GERMAN AT ST PETER’S COLLEGE
The Beginner’s Course

Congratulations on securing your place at Oxford. You are entitled to be proud of what you have achieved. I am sure that your success will be the spur to further achievement in future. I want to support you in that ambition.

The outline below explains the details of the Pre-sessional course you will be attending and the preparation you will be asked to do for it.

Once past that, you will be embarking on the degree course itself. The programme is outlined below.

Please look carefully at the details provided. You will need to buy the recommended books. Knowing how to find your way around the grammar textbook will be a key to your success at learning and improving your German language.

I would advise you to read the English translations of the narrative works once through before you arrive. The pace is fast in Oxford, and it will help if you’ve already got one reading under your belt. Later readings will increasingly require studying the works in the original.

Do get in touch if anything is unclear or you want further advice. For general enquiries about accommodation and practical arrangements, contact admissions@spc.ox.ac.uk; for questions about the course content and the teaching, write to me at kevin.hilliard@spc.ox.ac.uk.

I very much look forward to seeing you here in October.

Best wishes,
Kevin Hilliard
Tutor in German
GERMAN FOR BEGINNERS: PRE-SESSIONAL PROGRAMME

The programme will consist of an online course followed by a residential course.

Residential course

Dates: Tuesday 27 September to Saturday October 1.

Accommodation: St Peter’s College. Accommodation and meals (3 meals including a packed lunch) will be free of charge.

Timetable (provisional):
- Tuesday (arrival): Introduction and class from 2 to 4pm
- Wednesday to Friday: Classes from 10am to 2pm.
- Saturday: Classes from 11am to 1pm.

Online course

The course will be put online by 1 September for students to complete by the beginning of the residential course. Students should allow at least 14 days to complete the course.

It will be divided into 10-14 units (1 unit per day), with each unit requiring student input of 1 to 2 hours. The course will be available on WebLearn with extra vocabulary provided on the learning platform Memrise. Students will need an internet connection, the DaF kompakt course book and work book, and Essential German Grammar.

It will be supported by a forum on WebLearn which will provide an opportunity for students to discuss questions and any areas of difficulty. Students will also be able to contact the instructor via e-mail.

Books needed for the Pre-sessional programme:

DaF kompakt A1 - B1, Birgit Braun, Margit Doubek et. al. Kursbuch + 3 Audio-CDs A1 - B1
978-3-12-676180-2

DaF kompakt A1 - B1, Birgit Braun, Margit Doubek et. al., Übungsbuch + 2 Audio-CDs A1 - B1
978-3-12-676181-9


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German for Beginners': The first-year course

The main course will consist of four components, of which three will be focused on intensive language study while the fourth will give students an opportunity to work on literature also studied by the post-A level cohort. The course for the three language papers (Papers I, II and III) will be organised centrally, and will be specific to students of Beginners’ German. The course for the literature paper (Paper IV) will be organised and taught by the students’ college, and will involve work together with the post-A level cohort. It will be accompanied by a centrally organised class dedicated to developing reading skills in German in support of the study of literature.

The Preliminary Examination is taken at the end of the first year, and consists of the following:

**LANGUAGE**

**Paper I**
1) Reading comprehension exercise (in German) on a passage in German.
2) One essay in German. A choice of questions will be set.

**Paper II**
1) Translation into German of a prose passage.
2) Translation from German of a prose passage in a modern literary register.

**Paper III**
An oral exam with a spoken part and a listening comprehension.

Books required for the language programme:


**LITERATURE**

**Paper IV**
Three essays on German prose from 1890 to 1933:

Theodor Fontane, *Effi Briest* (1894/95).
Also: *Effi Briest*, translated by Helen Chambers (Penguin Classics, 2000)

Franz Kafka, *Die Verwandlung* (1912/1915)
Also: *The Metamorphosis and Other Stories*, translated by Ritchie Robertson (Oxford World’s Classics, 2009)
Erich Maria Remarque, *Im Westen nichts Neues* (1929)*
Also: *All Quiet on the Western Front*, translated by Brian Murdoch (Collector's Library, 2012)

Thomas Mann, *Mario und der Zauberer* (1930)*

Beginners’ German students will read these narrative works initially primarily in translation. They will be expected to use the translation consistently in conjunction with the original, maximising the focus of their reading over time on the original German text. The college-organised tutorials or classes on these works will bring together students from the Beginners’ German group and the post-A level group, and will focus on the German text. Alongside these tutorials or classes, the students’ reading skills in German will be developed in a centrally organised class that will complement, and interact with, both the language papers and the literature paper. All candidates taking the Paper IV examination will be required to refer to the original German text when quoting from the work.