



# GERMAN STUDENT STUDY CARD #7

## GUIDANCE FOR CONVERSATION AT A2

### Introduction

The A2 conversation lasts nine minutes and is based on the themes studied at A2. It may also incorporate AS themes, where appropriate.

### Assessment

An external visiting examiner carries out your speaking test and it is recorded.

### Assessment Objective/s

You will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- A01: understand and respond to spoken language;
- A03: manipulate the language accurately and appropriately, using a range of lexis and structure.

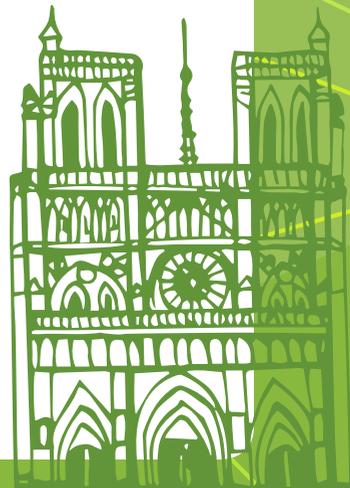
Familiarise yourself with the requirements of each criterion and guidance on how to achieve the top bands.

#### **A01 assesses:**

- your degree of comprehension;
- the fluency of your responses;
- your initiative to develop answers and your ability to argue points of view; and
- your pronunciation and intonation.

#### **A03 assesses:**

- your command of idiom and vocabulary; and
- your knowledge and application of grammar.





## Skills

Here are some suggestions to help you prepare for this skills area.

### Preparation

- Start by revising your notes for AS. The AS topics may be incorporated, as appropriate.
- Prepare new topics of conversation based on the A2 themes.

### Young People in Society

- part-time jobs;
- education and employment;
- career planning – aspirations and/or intentions;
- young people and democracy;
- European citizenship – advantages, disadvantages and opportunities; and
- societal attitudes and young people.

### Our Place in a Changing World

- equality/inequality and discrimination/prejudice;
- poverty at home and abroad – causes, consequences and measures to combat it;
- immigration and emigration – causes, benefits and related issues;
- multicultural society and cultural identity – benefits and challenges;
- causes, consequences and resolution of conflict; and
- sustainable living and environmental issues.
- Develop your answers at length. You will be expected to be more confident and to give longer responses than at AS.
- Revise your strategies for buying yourself time to think with useful filler phrases.
- Prepare strategies for introducing your favourite topics into the conversation.



### **On the day of the examination**

- Listen to the question carefully and always answer the question.
- Ask the examiner to repeat if you are not sure you have understood the question. Do not attempt to guess. A very good degree of comprehension is needed for the top bands.
- Check whether the examiner expects you to talk about yourself (using 'Sie' in the question) or about the topic at a general level (using 'man' in the question).
- Develop your answers as much as you can but avoid reeling off a prepared answer at an unnatural pace. Clear pronunciation and good intonation are important.
- Remember to lead the conversation. Take every opportunity to do so.
- Don't forget to give opinions and to justify them. Don't be afraid to debate a point with the examiner.
- You may correct yourself if you make a mistake.
- Relax and smile.