Permissible items**

Standard items: pens (blue/black preferred), pencils (including coloured), sharpener, correction fluid/tape, eraser, ruler, highlighters

Special items: one combined print dictionary (German/English and English/German dictionary) **or**

 two separate print dictionaries (one English/German dictionary and one German/English dictionary)

 Note: Dictionaries must not contain any notes or other marks. No electronic dictionaries are allowed.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Section** | **Supporting information** |
| **Section One****Response: Listening**30% of the written examination2–3 short spoken texts in GermanOne longer spoken text in German15–20 questions in totalSuggested working time: 30 minutes | The short texts can include: announcements, news items, advertisements and/or messages. The longer text can be a conversation or an interview, and is divided into parts.Questions are in formats such as multiple-choice, tick the box, true/false, short answer, and/or retrieval chart. Questions are in English and require a response in English.The short texts are played twice with a 30 second pause after the first reading, and a 90 second pause after the second reading, to allow time for the candidate to respond to questions. The longer text is played once in its entirety and then repeated twice in its parts, with a 30 second pause after the first reading, and a 90 second pause after the second reading of each part, to allow time for the candidate to respond to questions. The candidate can respond to the questions at any time once the playing of the recording commences. |
| **Section Two****Response: Viewing and reading**30% of the written examination3–4 print texts in German3–5 questions per textSuggested working time: 50 minutes | The print texts can include: articles, announcements, blog postings, interviews, emails, diary entries, letters, reviews, charts and/or advertisements. Texts are print or a combination of visual and print.Questions are in formats such as tick the box, true/false, short answer and/or retrieval chart. Questions are in English and require a response in English. |
| **Section Three****Written communication**40% of the written examination**Part A**: Stimulus response (20%)Two stimulus texts in GermanOne question from a choice of two, each relating to a stimulus text in GermanSuggested working time: 35 minutes**Part B**: Extended response (20%)One question from a choice of threeSuggested working time: 35 minutes | Questions require the production of a specified text type for a particular purpose and audience. Text types are drawn from those prescribed in the syllabus. Part A: The candidate responds to one stimulus text with its related question. The stimulus texts are print, or a combination of visual and print, and are drawn from the text types prescribed in the syllabus. Questions are in German and English and require explicit reference to the stimulus text in the response. The candidate responds in German in approximately 150 words.Part B: Questions are in German and English, and the candidate responds in German in approximately 150 words. |

# Appendix 1 – Grade descriptions ****Year 12****

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A** | **Written production** Responds with relevant and detailed information, ideas, opinions and/or comparisons when writing about a range of topics. Engages the audience effectively. Provides responses that use a range of vocabulary, grammatical items and complex sentence structures, with few inaccuracies that do not affect meaning.Writes fluent, cohesive and well-structured texts that show clear development and connection of ideas.Applies all the conventions of text types. |
| **Oral production**Communicates effectively across a range of topics. Comprehends most questions and responds with detailed relevant information, ideas and/or opinions. Uses communication techniques to engage the audience. Provides responses that are clear and cohesive. Uses a range of vocabulary, grammatical items and complex sentence structures, with few inaccuracies that do not affect meaning.Speaks with accurate pronunciation. |
| **Comprehension**Accurately extracts and processes information from a variety of texts across a range of topics. Provides details from the texts relevant to the questions. Provides accurate responses to literal questions and mostly accurate responses to inferential questions.Uses a dictionary effectively, resulting in appropriate interpretation of text. |

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| **B** | **Written production**Responds with mostly relevant information, ideas, opinions and/or comparisons, including some detail, when writing about a range of topics. Engages the audience. Provides responses that use a range of vocabulary, grammatical items and sentence structures, with some inaccuracies that do not affect meaning.Writes structured texts that show clear development of ideas. Applies all the conventions of text types. |
| **Oral production**Communicates effectively across a range of topics. Comprehends most questions and responds in some detail with relevant information, ideas and/or opinions. Uses some communication techniques to engage the audience. Provides responses that are mostly clear and cohesive. Uses a range of vocabulary, grammatical items and simple and complex sentence structures, with some inaccuracies that do not affect meaning.Speaks with mostly accurate pronunciation. |
| **Comprehension**Extracts and processes most information from a variety of texts across a range of topics. Provides most details from the texts relevant to the questions. Provides accurate responses to literal questions and some accurate responses to inferential questions.Uses a dictionary mostly effectively. |

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| **C** | **Written production**Responds with mostly relevant information, simple ideas and/or opinions. Includes limited detail and examples, when writing about a range of topics.Provides responses that use well-rehearsed language, familiar vocabulary, grammatical items and sentence structures, with some inaccuracies that on occasion affect meaning. Writes simple texts that show structure and some development of ideas. Applies most of the conventions of text types. |
| **Oral production**Provides some information, simple ideas and/or opinions. Comprehends familiar questions; however, for complex questions, may require time to process, or rephrasing and support from the other speaker.Provides responses that are reasonably clear, relying on well-rehearsed language. Uses a range of vocabulary, grammatical items and simple and rehearsed complex sentence structures, with inaccuracies that at times affect meaning.Makes errors in pronunciation that at times may result in the meaning not being clear. |
| **Comprehension**Extracts and processes some information from a variety of texts. Provides some relevant details.Provides responses to literal questions that are mostly accurate, but responses to inferential questions are sometimes incorrect or incomplete.Uses a dictionary with reasonable accuracy; however, at times selects the wrong word or phrase, resulting in an inappropriate translation or interpretation of text. |

