

GCSE GERMAN

**NAME**:



*AIMING FOR GRADE 9*

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| **1. Introduce and give and your opinions …**  Practise using these key types of word and clever phrases so that you can really impress the examiner in your speaking and writing. The ‘star factor’ is just a guide to how impressive/ different they are.**REMEMBER variety is the spice of life!!!** |
| **Tip:** You will have to give your opinions A LOT so you need to use a wide variety of expressions confidently …Make sure you can do positive, negative, in between AND say what other people think!  |
|  PHRASE | MEANING | STAR FACTOR |
| Laut mir ist es/ sind sie … | According to me it is/ they are … | \*\* |
| Ich glaube / Ich denke, dass\*\* | I believe that/ I think that …  | \*\* |
| Es scheint mir, dass\*\*  | It seems to me that … | \*\*\* |
| Meiner Meinung nach\* / Nach meiner Ansicht\* | In my opinion/ The way I see it (from my point of view) | \*\*\* |
| Soviel ich weiß, … ( verb, verb) | As far as I am concerned  | \*\*\* |
| Man sagt, dass \*\* | They say that … | \*\*\*\* |
| Er/Sie glaubt / denkt, dass\*\* | He/ she believes/ thinks that  | \*\*\* |
| Das kann sein… | It can be … | \*\*\* |
| Ich weiß, dass\*\* | I know that …  | \*\*\* |
| + | Ich mag / Ich liebe / Ich mag lieber ...Ich ... gern/ sehr gern/ lieber | I like/ I love/ I prefer … | \* |
| ... gefällt(sing)/ gefallen ( pl) mir | I like ( literally ... is pleasing to me) | \*\*\*\* |
| Ich ziehe ... vor ( seperable verb) | I prefer | \*\*\*\* |
| Ich schätze (hoch) ... | I appreciate/ I like … | \*\*\* |
| ... ist/sind meine Leidenschaft | I’m passionate about … ( literally ... is/ are my passion) | \*\*\*\* |
| Ich interessiere mich für ... | I’m interested in …  | \*\*\*\* |
| Was ich **am liebsten**/ wenigsten **mag**, ist | What **I like** the most/least is …  | \*\*\*\* |
| +/- | Das ist mir egal, (dass\*\*) | I don’t mind/ it’s all the same to me (that)  | \*\*\* |
| Ich habe nichts dagegen | I don’t mind  | \*\*\* |
|  | Das macht mir gar nicht aus, (dass\*\*) | I don’t care/ I am not bothered (that) | \*\*\* |
|  - | Ich kann ... nicht leiden  | I can’t stand …  | \*\*\*\* |
| Ich mag nicht… / Ich mag gar nicht ...Ich ... nicht gern/ Ich ... gar nicht gern | I don’t like doing …/ I don’t like doing … at all … I don’t like …/ I don’t like … at all | \*\* |
| Das ärgert mich/ das geht mir auf die Nerven | It annoys me / It gets on my nerves | \*\*\* |
| Das langweilt mich so | It bores me  | \*\*\* |
| Was ich nicht leiden kann, ist … | What I can’t bear is……  | \*\*\*\* |

**Practice makes perfect**

1. I’m passionate about playing football because it is fun however they say that it can be boring

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2. I’m interested in cinema because I’m fascinated by films.

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3. I can’t stand playing tennis, the way I see it sports are all the same to me, it bores me.

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4. My mum thinks that reading is interesting however my brother believes that books are boring.

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5. What I like the most is to go shopping with my friends because I’m passionate about it.

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6. What I can’t bear is swimming, in my opinion it is really tiring, although it is easy.

