

Rationale

Through learning languages, students acquire:

- communication skills in the language being learnt
- an intercultural capability, and an understanding of the role of language and culture in communication
- a capability for reflection on language use and language learning.

Language learning provides the opportunity for students to engage with the linguistic and cultural diversity of the world and its peoples, to reflect on their understanding of experience in various aspects of social life, and on their own participation and ways of being in the world.

Learning languages broadens students' horizons in relation to the personal, social, cultural and employment opportunities that an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world presents. The interdependence of countries and communities means people in all spheres of life are required to negotiate experiences and meanings across languages and cultures. Despite its status as a world language, a capability in English only is no longer sufficient. A bilingual or plurilingual capability is the norm in most parts of the world.

Learning languages:

- extends the capability to communicate and extends literacy repertoires
- strengthens understanding of the nature of language, of culture, and of the processes of communication
- develops intercultural capability
- develops understanding of and respect for diversity and difference, and an openness to different experiences and perspectives
- develops understanding of how culture shapes worldviews and extends learners' understanding of themselves, their own heritage, values, culture and identity
- strengthens intellectual, analytical and reflective capabilities, and enhances creative and critical thinking.

Learning languages also contributes to strengthening the community's social, economic and international development capabilities. Language capabilities represent linguistic and cultural resources through which the community can engage socially, culturally and economically, in domains which include business, trade, science, law, education, tourism, diplomacy, international relations, health and communications.

Learning Aboriginal languages and Torres Strait Islander languages meets the needs and rights of young people to learn their own languages and recognises their significance in the language ecology of Australia. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, learning their own languages is crucial to overall learning and achievements, to developing a sense of identity and recognition and understanding of language, culture, Country and Place. For all students, learning Aboriginal languages and Torres Strait Islander languages provides a distinctive means of understanding the country in which they live, including the relationship between land, the environment and people. The ongoing and necessary reclamation and revitalisation of these languages also contribute to reconciliation.

Year 9 and 10 (Year 7 Entry) Achievement Standard

By the end of Year 10, students initiate and maintain interactions in written and spoken German to communicate ideas, thoughts, feelings and information related to relationships, school experiences, the community and future plans. They interact with others to make decisions, solve problems, and negotiate and plan action in response to issues. When interacting, they use both rehearsed and spontaneous language. They ask and respond to familiar questions, for example, Wir sind in den Ferien oft ins Schwimmbad gegangen. Was hast du gemacht? Ich finde meine Schule gut, und du? Wie findest du deine Schule? and make comparisons, such as, Meine Freundin ist fleißiger als ich. They give opinions explain problems and ask for advice or clarification, for example, Ich wohne gern auf dem Land, weil ... , Ich habe mein Passwort vergessen. Was soll ich machen? Wie lernt man die deutschen Verben?. They apply rules of pronunciation, intonation and stress, including variations such as contractions. They locate, analyse and record information, feelings and opinions from a range of texts. They respond to and re-create imaginative texts, and use descriptive and expressive vocabulary to communicate about experiences and emotions. They modify meaning with a range of adverbs and adverbial phrases, such as, Wir haben das schon am Montag mit Frau Rolf gemacht. They create personal, descriptive, informative and imaginative texts for different purposes, audiences and contexts. They use a range of grammatical elements to describe, situate and link people, objects and events in time and place. They use articles, for example, der/ein, personal pronouns, some demonstrative and interrogative adjectives such as dieser, jeder and welcher, possessive adjectives in the nominative, accusative and dative case, and a range of prepositions in everyday and topic-based phrases. They use present and future tenses of a range of regular and irregular verbs, including some modal, separable and inseparable verbs. They describe past events and experiences using the present perfect and simple past tenses with a range of common verbs. They use some common reflexive verbs in the present tense, such as, Ich dusche mich morgens.; Interessierst du dich für Geschichte? They use a variety of conjunctions and cohesive devices, for example, als, dass, wenn, weil; dann, früher, danach, vorher, to create cohesion and interest. They translate and interpret excerpts from informative and imaginative texts, identifying and explaining challenges and adjustments required when transferring meaning between languages and cultures. They explain the importance of audience and context in intercultural exchanges. They explain how cultural identity is both shaped by and influences ways of communicating and thinking.

