



## Course Units 2017-2018

### German for Business and Current Affairs

#### Prerequisite for entry

Successful completion of German Syllabus D at the UCL CLIE; a high 'A' level grade; an extended stay in a German speaking country in the recent past; if you have a very good grasp of the language and are able to conduct a conversation without difficulty

#### Course duration

20 x 2-hour classes.

#### Self-Study

80 hours in total.

#### Course codes

LCGE6005, LCGEG005, LCGEM005, LCGE6045, LCGEG045, LCGEM045 (together with German syllabus D), LCGE6056, LCGEG056 and LCGEM056 (together with German Current Affairs and Culture).

#### Aims and Objectives

The course is designed for advanced level students requiring the language for general vocational and professional purposes. It teaches specialised vocabulary to enable participants to use their language skills in a more professional environment, such as meetings and interviews, as well as covering related topics such as current affairs and the latest trends in German society. The course will enhance knowledge of German life, society and business culture using complex and linguistically accurate structures (different types of discourse, register).

Cultural awareness will be further developed and raised within a European/global context. Language learning skills, including autonomous learning and how to approach authentic material, will be further enhanced. Various transferable skills will also be covered.

#### Functions

- giving advice
- note-taking and summarising
- expressing and defending views and opinions, critical topic-related comments;
- debating and commenting;
- suggesting, accepting, refusing;
- describing, defining; analysing and evaluating
- composing written pieces of information for different purposes;
- preparing and giving presentations on complex topics
- quoting and referencing.

#### Course Content

##### Main topics/themes to be covered (selection from the following):

- working life: work/study; work-life balance; working abroad
- mobility in the context of growing globalisation

- nature, the environment and new technologies
  - current affairs: topics concerning recent German political, socio-economic and cultural developments;
  - finding and applying for a work placement;
  - professional and personal skills relevant to the job market
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## Skills

### Reading

- reading for gist (skimming), scanning for specific information; giving opinions, presenting arguments;
- analysis of current topics in major newspapers/magazines and online

### Writing

- short essays, summaries;
- analysis and review of and commentary on articles and other materials;
- note-taking from presentations;
- preparing presentation outlines

### Listening

- targeted audio material (i.e. listening exercises in accordance with topics covered in class)
- radio, TV, audio and video recordings; feature films;
- presentations

### Speaking

- formal and informal discussions, debates, round table;
  - individual and shared presentations
  - role-play
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## Linguistic Structures

- analysing/comparing texts from various sources (different text types);
- improving listening and reading skills by dealing with a variety of authentic materials

### Grammar

- revision of tenses (forms and usage);
  - revision and expansion of case system (forms and usage);
  - prepositions; verbs with a fixed preposition; prepositions with case change;
  - relative clauses;
  - complex sentences;
  - passive and alternative structures;
  - subjunctive II; introduction to subjunctive I
  - two-part conjunctions;
  - grammar of texts
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## Learning Resources

### Syllabus D + Business and Current Affairs Course Books

- **Mittelpunkt Neu B2: Lehrbuch**, (Klett). ISBN: 9783126766524
- **Wort für Wort: New Advanced German Vocabulary**, Paul Stocker, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.; 2010 (Hodder Education) – ISBN: 9781444109993

### Syllabus Business and Current Affairs Course Books

#### Syllabus Business, Current Affairs and Culture Course Books

- **Mittelpunkt Neu B2: Lehrbuch**, (Klett). ISBN: 9783126766524
- **Mittelpunkt Neu B2: Arbeitsbuch**, (Klett). ISBN: 9783126766531

### Additional Material

- A selection of authentic material will also be used to supplement the course books (e.g. press articles on current affairs, websites).
- Bilingual dictionary (e.g. Collins). Not pocket size.

In addition there is a wide range of language learning materials available for self-study in the Self-Access Centre. Also, there will be regularly updated information on cultural events connected with Germany, German language and culture, which can be accessed through the Language Centre website.