Leben in Deutschland: study guide

The facts you need for the Leben in Deutschland test, in English, with the German words the test uses. Read one topic at a time, then test yourself on it while it is fresh.

How to use it

1
Read one topic. Say its first sentence and the numbers out loud.

2
Learn the German words in bold: the test uses them.

3
Test yourself on that topic straight away, then reread what you got wrong.

Numbers to remember

16	**Bundesländer** (federal states). Berlin, Bremen and Hamburg are city-states.
84 million	inhabitants.
18	legally an adult, and old enough to vote in a Bundestag election.
14	criminal responsibility starts, and a child chooses their own religion.
3	from age 3 until school, a child is entitled to a kindergarten place.
4 years	between Bundestag elections.
5 years	between European Parliament elections.
5%	of second votes a party normally needs to enter the Bundestag.
5 years	maximum prison sentence for Holocaust denial (or a fine).
27	EU member states.
12	gold stars in a circle on the blue EU flag, always twelve.
9	neighbouring countries.
4	occupation zones after 1945, and four sectors in Berlin.
5	eastern states joined the Federal Republic in 1990.
22:00	night-time quiet (**Nachtruhe**) begins.
1 year	of separation (**Trennungsjahr**) normally comes before a divorce.
1,700 years	of Jewish life in today's Germany, documented since 321.

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01 The country

Germany is a democratic, social, federal republic with 16 states.

- Full name: **Bundesrepublik Deutschland**, the Federal Republic of Germany. Capital: Berlin.
- Germany is a democratic and social **Bundesstaat** (federal state). The people choose their representatives, the state gives social protection, and the federation and the states share power. Its form of state is a republic.
- The 16 **Bundesländer**: Baden-Württemberg, Bayern, Berlin, Brandenburg, Bremen, Hamburg, Hessen, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Niedersachsen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Rheinland-Pfalz, Saarland, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein and Thüringen.
- Three levels: **Bund** (federation), **Länder** (states) and **Kommunen** or **Gemeinden** (municipalities, the lowest level). A **Bürgermeister** (mayor) heads a municipality.
- Every state has its own government. The head of most state governments is called **Ministerpräsident**. The states are mainly responsible for school policy.
- The state builds roads and schools, pays child benefit, supports museums and promotes athletes.
- Population: about 84 million.

Symbols

- Flag: **schwarz-rot-gold** (black-red-gold).
- The heraldic animal is the eagle (**Adler**). The coat of arms (**Bundeswappen**) shows the black federal eagle (**Bundesadler**) on gold. A federal eagle also hangs in the Bundestag's plenary chamber.
- The national anthem begins "**Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit**" (unity and justice and freedom).
- The **Bundeswehr** is the German army. The **Bundesverdienstkreuz** (Federal Cross of Merit) honours outstanding achievements.

02 The constitution and your rights

The Grundgesetz protects human dignity first, and the state itself must obey the law.

- The constitution is the **Grundgesetz** (Basic Law). Article 1: "**Die Würde des Menschen ist unantastbar**", human dignity is inviolable.
- **Rechtsstaat**: all residents and the state must obey the laws. Only the state's police may arrest people, and only for a reason.
- **Meinungsfreiheit** (freedom of expression): you may criticise the government and give your opinion, also online. It has limits. Spreading false claims about a person in public, insulting people, and showing Nazi, Hamas or Islamic State symbols are punishable.
- **Pressefreiheit** (freedom of the press) is a fundamental right (**Grundrecht**). It cannot be abolished, whatever the majority in the Bundestag. A democracy has a free press without censorship.
- **Glaubens- und Gewissensfreiheit**: freedom of faith and conscience. You may choose a religion or have none.
- **Versammlungsfreiheit** protects peaceful assembly. A **Petition** is a request or complaint to the authorities. Citizens may send one.
- **Gleichbehandlung** (equal treatment): the state must treat everyone equally. Everyone is protected from being disadvantaged, for example because of a disability or skin colour. **Gleichberechtigung**: men and women have equal rights. Everyone is equal before the law.
- **Freizügigkeit** (freedom of movement): you may choose where you live. The Grundgesetz gives this right to Germans. For other residents it depends on their residence status.
- **Briefgeheimnis** (secrecy of correspondence): opening someone else's letter on purpose breaks it.
- **Asyl** (asylum) is the one fundamental right that applies only to foreigners: protection for people persecuted for political reasons.