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| **2. Use intensifiers and a variety of adjectives …**  |
| **Tip:** These make your comments and opinions better. Remember not to over-use the most common words …  |
| WORD |  MEANING |  STAR FACTOR |
| sehr | very | \* |
| total / wirklich | absolutely/ really/ truly | \*\*\* |
| zu | too | \*\*\* |
| viel | a bit/ a lot | \*\* |
| ganz | quite | \*\* |
| + | großartig / toll/ klasse/ super  | great …  | \*\* |
| spannend / aufregend | exciting/ thrilling | \*\*\* |
| Spaß (haben)/ lustig / witzig / unterhaltsam  | fun/ funny/ amusing  | \*\* |
| bedeutsam/ ungewöhnlich / komisch  | unmissable/ extraordinary/ unbelievable | \*\*\* |
| herrlich, hervorragend/ verwunderlich | marvellous/amazing | \*\*\* |
| fantastisch/ cool | awesome/ cool | \*\*\* |
| praktisch/ nützlich / wichtig | practical/ useful/ important | \*\* |
| Das gefällt mir / das freut michdas stellt mir zufrieden, dass\*\* …  | It makes me happy that … | \*\*\*\* |
| Das war super/ Ich habe eine Menge Spaß gehabt! | It was great/ I had a great time! | \*\*\*\* |
| - | quatsch/ schlimm | rubbish/ bad | \* |
| ermüdend/anstrengend | tiring | \*\*\* |
| langweilig / eintönig / fad | boring | \*\*\* |
| schwer/ schwierig/ kompliziert | difficult/ hard/ complicated  | \*\* |
| nutzlos  / unbequem/hässlich  | useless/ uncomfortable/ ugly  | \*\* |
| Das macht mich fertig!/ das macht mich sehr nervös | It stresses me out | \*\*\* |
| Wie schrecklich! | How dreadful! | \*\*\*\* |
| Ich habe kein Spaß gehabt | I did not enjoy myself | \*\*\*\* |

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| **3. Use clever, higher level connectives to extend & contrast …**  |
| **Tip:** Obviously the more you say/write, the more marks you may get – remember that you can’t lose marks for getting something wrong, but gain them for everything decent .…SO LINK YOUR LANGUAGE TOGETHER! |
| WORD |  MEANING |  STAR FACTOR |
| und/ auch/ aber | and/ also/ but | \* |
| außerdem\* /darüber hinaus\* | furthermore  | \*\*\*\* |
| jedoch\*/ doch\* / aber | however | \*\* |
| obwohl\*\* / trotzdem\*\* … … ist | Although/ despite the fact that (+subjunctive) it is | \*\*\*\* |
| wobei\*\* | whereas | \*\*\*\* |
| während\*\* | whilst | \*\*\*\* |
| selbst wenn\*\*  | even if | \*\*\*\* |
| nicht nur … sondern auch … | not only… but also …  | \*\*\* |
| entweder … oder …  | either … or … |  |
| deshalb\* / deswegen\*  | therefore | \*\*\* |
| weil\*\* / da\* / denn  | because | \* / \*\* |



**Practice makes perfect**

1. From my point of view playing videogames is not only exciting but also it can be educational.

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2. Whilst I like to dance because it improves my health, it seems to me that it is very tiring.

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3. I think that watching TV is a bit boring therefore yesterday I went to the cinema, I had a great time!

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4. I can’t stand to play golf because it annoys me, furthermore they say that it is really difficult.

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5. What I hate about maths is that it stresses me out because it’s hard even if I know that it is important.

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6. Maths can be complicated, whereas Spanish is awesome because it makes me better at communicating.

