

FACTFILE: GCSE GERMAN

Speaking 4

CONTEXT 1: IDENTITY, LIFESTYLE AND CULTURE



Culture, customs, festivals and celebrations



Introduction

Here are some key points to help you study this topic.

Learning Outcomes

You should be able to:

- communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes;
- take part in short conversations, asking and answering questions, exchanging opinions and producing extended sequences of speech;
- speak spontaneously, responding to questions, points of view or situations and sustaining communication, as appropriate;
- express information and narrate events coherently and confidently, using and adapting language for new purposes;
- make appropriate and accurate use of a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures;

- make creative use of the language, as appropriate, to express and justify your own thoughts and points of view; and
- use accurate pronunciation and intonation that would be understood by a native speaker.

These lists are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Skills

- Geburtstag, Geburtstagsfeier.
- Weihnachten.
- Silvester.
- Ostern.
- Fasching/Karneval/Halloween.

Preparation

- Learn vocabulary for each topic. There is a Vocabulary List available on the CCEA web site.
- Add in other words which you come across in your text book or individual study.
- Review vocabulary constantly.
- Do not leave vocabulary learning to the last minute.
- Listen carefully to pronunciation of all recorded material.
- Record your conversation and listen to it critically.
- Think of ways to upgrade it, e.g. by adding in adjectives, using conjunctions, e.g. weil, als.
- Read the grade descriptions in the Specification on the CCEA website and be aware of what you must be able to do to achieve a top grade.
- Make sure you have opinions and are able to express them and give reasons.

- Invest time in preparing what you want to say.
- Some questions will be open-ended, e.g. Was hast du letztes Jahr zu Weihnachten gemacht?
 - Such questions give you the opportunity to take the initiative and add in details of your own.
- It is important to show that you can keep a conversation going.
- You will get encouragement from your teacher/examiner if you keep eye-contact with him/her, and it will make the conversation sound more natural.

Practice

- Speak as much German as possible – in class, at lunch time, even for 5 minutes!
- Participate fully in classes with your German Language Assistant.
- Don't be afraid to make a mistake.
- Listen to the correction and learn from that.
- Practise answering questions in group or pair work.
- If you have a partner school, face time German pupils.

Revision

- Was machst du normalerweise an deinem Geburtstag?
- Was für Geburtstagsgeschenke bekommst du gern?
- Was hast du zum letzten Geburtstag bekommen?
- Was war dein Lieblingsgeschenk?
- Bekommst du gern Geld als Geburtstagsgeschenk? Warum (nicht)?
- Was machst du am heiligen Abend?
- Was machst du am ersten Weihnachtstag?/am 25. Dezember?
- Was für Weihnachtsgeschenke hast du letztes Jahr bekommen?
- Was für Weihnachtsgeschenke möchtest du dieses Jahr bekommen?
- Was hast du *deinem Bruder/deiner Schwester* zu Weihnachten geschenkt?
- Was macht man in deiner Familie zu Ostern?
- Bekommst du gern Ostereier?