Punishments and parties

- A fine (**Geldstrafe**) is a lawful punishment under the Grundgesetz. Torture, corporal punishment and the death penalty are forbidden.
- The Grundgesetz prohibits forced labour (**Zwangsarbeit**), except for people a court has sent to prison.
- A party that wants a dictatorship is **verfassungswidrig** (unconstitutional). A party can be banned if it fights against the constitution. A ban needs a procedure under the constitution.

03 Parliament and government

The Bundestag makes laws and elects the Chancellor. The President represents the country.

Institution	What it does
Bundestag	The elected parliament for the whole of Germany. Passes laws, scrutinises the government, elects the Chancellor. Its president is usually a member of the largest parliamentary group. It sits in Berlin, in the Reichstag building.
Bundeskanzler	Federal Chancellor, head of government. Elected by the Bundestag. Leads the federal cabinet. Works mostly in Berlin, where the **Bundeskanzleramt** (Federal Chancellery) and the Bundestag are.
Bundespräsident	Federal President, head of state. Represents the country. Proposes the Chancellor for election. Formally appoints the ministers, whom the Chancellor chooses and proposes.
Bundesversammlung	Federal Convention: the Bundestag members plus the same number of delegates elected by the state parliaments. Elects the President.
Bundesrat	Made up of representatives of the state governments. Through it the states take part in federal law-making. When a state election changes the majority in the Bundesrat, governing at federal level can become more difficult.
Bundesregierung	Federal government: the Chancellor and the federal ministers (the cabinet).
Bundesverfassungsgericht	Federal Constitutional Court: interprets the Grundgesetz.

Separation of powers

- **Legislative** (law-making): the parliament, Bundestag and Bundesrat. Parliament passes new laws.
- **Exekutive**: the government, ministries, administration, tax offices and police.
- **Judikative** (also **rechtsprechende Gewalt**): the courts and judges.
- These three are the branches of state power. The constitutional bodies include the Bundestag, the Bundesrat, the Federal President and the federal government.
- **Volkssouveränität** (sovereignty of the people): all state authority comes from the people.

Parties

- There are several parties so that the different opinions of citizens are represented.
- **Koalition**: parties working together to form a government. The **Ampelkoalition** (traffic-light coalition) was SPD, FDP and Bündnis 90/Die Grünen.
- **Fraktion**: the members of one party in parliament, a parliamentary group. If members change groups, the government may lose its majority.
- **Opposition**: all members of parliament outside the governing parties. It scrutinises the government.

- Members of parliament elected by the citizens are **Abgeordnete** (representatives).
- CDU = **Christlich Demokratische Union**. CSU = **Christlich-Soziale Union**. SPD = **Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands**. FDP = **Freie Demokratische Partei**.

Who holds office (true on 15 November 2026)

- Chancellor: Friedrich Merz. Federal President (head of state): Frank-Walter Steinmeier, whose second term runs until March 2027.
- The two largest parliamentary groups in the Bundestag: CDU/CSU and AfD (**Alternative für Deutschland**).
- Office holders change with elections, so check them again before your test.

04 Elections and voting

Elections are general, direct, free, equal and secret, and voting is a right.