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| **4. Use time phrases followed by the correct tense …**  |
| **Tip:** A key element of achieving at least a Grade C in your speaking and writing is to use a VARIETY of tenses. Add time markers to improve your phrases and let the examiner know you know which tense you are in!  |
| WORD |  MEANING |  STAR FACTOR |
| PRESENT | normalerweise\*/ im Allgemeinen\* | normally/ generally/ usually  | \*\* |
| manchmal\* / von Zeit zu Zeit\* | Sometimes/ from time to time | \*\*\* |
| am Wochenende | at the weekend  | \*\* |
| nach der Schule | after school  | \*\*\* |
| jetzt\*/ im Moment\* | http://alexshye.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/infinity-time1.jpgnow | \*\* |
| jeden Tag  | Everyday | \*\* |
| immer | All the time | \*\*\* |
| wenn ich so will, … (verb, verb) | When I feel like it | \*\*\*\* |
| jederzeit es möglich wäre, … (verb, verb) | Whenever it’s possible | \*\*\* |
| So schnell wie möglich | As soon as possible | \*\*\* |
| PAST | gestern  | Yesterday  | \*\* |
| letztes Wochenende  | Last weekend | \*\* |
| letzte Woche | Last week  | \*\* |
| als ich jünger war, … (verb,verb) | When I was younger  | \*\*\*\* |
| FUTURE | in der Zukunft\* | In the future | \*\* |
| nächstes Wochenende\* | Next weekend | \*\* |
| nächstes Jahr\* | Next year  | \*\* |
| nächste Woche\* | Next week  | \*\* |
| wenn ich älter bin, … (verb, verb) | When I am older  | \*\*\*\* |
| Wenn ich mir das leisten kann, … (verb, verb) | When I can afford it | \*\*\*\* |

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| **5. Know key verbs in all tenses. Try to use sentences containing more than one tense!** |
| http://s3.thingpic.com/images/z1/BMifhggfoRYnTXSyAh8AdwMy.jpeg**Tip:** Using a variety of tenses correctly improves your range of language.  |
| IMPERFECT | PERFECT | PRESENT | FUTURE | CONDITIONAL |
|  | Ich bin …gegangen/gefahren (I went) | Ich gehe/ fahre (I go) | Ich werde … gehen/fahren (I will go) | Ich würde … gehen/fahren (I would go) |
| Ich hatte (I had) | Ich habe … gehabt (I had) | Ich habe (I have) | Ich werde … haben (I will have) | Ich hätte … (I would have) |
|  | Ich habe …gemacht (I did) | Ich mache (I do) | Ich werde … machen (I will do) | Ich würde … machen(I would do) |
|  | Ich habe … gespielt(I played) | Ich spiele (I play) | Ich werde … spielen (I will play) | Ich würde … spielen(I would play) |
| Ich was (I was) | Ich bin … gewesen( I have been/ was) | Ich bin (I am) | Ich werde … sein (I will be) | Ich würde … sein / wäre (I would be) |
|  | Ich habe/ bin gern …+ pp (I liked) | Ich mag/ Ich … gern (I like) | Ich werde gern+ infin (I will like) | Ich möchte … (I would like) |
| Es war (it was) | Es ist … gewesen(it has been/ was) | C’est (it is) | Ce sera (it will be) | Es wäre (it would be) |
| Es gab (there was/ were) | - | Es gibt (there is/ are) | Es wird … geben (there will be) | Es würde … geben (there would be) |
| **Practice makes perfect** |



1. When I was younger I played tennis all the time, but now I play football.

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2. Last weekend I went to the cinema, I had a great time because the film was really interesting.

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3. When I am older I would like to have a family because it would be marvellous.

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4. Next weekend I will go to the park where I will play football with my friends, it will be awesome.

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| **6. Make more complex phrases with subordinate clauses …**  |
| **Tip:** Relative pronouns or the word ‘where’ can easily replace a noun or connective to make a much more complex phrases … always think to extend your phrase and add it more information!  |
| WORD |  MEANING |  STAR FACTOR |
| **der/ den, die, das, die\*\*** e.g. Ich wohne in Redcar, **die** an der Küste sich befindet. e.g Ich habe einen Bruder, **der** Dave heißt.e.g. Ich habe einen Kuli, **den** ich sehr gern habe. | **which/ who/ that** e.g. I live in Redcar, **which/ that** is on the coaste.g. I went with my friend, **who** is called Davee.g. I have a pen, **which/ that** I really like. | http://www.tbshs.org/images/General/1594-Link.jpg\*\*\*\* |
| **wo\*\***e.g. Es gibt ein Wohnzimmer, **wo** man fernsehen kann. | **where**e.g. there is a lounge **where** you can watch TV | \*\*\*\* |

**Practice makes perfect**

1. Last week I went to the cinema where I saw a film which is called Star Wars.

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2. I have a mobile phone which I use every day to contact my friends.