Students give examples of how language changes over time and identify reasons for change. They apply the German case system (mainly nominative, accusative, dative) and explain the relationships between noun gender, article, pronoun, adjectival ending and case. They name some grammatical terms and their functions. They identify variations in the features of spoken and written German in relation to pronunciation, spelling and punctuation. They identify textual conventions in a range of texts and explain how they shape meaning and influence responses. They identify how features of German in familiar spoken and written texts vary according to audience, context and purpose. They reflect on their own cultural identity in light of their experience of learning German, identifying how their ideas and ways of communicating are influenced by their membership of cultural groups.

Aims

The Australian Curriculum: Languages aims to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to ensure students:

- communicate in the target language
- understand language, culture, and learning and their relationship, and thereby develop an intercultural capability in communication
- understand themselves as communicators.

These three aims are interrelated and provide the basis for the two organising strands: Communicating and Understanding. The three aims are common to all languages.

Key Ideas

Language and culture

The interrelationship of language, culture and learning provides the foundation for the Australian Curriculum: Languages.

In the languages learning area the focus is on both language and culture, as students learn to communicate meaningfully across linguistic and cultural systems, and different contexts. This process involves reflection and analysis, as students move between the new language being learnt and their own existing language(s). It is a reciprocal and dynamic process which develops language use within intercultural dimensions of learning experiences. It is not a 'one plus one' relationship between two languages and cultures, where each language and culture stay separate and self-contained. Comparison and referencing between (at least) two languages and cultures build understanding of how languages 'work', how they relate to each other and how language and culture shape and reflect experience; that is, the experience of language using and language learning. The experience of being in two worlds at once involves noticing, questioning and developing awareness of how language and culture shape identity.

Structure

Learner background and time-on-task are two major variables that influence language learning and they provide the basis for the structure of the Australian Curriculum: Languages. These variables are addressed through the specification of content and the description of achievement standards according to pathways and learning sequences respectively.

Pathways

In the Australian Curriculum: Languages, pathways for second language learners, background language learners and first language learners have been developed as appropriate to cater for the dominant group(s) of students learning each specific language within the current Australian context. For the majority of languages, one curriculum pathway has been developed for Years F–10, catering for the dominant cohort of learners for that language in the current Australian context. For Chinese, pathways have been developed for three learner groups: first language learners, background language learners and second language learners.

The Framework for Aboriginal languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages includes three learner pathways:

- first language learner pathway
- revival language learner pathway
- second language learner pathway.

Sequences of learning

The design of the Australian Curriculum: Languages takes account of different entry points into language learning across Foundation – Year 10, which reflects current practice in languages.

For the second language learner pathway and the background language learner pathway, there are two learning sequences:

- Foundation–Year 10 sequence
- Years 7–10 (Year 7 Entry) sequence.

For the first language learner pathway, there is one learning sequence:

- Years 7–10 (Year 7 Entry) sequence.

Content and achievement standards are described initially in a three-year band for Foundation–Year 2 followed by two-year bands of learning: Years 3–4; Years 5–6, Years 7–8 and Years 9–10.

The Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages is written in the bands Foundation – Year 2, Years 3–6 and Years 7–10. In the absence of pedagogical evidence across the country for all these languages, the broader band distinctions provide maximum local flexibility in curriculum development.

Content structure

The content of the Australian Curriculum: Languages is organised through two interrelated strands which realise the three aims. The two strands are:

- Communicating: using language for communicative purposes in interpreting, creating and exchanging meaning
- Understanding: analysing language and culture as a resource for interpreting and creating meaning.

The strands reflect three important aspects of language learning:

- 1) communication
- 2) analysis of aspects of language and culture
- 3) reflection that involves
 - reflection on the experience of communicating
 - reflection on comparative dimensions of the languages available in students' repertoires (for example, the first language in relation to second language and self in relation to others).