- The people entitled to vote elect the **Bundestag**, the parliament for Germany, normally every 4 years.
- You may vote in a Bundestag election if you are a German citizen and at least 18.
- **aktives Wahlrecht**: the right to vote. (**passives Wahlrecht**: the right to be elected.)
- Free elections (**freie Wahl**): you decide yourself, without pressure, whether to vote and for whom, and you suffer no disadvantage for your choice. Voting is a right. Elections are also secret (**geheim**) and equal (**gleich**).
- The party that receives the most votes wins the election.
- Regular elections make a change of government possible in line with the will of the majority.
- A **Landtagswahl** is a state parliament election. The European Parliament is elected every 5 years.

Ballot, threshold and voting by post

- You have two votes. The **Erststimme** (first vote) is for a candidate in your constituency. The **Zweitstimme** (second vote) is for a party list. The more second votes a party gets, the more seats it gets.
- The system combines majority voting and proportional representation (**Mehrheits- und Verhältniswahl**).
- A valid ballot paper (**Stimmzettel**) has at most one cross for the first vote and one for the second vote.
- **5%-Hürde**: a party normally needs at least 5% of the second votes to enter the Bundestag. It exists because many small parties make it more difficult to form a government. There are exceptions, for example for parties of national minorities and parties that win enough constituencies.
- Before an election you receive an election notification (**Wahlbenachrichtigung**) from your municipality.
- You may vote by post (**Briefwahl**) in Bundestag and Landtag elections.
- **Wahlhelfer** (election helpers) count the votes after the polls close. Being an election helper is an honorary office, and German citizens must take it on if asked.

05 Courts and objections

Judges judge, the police enforce the law, and you can object to a wrong decision.

- A **Richter** (judge) works at a court and passes judgments (**Rechtsprechung**). Judges belong to the **Judikative**, the judicial power.
- A **Schöffe** is a lay judge, an honorary judge who decides on guilt and punishment together with the professional judges.
- A **Rechtsanwalt** (lawyer) advises people on legal questions and represents them in court.
- Court proceedings are called a **Prozess**. A trial happens when someone has committed a criminal offence and is charged.
- The police make sure the laws are followed.
- From 14, young people are criminally responsible (**strafmündig**). If they break criminal law, they are punished under youth criminal law.
- The **Bundesverfassungsgericht** interprets the Grundgesetz.

Work disputes and objections

- The **Arbeitsgericht** (labour court) handles conflicts at work, for example an unjustified dismissal. If you are dismissed unlawfully, you file a **Kündigungsschutzklage**.
- If a tax assessment (**Steuerbescheid**) is wrong, file an objection (**Einspruch**).
- If a bill from an authority is wrong, file an objection (**Widerspruch**) with that authority.
- If someone at an authority treats you badly, complain to the head of the authority.

06 Work, money and social insurance

In a social market economy, supply and demand guide the economy and the state ensures social balance.

- **Soziale Marktwirtschaft** (social market economy): the economy is guided by supply and demand, but the state ensures social balance.
- Most people in work are employed by a company or a public authority. You have the best chances of a well-paid job if you are well trained.
- **Arbeitgeber** = employer; **Arbeitnehmer** = employee. **Gewerkschaften** (trade unions) represent employees. The **Betriebsrat** (works council) helps employees with problems with their employer.
- To end a job you must keep to the notice period (**Kündigungsfrist**).

Social insurance

- **Sozialversicherung** (social insurance) covers health, long-term care, pension, unemployment and accident insurance. Health insurance (**Krankenversicherung**) and long-term care insurance (**Pflegeversicherung**) are part of it.

- Employers and employees pay for it through contributions (**Sozialabgaben**). Employers alone pay for accident insurance. In a permanent job, your contributions come off your pay automatically.
- Life, car, building and liability insurance are private insurance.
- An employee pays wage tax and social contributions from their salary. Turnover tax (**Umsatzsteuer**, VAT) is paid through prices.

Parents and fairness at work

- **Mutterschutz** (maternity protection): legal protection shortly before and after the birth. Pregnant women are strongly protected against dismissal.
- **Elterngeld** (parental allowance): apply for it at the parental allowance office (**Elterngeldstelle**).
- Refusing someone a job only because she is a mother, he uses a wheelchair or he has dark skin is discrimination.

