

Open University of Mauritius

Foundation Level

German [OUfc013]

1. Introduction

In line with its philosophy to democratise access to university education, the Open University of Mauritius offers Foundation Courses. These courses aim at better preparing learners for higher education while allowing them to meet the minimum requirements to undertake undergraduate studies. They have been carefully developed by a team of experts to ensure smooth transition to university. They also motivate learners and give them a greater chance of succeeding. They play a pivotal role in helping learners to revisit lost skills, while giving them the necessary confidence and preparatory experience they need for success at university. However, they are not intended to replace secondary school courses. On successfully completing four foundation courses (8 modules) including English through Open Distance Learning (ODL), they can join degree programmes.

The ODL mode of delivery enables convenient self-study within a flexible framework. This mode of delivery allows learners to learn at their own pace, in their own place and time without disrupting their social, professional and domestic commitments hence, allowing them to earn while learning.

2. Aim

This 80-hr self-study module course is designed to introduce the subject German as a foundation course to those who wish to be acquainted with this language. It has been designed for learners with no prior exposure to the German language and aims to develop both the written and oral skills in German.

Upon completion of Module 1, Learners are expected to read and understand basic sentences in German. Learners are expected to have elementary conversational skills in German and a basic knowledge of the structures of the German Grammar. They should be able to ask basic questions and provide answers to personal details such as where they live, people they know and the things that they have. Module 1 prepares the learners to embark on Module 2.

Module 2 tackles more complex sentence structures and covers other aspects of the grammar.

3. Course Requirements

- A SC/GCE O-level with 3 credits + 1 A-level (applicants should be less than 25 years of age)
- Mature candidates will be considered on their own merit.

4. Course Duration

Minimum	1	year
Maximum	2	years

5. Minimum Credits required for the Awards

Total credits: 8

Each module carries 4 credits, meaning that you have to dedicate 80 hours of study time to it. This includes all learning activities (i.e. reading and comprehending the print material, watching videos, attending tutorials/counselling sessions, writing assignment responses and preparing for the examinations).

6. Assessment

- Assignments 50%
- Examinations 50%
- Overall pass 40%

Assessments will be based on a written examination of 2-hour duration and continuous assessment carrying a maximum of 50% of total marks. Continuous assessment will be based on assignment(s). For a learner to pass a module, an overall total of 40% for combined continuous assessment and written examination components would be required without minimum thresholds within the individual continuous assessment and written examination. Learners may re-sit up to a maximum of two failed modules for the semester of the programme.

7. Course Structure

The syllabus consists of 2 modules of 4 units each.

Each module is designed for approximately 80 hours of study including self-marked assessments. In all, the 2 modules would be equivalent to 160 hours of study time.

8. Module Outline

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Unit 1: Introducing yourself

In this Unit, you will begin with the pronunciation of the alphabet followed by the vowels, diphthongs and consonants. You will bear in mind to use an English-based pronunciation.

At the end of this unit, learners should be able to:

- read and pronounce the vowels, diphthongs and consonants in the German Language

- greet in German formally and informally
- conjugate verbs
- count in German
- say the days of the week, months, seasons and horoscope signs in German.

Unit 2: Simple Conversation

In this unit you will be able to hold conversation using the different cases and pronouns to progressively move from simple to complex sentences. You will be able to talk more about yourself. This unit will be based on accusative, dative and genitive cases.

At the end of this unit, learners should be able to:

- construct sentences using the accusative, dative and genitive cases
- understand the basic differences among the three cases
- get acquainted with the German culture.

Unit 3: Building Complex Sentences

In this unit you will learn how to build complex sentences using specific verb forms. You will also learn to tell the time in German and talk about your daily activities.

At the end of this unit, learners should be able to:

- tell the time in German
- understand modal and separate verbs
- classify words according to their gender
- understand compound and reflexive verbs.

Unit 4: A Daily Routine

In this unit you will learn about food and drinks and going into town. You will be able to ask directions to go about in town as well as going to a restaurant. Concerning grammar, you will learn the future tense, how to use some connective words and how prepositions affect the case of the noun they precede.

At the end of this unit, learners should be able to:

- pronounce some food items
- use prepositions correctly in sentences
- use the future tense in German
- describe a town
- use the correct vocabulary associated with restaurants.

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Unit 5: Talking about the past

In this unit learners will acquire all grammar concepts met in Module 1. Here you will learn how to conjugate verbs in past tenses and build up vocabulary.

Unit content:

- Travelling
- Holidays: visiting places of Interest
- Prepositions governing the four cases
- Declension of adjectives for all cases and all types of determiners, comparatives
- Past tenses: Present perfect, imperfect and past perfect
- Culture: famous German artists and monuments.

Unit 6: Consolidating Complex Sentences

Learners will be exposed to vocabulary concerning Media in Germany and worldwide. You will be taught how to build very complex sentences using subordinating and relative clauses. Also you will learn to use adjectives and special verbs in a more challenging manner.

Unit content:

- Subordinating clauses
- Relative clauses
- Media: most read newspaper, deutsche welle ARD
- Culture: Media in Germany

Unit 7: Current Issues

Here learners will acquire the ability to use the passive voice to write essay type questions about serious issues such as the environment. Learners will be exposed to frequently used idiomatic expressions.

Unit content:

- Passive voice
- Verbs followed by prepositional object followed by dative
- Verbs followed by prepositional object followed by accusative
- Environment
- Idiomatic expressions (I)
- Culture: Politics in Germany

Unit 8: Reporting Speech

Learners will learn how to use indirect speech and to conjugate verbs in the subjunctive and conditional mood. Learners will be exposed to more idiomatic expressions used in everyday conversation in Germany.

Unit content:

- Indirect speech
- Verbs in the subjunctive mood
- Verbs in the conditional mood
- Social Issues
- Idiomatic expressions (II)

How to study?

- plan your study time carefully
- read the unit thoroughly. Prepare a list of questions that you may ask your tutor. Note that the questions should be relevant to the unit studied
- be a critical thinker
- work your activities. It is important for you to attempt all activities as this will give you an idea of concepts that you have not understood
- re-work your corrected activities later
- you are expected to study regularly as there is no 'easy' way to pass the examination.

9. Supporting Materials

Manual	Open University of Mauritius
Audio/Video	This manual is accompanied by an Audio CD which is considered as an integral part of the learning process – it will act as a support to the manual. The audio will help in learning the correct pronunciation through listening and repeating. It has been designed in such a way that the learner feels close to the authors of the manual. The Video CD has been designed to enhance visual learning.
References	