Strands and sub-strands

A set of sub-strands has been identified within each strand, which reflects dimensions of language use and the related content to be taught and learned. The strands and sub-strands do not operate in isolation but are integrated in relation to language use for different purposes in different contexts. The relative contribution of each sub-strand differs for described languages, pathways and bands of learning. The sub-strands are further differentiated according to a set of 'threads' that support the internal organisation of content in each sub-strand. These 'threads' are designed to capture (1) range and variety in the scope of learning and (2) a means for expressing the progression of content across the learning sequences.

Year 9 and 10 (Year 7 Entry) Level Description

The nature of the learners

At this level, students bring to their learning existing knowledge of German language and culture and a range of learning strategies and experiences. They are increasingly aware of the world beyond their own and are engaging with youth-related and social and environmental issues. They require continued guidance and mentoring but work increasingly independently to analyse, reflect on and monitor their language learning and intercultural experiences. They are considering future pathways and options, including how German could be part of these.

German language learning and use

Learners interact with peers, teachers and other German speakers in immediate and local contexts relating to their social and learning worlds, and with unfamiliar German-speaking communities and cultural resources through a range of physical, virtual and online environments. This is a period of language exploration and vocabulary expansion, and of experimentation with a wider range of modes of communication, for example, digital, collaborative performance and group discussions. Greater control of language structures and systems, and understanding of the variability of language use increase confidence and interest in communicating in a growing range of contexts. Learners use German to initiate, sustain and extend interactions in situations such as negotiating a resolution to a disagreement; to access and exchange information; to express feelings and opinions; to participate in imaginative and creative experiences; to develop, analyse, interpret and translate a wider range of texts and experiences; and to reflect on and evaluate learning experiences. They use German more fluently, with a greater degree of self-correction and repair, and reference the accuracy of their target language use against a stronger frame of grammar knowledge. They demonstrate understanding of language variation and change; of how intercultural experience, technology, media and globalisation influence language use and forms of communication. Task characteristics and conditions are more complex and challenging. They provide opportunities for collaborative language planning and performance, the development of translating and interpreting tools, and strategic use of language and cultural resources.

Contexts of interaction

Learners interact with teachers, peers and members of German-speaking communities face-to-face and via digital technologies. They may also have opportunities to engage with German speakers and cultural events in the wider community, such as in the media, guest speakers, exchange students, language assistants, film festivals, community events or in-country travel.

Texts and resources

Learners build on and extend their knowledge of different types of text and language functions through balancing focused attention to language forms and structures with text creation and performance. They work with a wider range of fiction and nonfiction texts, which allows for exploration of themes of personal and societal relevance, for example, global issues, identity and relationships, diversity and inclusivity. They develop additional analytical tools, including consideration of literary form and devices, and ways in which language choices empower, build identity and are influenced by audience, context and purpose. They identify how texts shape perspectives and meaning.

Features of German language use

Learners expand their knowledge and control of grammatical elements such as register, future tense, reflexive verbs and subordinate clauses. In-depth investigation of the links between German, English and other languages they know strengthens learners' intercultural capability. They examine the processes involved in learning and using a different language, recognising them as cognitive, cultural and personal as well as linguistic. They explore the reciprocal nature of intercultural communication: how moving between different languages and cultural systems impacts on ways of thinking and behaving; and how successful communication requires flexibility, awareness and openness to alternative ways. They develop the capacity to 'decentre' from normative ways of thinking and communicating, to consider themselves through the eyes of others, and to communicate in interculturally appropriate ways.

Level of support

Learners are increasingly aware of and responsible for their own learning, working independently and collaboratively to address their learning needs. Resources are required to support this process, such as technological support for vocabulary expansion, graphic organisers, modelled texts, dictionaries and teacher feedback. Students require continued explicit instruction on the grammatical system and opportunities to discuss, practise and apply their knowledge. They monitor their own progress and learning, such as through the use of e-journals or folios, using these to reflect on their language learning and intercultural experience.

The role of English

While sustained use of German is expected at this level, English continues to be used when necessary for substantive discussion, explanation and analysis. This allows learners to communicate in depth and detail about their experience of learning German and to express ideas, views and experiences at a level beyond their current level of proficiency in German. English may be used in conjunction with German to conduct research, to translate or to communicate bilingually.