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| **D** | **Written production**Responds with simple information, ideas and/or opinions when writing about a range of topics. Includes limited detail and/or irrelevant content.Provides responses that use simple language and short sentences. Produces writing that is frequently repetitive and disjointed, and where the basic rules of grammar are inaccurately applied.Writes simple texts that show some basic organisation of information or ideas.Applies the conventions of text types inconsistently. |
| **Oral production**Provides some simple information, ideas and/or opinions, with silences, due to lack of comprehension of questions and/or time required to construct responses. Requires frequent support from the other speaker to sustain conversation. Provides brief responses that are characterised by single words, short phrases and fragmented sentences or English. Uses a limited range of vocabulary, grammatical items and simple sentence structures, with frequent inaccuracies that often affect meaning.Makes errors in pronunciation that often result in the meaning not being clear. |
| **Comprehension**Extracts insufficient and/or irrelevant information from texts.Provides responses that are frequently incomplete, unclear or irrelevant.Uses a dictionary with limited accuracy, frequently selecting the wrong word or phrase, resulting in an inappropriate translation or interpretation of text. |

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| **E** | Does not meet the requirements of a D grade and/or has completed insufficient assessment tasks to be assigned a higher grade. |

# Appendix 2 – Text type list

This list is provided to enable a common understanding of the text types 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. |
| **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. |
| **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 entires 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. |
| **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. |
| **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. |

# Appendix 3 – 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 3** |
| --- |

| **Grammatical items** | **Sub-elements** | **Elaborations** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Prepositions | cases: |  |
| * dual-prepositions with the dative or the accusative
 | *an, auf, hinter, in, neben, über, unter, vor, zwischen* *Ich gehe jetzt in die Schule.* *Ich lerne Deutsch in der Schule.*  |
| formation and use of compounds with *da*(*r*) and *wo*(*r*) | *womit, wozu, damit, dazu, dabei, darauf**worauf …* |
| Pronouns | relative: |  |
| * accusative
 | *der, die, das etc.* *Der Mantel, den sie gekauft hat, ist schön.**Die CD, die er zum Geburtstag bekommen hat, funktioniert nicht.* |
| * dative
 | *Kennst du die Frau, mit der Karl spricht?**Kennst du den Mann, mit dem Karl gerade spricht.* |
| relative clauses | *Wie heißt der Fluß, an dem Hamburg liegt?* |
| Verbs | verbs taking prepositional objects | *Ich freue mich auf deinen Besuch.**Sie entschuldigt sich bei der Lehrerin.* |
| infinitives with verbs of perception, motion and with *lassen* | *Ich hörte ihn kommen.**Wir gehen schwimmen.**Meine Mutter läßt mich nie fernsehen.* |
| verbs taking the dative | *Ich danke dir.* *Er hilft seinem Freund.* *Das gehört ihm.* *Das gefällt mir.*  |

| **Unit 4** |
| --- |

| **Grammatical items** | **Sub-elements** | **Elaborations** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Adjectives | attributive: |  |
| * genitive
 | *des Weines, der Wurst, des Biers, des kalten Weines, der kalten Wurst, des kalten Biers**Das Haus meiner alten Großmutter ist schön.* |
| Nouns | cases: |  |
| * genitive
 | *das Haus meiner Eltern.* |
| Prepositions | cases: |  |
| * prepositions with the genitive
 | *trotz, während, statt, anstatt, wegen**Wegen des Wetters kann ich nicht kommen.* |

| **Grammatical items** | **Sub-elements** | **Elaborations** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Verbs | subjunctive II: |  |
| * *haben*, *sein* and modals
 | *würde, hätte, wäre, könnte, müsste, sollte, möchte, dürfte, wollte* |
| * in requests
 | *Würden Sie mir bitte noch ein Stück Kuchen reichen? Würden Sie mir bitte noch einen Tee einschenken?* |
| * in conditional clauses
 | *Ich würde mitgehen, wenn ich dürfte.**Wenn ich reich wäre, könnte ich viel reisen.* |

