Suggestions of additional work to prepare for A-Level German

One of the big issues for students starting their A-level course is often the basic grammar. It would be really good to go over the basics (have a look at your notes from GCSE):

1. Word order (main clauses and subordinate clauses, position of the verb)
2. Use of the cases, especially accusative and dative
3. Prepositions and their cases
4. Adjective endings (although these are seen as a minor error)
5. Use of capital letters for nouns (again not as much of a priority, since counted as minor error only)

It is often that students know the rules, or can remember them after thinking for a while, but applying them securely is the issue, especially when it comes to their own writing.

It would be a good idea to use the time available to practice writing, using more complex clauses paying attention to word order but also the cases and prepositions. Suggested titles:

1. Warum ich in der Oberstufe Deutsch lernen moechte.
2. Meine Erfahrungen waehrend des Lockdowns (yes, the word „Lockdown“ is used in German).
3. Meine Plaene fuer die Zukunft

In terms of topics, we usually begin with a short unit on German speaking countries before moving to „Familie im Wandel“ – the changing nature of family.

It would be good if you were to get familiar with basic German geography. E.g. where the main cities are located (so that you know Hamburg is in the north, Munich in the south, etc.), the important rivers and where they are on a map, that you can actually identify Germany on a map of Europe, that you know that Bavaria is in the south and Niedersachsen is in the north, etc.. This may sound rather basic but would be very useful and it is embarrassing when even very good students have no idea about simple German geography.

For those who want something a bit more challenging, I would recommend a bit of extra reading. A good place to start would be Max Frisch, *Biedermann und die Brandstifter*, a short play originally written for radio and then adapted for the stage.

You could also try and put together a comparison of the measures taken in Germany (Hessen in particular) and the UK – Germany has entered the lockdown one week sooner than the UK, so their experiences are a bit different. In addition, the pace of coming out of lockdown is quite varied between the two countries.

Here are some websites that could be useful:

Grammar:

<https://www.deutsch-lernen.com/learn-german-online/beginners/exercises_summary.htm>

<https://german.net/exercises/>

<https://deutsch.lingolia.com/en/grammar>

German geography:

<https://www.ducksters.com/geography/country/germany.php>

<https://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/europe/germany/deland.htm>

Familie im Wandel

<https://www.deutschland.de/de/topic/leben/wie-familien-in-deutschland-leben>

<https://www.t-online.de/leben/familie/id_77450798/familie-so-lebt-die-deutsche-duchschnittsfamilie.html>

zu “Biedermann und die Brandstifter”

<https://epdf.pub/biedermann-und-die-brandstifter.html> (free pdf of the text)

<https://www.rpn.ch/lddr_spip/IMG/pdf/Biedermann_und_die_Brandstifter_1.pdf> (gives the characters, themes and interpretations)

<https://www.deutschunddeutlich.de/contentLD/GD/GT97lBiedermann.pdf> (text with the task of choosing the correct phrase or word to give an accurate summary of the play)

[file://henleycol.local/dfs/homestaff/arei/Downloads/Materialmappe%20Biedermann%20und%20die%20Brandstifter(1).pdf](file:///\\henleycol.local\dfs\homestaff\arei\Downloads\Materialmappe%20Biedermann%20und%20die%20Brandstifter(1).pdf) (Materialmappe vom Staatstheater in Graz)