In Year 11 your exams will consist of Listening, Reading and Writing exams that will all be taken during the exams week . The following themes are covered by the AQA course:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

**Topic 1: Me, my family and friends**

•• Relationships with family and friends

•• Marriage/partnership

**Topic 2: Technology in everyday life**

•• Social media

•• Mobile technology

**Topic 3: Free**-**time activities**

•• Music

•• Cinema and TV

•• Food and eating out

•• Sport

**Topic 4: Customs and festivals in German-speaking countries/communities**

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

**Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region**

**Topic 2: Social issues**

•• Charity/voluntary work

•• Healthy/unhealthy living

**Topic 3: Global issues**

•• The environment

•• Poverty/homelessness

**Topic 4: Travel and tourism**

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

**Topic 1: My studies**

**Topic 2: Life at school/college**

**Topic 3: Education post-16**

**Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions**

**Exam technique**

You must come to the exam with a clear idea of the strategies that will help you work well under pressure. Here are some suggestions for the **Reading paper:**

Don't panic! You are not expected to understand every word of the text.Take a positive approach to your reading. Concentrate on what you do understand, not on the difficult words and phrases. Have a good look at the title of the text as well as any illustrations. They may give you some important clues.

Read the whole text before attempting to answer any questions. It is usually better to read the text twice at a brisk pace, than to struggle along once, slowly.

Be clear as to exactly what each question wants. For example, should you be picking out precise details (for example, the date of someone's birthday) or should you be reading the whole passage in order to draw some broad conclusions (for example, a comparison of two people's attitudes to television)?

Be aware of different ways of finding out the meaning of words. For example:

* Can you guess the meaning of a difficult word in a sentence if you understand what all the other words mean?
* Can you find similarities between German and English words (e.g. Fieber = fever / temperature)? Can you find links with other German words (e.g. baden = to bathe ein Bad = a bath)?
* Are you aware of language patterns (e.g. un in front of a word often makes it negative: unmöglich = impossible)?

Use your knowledge of grammar. For example, if you can identify a plural, a verb tense, an adjective, an adverb or a preposition, you will be in a better position to make an intelligent guess at a meaning.

Use your knowledge of Germany and German-speaking countries. For example, knowing about the German educational system could be very useful if you are working on a text about school.

A **Listening paper**requires similar techniques:

Make sure you are familiar with the different types of task you may be asked to do, for example choosing, filling in a grid or a form, matching, gap filling, putting things in order, making decisions and giving reasons.

Practise papers on-line. In the exam you will only hear each extract twice, but it will build up your confidence and train your ear. It is sometimes helpful to work on the transcript that goes with a recording. For example, if you study the transcript before you listen to the audio, it could help your confidence when you realise how much you understand.

Practise not writing when the audio is playing, because it is hard to write and listen at the same time. Learn to trust your short-term memory!

Before the audio starts have a close look at the question. Be clear as to exactly what is wanted. Should you be listening for precise pieces of information (for example, train arrival and departure times) or should you be listening to the whole passage in order to draw a conclusion (for example, name the girl who has the best relationship with her parents)?

As you read the question you should try to predict the sort of information that may be in the passage. It will help focus your mind. Have a good look at the title of the question as well as any illustrations. They may give you some important clues as to what is coming.

When the audio begins, don't panic! You are not expected to understand every word. If the passage is long or if people are speaking quickly, there is probably a lot of "redundant" language that you do not need. Be positive. Concentrate on what you do understand. Remember - the passage may be difficult but the questions may be easy.

Use your knowledge of grammar. For example, it may be important to know whether someone is talking about the past or the future.

Use your knowledge of Germany and German-speaking countries. For example, if you hear people mentioning the Christkindlmarkt you should be aware that the text has something to do with Christmas.

Don't just listen to the words. The tone of someone's voice may also be helpful in showing their mood. The intonation of someone's voice may tell you if they are making a statement or asking a question.

In Listening and Reading exams you will have a mixture of questions in English and German. It is very important that you answer English questions in English, and German questions in German!

For the **Writing paper** you need to ensure you answer the question fully and concentrate on accuracy in the basics such as spellings, capital letters, umlauts and word-order! In translation focus on tenses and show the examiner you understand present, past and future constructions.

Your mock paper will consist of an unseen 90-word write up on four bullet points from various topics, a 150-word write-up on the topic of relationships. You have prepared answers for the speaking test and can use/learn these to allow you to answer this question. Finally there will be an unseen translation (4-5 lines), which will test your knowledge of both vocabulary and grammar.

*Between now and the exam you need to build up your personal vocabulary by learning a small number of new words every day. There are many resources available to you including the CGP revision materials Memrise, BBC Bitesize or Apps such as DuoLingo. Grammar can be practised via the German Digital Classroom. And don’t forget the AQA website, available through the German Digital Classroom or here:*

*http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/german-8668*