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3. In my school there is a canteen where you can eat, which is really big.

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| **7. Use ambitious and clever structures: a) Infinitive constructions …**  |
| PHRASE |  MEANING |  STAR FACTOR |
| **um … zu + infinitive**e.g. **um** mein Deutsch **zu** verbessern | In order to + infinitive e.g. in order to improve my German  | \*\*\*\* |
| **ohne … zu + infinitive**e.g**. ohne** den Film **zu** sehen, … ( verb, verb) | Without (+ing)e.g. without seeing the film …  | \*\*\*\* |
| **(an) statt …** + infinitivee.g. Ich spiele Gitarre, (**an)statt** meine Hausaufgaben **zu** machen | Instead of (+ing)e.g. I’m playing the guitar instead of doing my homework | \*\*\*\* |
| **Modal verbs** \*\* + infinitive dürfen, können, mögen, müssen, sollen, wollen | To be allowed to, tob e able to, to like, to have to, to should, to want | \*\*\* |

**Practice makes perfect**

1. In order to earn money, I need to study and work hard.

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2. Instead of eating in the restaurant we went to the park.

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3. Without doing my homework I will fail my exams.

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| **7. Use ambitious and clever structures: b) Different types of negative …**  |
| PHRASE |  MEANING |  STAR FACTOR |
| **nicht**Goes after the verb  | not | \*\* |
| **nie/ niemand/nichts**Goes after the verb  | never/ nobody/ nothing | \*\*\* |
| **weder … noch …**  e.g. Ich esse **weder** Käse **noch** Schinken | neither … nor … e.g. I like neither cheese nor ham | \*\*\* |



**Practice makes perfect**

1. I don’t have a computer therefore I never go online at home.

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2. I neither like to read nor go for a walk.

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3. I no longer drink alcohol therefore I would never go to a bar.

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| **7. Use ambitious and clever structures: c) Comparatives and superlatives …**  |
| PHRASE |  MEANING |  STAR FACTOR |
|  adjective +er als …  | more … than  | \*\*\* |
| nicht so … wie … | not as … as/ less … than  | \*\*\* |
| so … so …  | (just) as … as  | \*\*\* |
| je … je/ desto …  | the more … the more … | \*\*\*\* |
| der, die, das, die adjective+ stee.g. das bequemste Bett | The most + adjectivee.g. the most comfortable bed  | \*\*\*\* |

**Practice makes perfect**

1. I think that my house is bigger than my friend’s house even though my house has less bedrooms.

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2. I love chocolate; the more I eat it the more I love it.

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3. Last year I went to Greece and it was just as amazing as the USA because I saw the most wonderful views.

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| **7. Use ambitious and clever structures: d) Exclamations!!!** |
| PHRASE | http://i.istockimg.com/file_thumbview_approve/12615485/5/stock-photo-12615485-exclamation.jpg MEANING |  STAR FACTOR |
| Wie argerlich!  | What a nuisance!  | \*\*\* |
| Mann, ist das langweilig! | What a drag!  | \*\*\*\* |
| (Wie) schade! | What a pity!  | \*\*\* |
| Wie eckelhaft! | How revolting/ disgusting!  | \*\*\* |
| Was für eine Überraschung! | What a surprise!  | \*\*\*\* |

