

German

German as a Leaving Certificate subject aims to bring students closer to fluency in the German language, whilst also developing a greater knowledge of literature, culture and geography to provide a context for communication.

Senior Cycle German further enhances students' ability to understand spoken German and to communicate orally in German. Students also expand their comprehension of grammatical structures and ability to apply these to their written productions.

A wide variety of themes are covered: family, education, language learning, travel, environment, hobbies, youth problems, social justice, health and current affairs, etc.,.

German as a language is becoming ever more important. Germany is the world's largest outbound market. There are currently over 250 German companies in Ireland employing in excess of 15,000 people. An ability to communicate in German can significantly enhance your career opportunities.

Exam Structure

The German exam is geared to enable you to show off your knowledge rather than to show what you don't know.

The LC German exam consists of three components- oral, aural and written.

Section	Higher Level		Ordinary Level	
Oral	100 marks	25%	80 marks	20%
Aural	80 marks	20%	100 marks	25%
Written	220 marks	55%	220 marks	55%

The oral exam consists of a fifteen minute interview where students are assessed on three different sections: general questions, presentation of project or picture sequence, and role play. The oral exam takes place in March or April of 6th year.

The aural exam lasts 40 minutes. This consists of four sections. Only one section of the HL is answered in German. All other questions are answered in English.

The written exam is 2.5 hours in duration. HL consists of two reading comprehensions, a grammar section, an opinion piece, and a letter or an essay-type response to a picture. OL consists of three reading comprehensions, a grammar section, writing a dialogue, and writing a description of a picture sequence or a letter.

College Requirements

Not taking a modern language in your LC can greatly impact your career choices in the future. Students must hold an O6 or H7 in a third language for most degree programmes in Arts, Human Sciences, Social Sciences, Medicine and Health Sciences in UCC, UCD, MU, NUIG and RCSI. A third language is also required for application to cadetships in the Defence Forces. Trinity College, DIT, DCU, UL and Institutes of Technology have a third language requirement for certain courses that have a large language component including European Studies, Languages & Marketing, Hotel Management, Languages & International Tourism. NCAD requires a third language or Art. Many science and engineering courses include the study of a third foreign language from scratch.

You also have the opportunity to study in Germany. Germany completely abolished tuition fees for undergraduate students in 2014. Many Irish colleges and universities also offer students the chance to study for a semester or academic year at a German university.

Career Opportunities

German is currently the most sought after language on the Irish labour market. Many of the world's largest firms with major operations in Ireland (Google, Facebook, Allianz, SAP, etc.) regularly recruit language graduates to work in human resources and training, finance, law, marketing and advertising, social policy, media and communications, management consultancy, computing and IT, civil service and public relations.

Other organisations continue to require significant numbers of graduates with German language skills to work in areas such as the diplomatic service, development work with NGOs, education, psychology, publishing, EU institutions, translation and interpretation, arts and culture, international trade and tourism.

Students who learn German will improve their career opportunities because the German economy is one of the strongest in the world .