Year 9 and 10 (Year 7 Entry) Content Descriptions

Communicating	Understanding	
<p>Socialising</p> <p>Initiate and maintain interactions with peers and adults by seeking and offering ideas, opinions and feelings as well as information related to relationships, school experience, community and future plans. [Key concepts: routines, relationships, community; Key processes: interacting, participating, describing]</p> <p>Interact with others to make decisions and solve problems to complete tasks such as obtaining goods or services, and negotiate with peers to take individual and/or collective action. [Key concepts: roles, transactions, tasks; Key processes: collaborating, negotiating, discussing]</p> <p>Develop classroom language to contribute to structured discussions and monitor learning by giving and following instructions and advice, making suggestions, asking questions for clarification, and expressing agreement or disagreement. [Key concepts: task, communication, learning strategies; Key processes: participating, discussing]</p> <p>Informing</p> <p>Access and analyse information, feelings and opinions in a range of digital, print and multimodal texts. [Key concepts: social issues, information, representation; Key processes: selecting, analysing, researching]</p> <p>Present information and opinions in different modes and familiar text types appropriate to audience, context and purpose, applying conventions of text types. [Key concepts: content, audience, mode; Key processes: presenting, designing, transposing]</p>	<p>Creating</p> <p>Respond to a range of contemporary and traditional imaginative texts (including excerpts) by summarising, reorganising, expressing reactions and opinions, or modifying aspects. [Key concepts: themes, imagination; Key processes: responding, modifying, transposing]</p> <p>Create a variety of imaginative texts to entertain, convey ideas and express emotions. [Key concepts: expression, humour, imagination; Key processes: composing, experimenting, expressing]</p> <p>Translating</p> <p>Translate and interpret aspects of informative and imaginative texts, identifying and explaining some of the challenges involved and adjustments required when transferring meaning between languages and cultures. [Key concepts: equivalence, representation, adjustments; Key processes: interpreting, translating, comparing]</p> <p>Create bilingual texts such as captions, glossaries or footnotes to interpret cultural and linguistic aspects of texts. [Key concepts: representation, meaning, culture; Key processes: translating, interpreting]</p> <p>Reflecting</p> <p>Interact with a range of German speakers and texts, being aware of audience and context, and recognising that intercultural communication involves shared responsibility for meaning-making. [Key concepts: impact, reciprocity; Key processes: evaluating, questioning, taking responsibility]</p> <p>Reflect on self as a language user and discuss own and others' cultural identity, considering how it is both shaped by and influences ways of communicating and thinking. [Key concepts: identity, culture, values; Key processes: reflecting, analysing, discussing]</p>	<p>Systems of Language</p> <p>Notice examples in spoken German of variation in features such as pronunciation, rhythm and stress, and the use of contractions; and articulate and apply in writing common German spelling and punctuation rules, such as for commas and quotation marks. [Key concepts: metalanguage, variation, context; Key processes: explaining, comparing, imitating, experimenting]</p> <p>Extend grammatical knowledge, including of cases, demonstrative and interrogative adjectives, prepositions, common subordinating conjunctions, and past and future tenses, to describe, situate and link people, objects and events in time and place. [Key concepts: grammatical systems, connections, syntax; Key processes: applying, analysing, describing]</p> <p>Identify, comprehend and create a range of different text types, including simple narrative, informative and persuasive texts such as diary entries, letters, advertisements and articles, incorporating appropriate linguistic, textual and cultural elements. [Key concepts: text construction, textual conventions; Key processes: comparing, analysing, applying]</p> <p>Language variation and change</p> <p>Identify and analyse linguistic features of German that vary according to audience, context and purpose in familiar modelled spoken and written texts. [Key concepts: variation, register, style; Key processes: analysing, comparing, explaining]</p> <p>Understand that language has power and changes over time as a result of contact with other languages and with influences such as globalisation and new technologies and knowledge. [Key concepts: evolution, influence; Key processes: noticing, analysing, investigating]</p> <p>Role of language and culture</p> <p>Explore the dynamic nature of the relationship between language, culture and communication and how it impacts on attitudes and beliefs. [Key concepts: diversity, culture; Key processes: questioning, analysing, reflecting]</p>