### Assumed learning

Before commencing the study of Unit 3 and Unit 4, 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 | *klein, groß* |
| adjectives derived from place names | *Schweizer Schokolade**das Brandenburger Tor**Münchner Bier**im Kölner Dom*  |
| attributive: |  |
| * nominative
 | *der, die, das, die, ein, eine, ein, keine**eine schöne stadt**Der blaue Rock steht mir gut.* |
| * accusative
 | *der, dem, der, einen, eine, ein, keine**Petra hat einen neuen Freund.* |
| * dative
 | *dem, der, dem, den, einem, einer, einem, keinen**die schöne stadt**den anderen Leuten**Wir fahren mit dem nächsten Bus.* |
| Adverbs | expressions of time  | *morgen, heute, gestern* |
| positive, comparative and superlative forms | *schnell, schneller, am schnellsten**viel, mehr, am meisten**gern, lieber, am liebsten**Ich trage lieber ein Kleid.**Ich trage am liebsten Jeans.* |
| Articles | definite  | *der, die, das* |
| indefinite  | *ein, kein* |
| possessive  | *mein, dein, sein, ihr, unser, euer, Ihr**Das ist mein Fahrrad.* |
| demonstrative | *Jener, solcher, dieser**Dieser Mantel ist mir zu klein.* |
| Conjunctions | coordinating | *und, aber, denn, oder, sondern**Ich gehe schwimmen und sehe auch fern.*  |
| subordinating | *weil, wenn, als, dass, obwohl, während …**Wenn das Wetter schlecht ist, fahre ich mit dem Bus.* |

| **Grammatical items** | **Sub-elements** | **Elaborations** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Nouns | cases: |  |
| * nominative
 | *Der Mathelehrer heißt Herr Lenz.* |
| * accusative
 | *Hast du den Mantel gekauft?*  |
| * dative
 | *Wir fahren mit dem Bus.* |
| gender | *Der Mann, die Frau, das Kind* |
| number  | *Das Betreten des Rasens ist verboten.* |
| adjectival | *Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!* |
| Numbers | cardinal | *eins, zwei, drei etc.*  |
| ordinal | *erste, zweite, dritte etc.**am ersten, am zwölften etc.* |
| Prepositions | cases: |  |
| * prepositions with the accusative
 | *durch, für, gegen, ohne, um, entlang, bis* |
| * prepositions with the dative
 | *aus, bei, mit, nach, seit, von, zu, entgegen, gegenüber* |
| * dual-prepositions with the dative or the accusative
 | *an, auf, hinter, neben, in, über, unter, vor, zwischen* |
| prepositions of time: |  |
| * time expressions and temporal phrases
 | *vor einiger Zeit**letztens**vor Kurzem …**Gestern war ich im Kino.**Nächste Woche mache ich das.* *Vor einem Jahr habe ich das nicht gewusst.**Wir studieren seit einem Jahr in Berlin.* |
| Pronouns | personal: |  |
| * nominative
 | *ich, du, er, sie, es, wir, ihr, sie, Sie**Hast du Peter gesehen?*  |
| * accusative
 | *mich, dich, ihn, sie, uns, euch, sie, Sie**Wir wollen dich besuchen.*  |
| * dative
 | *mir, dir, ihm, ihr, uns, euch, ihnen, Ihnen**Gabi wohnt bei uns.* |
| interrogative | *wer, was, wann, wo, warum, woher, wohin, wie viel, wie viele, wie lange etc.**was für ein ...**welcher ...**Was für ein Auto ist das?* |
| reflexive | *mich, dich, sich, uns, euch, sich**Ich wasche mich.* |

| **Grammatical items** | **Sub-elements** | **Elaborations** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sentence and phrase types | word order: |  |
| * statements
 | *Morgen kaufe ich ein Kleid.* *Heute gehe ich in die Stadt.**Ich heiße …* |
| * questions
 | *Wie alt bist du?* *Wohnst du in Perth?**Warum kommst du nicht mit?* *Bringst du Wurst oder Salat?*  |
| * commands
 | *Bleib hier!* |
| * main clauses
 | *Am Dienstag spiele ich Fußball* |
| * position of *nicht*
 | *Er hat seine Hausaufgaben nicht gemacht.* |
| * position of adverbs and adverbial phrases: time, manner, place
 | *Er fährt jeden Tag mit dem Bus zur Arbeit.**Ich fahre morgen mit Peter nach Perth.**Er hat seine Hausaufgaben schon gemacht.* |
| * position of the past participle and auxiliary verb
 | *Hast du eine Postkarte geschrieben?* |
| phrases expressing wishes and abilities | *Ich möchte gerne …**Ich kann Tennis spielen.* |
| Verbs | present tense of common regular and irregular verbs | *Ich lerne Deutsch.**Bist du krank?* |
| using the present tense + an adverb to indicate the future | *Morgen fährt er nach Bamberg.* |
| separable verbs | *Morgen fängt die Schule an.* |
| modals: |  |
| * present
 | *mögen, können, müssen, wollen, dürfen, sollen* |
| * past
 | *durfte, sollte* |
| perfect tense: |  |
| * common regular and common irregular verbs
 | *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.* |
| future tense with *werden* | *Du wirst in den Ferien arbeiten.**Ich werde in Paris wohnen.**Wir werden die Wahl gewinnen.* |
| imperfect tense: |  |
| * common regular and irregular verbs
 | *Es war kalt und dunkel im Wald.* *Hänsel und Gretel verliefen sich im Wald.**Damals wohnte sie auf dem Land.* |