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| **7. Use ambitious and clever structures: e) Impersonal verbs** |
| PHRASE |  MEANING |  STAR FACTOR |
| Es gelingt mir  | I am successful | \*\*\*\* |
| Es hat mir geschmeckt  | It was tasty | \*\*\* |
| Es fehlt mir (+an) | I miss  | \*\*\*\* |
| Es kommt darauf an, ob … + infin  | It depends, if … | \*\*\*\* |
| Es fällt mir schwer  | I find it difficult  | \*\*\*\* |

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| **7. Use ambitious and clever structures: f) subjunctive phrases & idioms …**  |
| PHRASE |  MEANING |  STAR FACTOR |
| soweit ich mich erinnern kann | As far as I remember | \*\*\*\* |
| soviel ich weiß | As far as I know | \*\*\*\* |
| koste es, was es wolle  | Whatever the cost | \*\*\*\* |
| Egal was wir auch sonst machen | Whatever we do | \*\*\*\* |
| Egal was auch sonst passiert | Whatever happens | \*\*\*\* |
| sei es, wie es will | Be that as it may | \*\*\*\* |

**Practice makes perfect**

1. Whatever happens in the summer, I would like to go to university to study science.

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2. Whatever we do, it isn’t good enough for my mum. She makes me help all the time. What a nuisance!

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3. I can’t stand vegetables – how revolting! Be that as it may I know that they are good for my health.

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| **7. Use ambitious and clever structures: g) Si clauses + if only …**  |
| PHRASE |  MEANING |  STAR FACTOR |
| Wenn Ich … … gewinne, / kann, verb + future | If I win/ can …  | \*\*\*\* |
| Wenn ich … … könnte, verb+ conditional  | https://encrypted-tbn3.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcQ3HIpSLWrWTUaVQQ-nFEWOvQuLQuw2NXKkF5CyFAMbEPkodLzrBwIf I could …  | \*\*\*\* |
| Wenn ich wählen musste, verb + conditional | If I had to (choose) …  | \*\*\*\* |
| Hätte ich nur mehr Geld/ Zeit, verb + conditional | If only I had more money/ time …  | \*\*\*\* |
| Wäre ich reich / verantwortlich, verb + cond | If I were rich/ in charge …  | \*\*\*\* |
| Wäre es möglich, verb + conditional | If it were possible …  | \*\*\*\* |

**Practice makes perfect**

1. If I could, I would change the garden in my house because I think it’s too small.

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2. If only I were in charge, there would be no rules. How exciting!

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| http://images.tutorvista.com/cms/images/80/idiom.jpg**8. Use idioms and idiomatic expressions …**  |
| PHRASE |  MEANING |  STAR FACTOR |
| So ist das Leben! | That’s life! | \*\*\* |
| ich war am Boden zerstört | I was shattered  | \*\*\*\* |
| Es ist stark/ irre ! | It is great! | \*\*\* |
| Es ist Babyleicht/ Kinderleicht ! | It is easy! | \*\*\* |
| Es ist ein Kinderspiel ! | It is a piece of cake! | \*\*\* |
| Es ist knüppelhart! | It is difficult! | \*\*\* |
| Ehrlich gesagt, verb | To tell you the truth | \*\*\*\* |
| Ich war überglücklich! | I was over the moon! | \*\*\*\* |
| Ich werde ganz selig sein! | I’ll be over the moon! | \*\*\*\* |
| Es war so langweilig! | It was so boring! | \*\*\*\* |
| So ein Ärger! | What a nightmare! | \*\*\*\* |
| Was für ein Tag! | What a day! | \*\*\*\* |
| Ich war rot wie eine Tomate | I was as red as a tomato (i.e. sunburnt) | \*\*\*\* |
| Ich war sauer | I was enraged | \*\*\* |
| Ich bin vor Hunger gestorben | I was famished (Lit: I died of hunger) | \*\*\*\* |
| Ich war zu Tode/ zu Tränen gelangweilt! | I was bored to death/ tears! | \*\*\*\* |
| Ich hatte die Schnauze/ Nase voll | I was fed up (Lit: I had the snout/ nose full) | \*\*\*\* |