07 School, learning and taking part

School is compulsory, learning goes on for life, and citizens can get involved.

- The state supervises the school system because the Grundgesetz makes this its task.
- Children must go to school (**Schulpflicht**). At school a child has a duty to attend.
- To study at a university you normally need the **Abitur**. Adults can take the Abitur later at an evening school (**Abendgymnasium**).
- The **Volkshochschule** (adult education centre) offers further education (**Weiterbildung**) for everyone. Adults must keep learning after their training, because jobs change quickly.
- The **BIZ** (careers information centre of the Federal Employment Agency) helps you find an apprenticeship (**Ausbildung**).

Taking part

- **Ehrenamt**: volunteering, unpaid work in clubs and associations in your free time.
- **Bürgerinitiative** (citizens' initiative): join or start one, for example to keep a bus route.
- A street demonstration must be registered (**anmelden**) beforehand.

08 1933 to 1945: dictatorship and war

The National Socialists ruled from 1933 to 1945. The war in Europe ended on 8 May 1945.

1933	Hitler becomes Reich Chancellor (**Reichskanzler**). The National Socialists set up a dictatorship.

1933–1945	Nazi rule, the "Third Reich". It was a dictatorship, with elections without free choice, banned parties, press censorship, state racism and the persecution of Jews. The Holocaust was the murder of the European Jews.
9 November 1938	Pogroms. National Socialists and their supporters destroy synagogues and Jewish shops.
1939–1945	The Second World War (**Zweiter Weltkrieg**).
20 July 1944	Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg's attempt to kill Hitler.
8 May 1945	The war in Europe ends with Germany's unconditional surrender (**Kapitulation**). In Asia it ended later in 1945.

09 1945 to 1990: divided and reunited

Four zones, two states from 1949, a wall from 1961 to 1989, one Germany again on 3 October 1990.

After 1945	Germany is divided into four occupation zones (**Besatzungszonen**) of the USA, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and France. Berlin is divided into four sectors.
1948–1949	The Soviet Union blocks all land routes to West Berlin. The Western Allies supply the city by air, the **Luftbrücke** (airlift).
1949	The Federal Republic is founded in the west and the DDR in the Soviet zone. The Grundgesetz dates from 1949. Konrad Adenauer becomes the first Federal Chancellor.
1950s	The West German **Wirtschaftswunder** (economic miracle).
17 June 1953	Strikes and a popular uprising across the DDR. West Germany remembered it with a public holiday.
1961	The DDR builds the Wall (**Mauer**) in Berlin. Berlin is divided by it until 1989.
1970	Willy Brandt kneels at the memorial to the Warsaw Ghetto and asks Poland and the Polish Jews for forgiveness. Brandt stands for the Eastern Treaties (**Ostverträge**).
1989	Monday demonstrations in the DDR: "**Wir sind das Volk**" (we are the people). **Die Wende**: the DDR changes from a dictatorship to a democracy. On 9 November the Wall opens.
3 October 1990	Reunification (**Wiedervereinigung**). The five eastern states join the Federal Republic. The day is now the **Tag der Deutschen Einheit** (Day of German Unity). Germany has had its present borders since 1990.

The DDR

- DDR = **Deutsche Demokratische Republik** (German Democratic Republic, GDR), 1949 to 1990. Despite its name it was a dictatorship.

- Its economy was a planned economy (**Planwirtschaft**). The **Stasi** was the Ministry for State Security, its secret service.
- In the Cold War it belonged to the **Warschauer Pakt** (Warsaw Pact), the Soviet-led military alliance. The Iron Curtain sealed the Warsaw Pact off from the West.
- Its flag (from 1959) was black-red-gold with a hammer, a compass and a wreath of grain. The same hammer, compass and wreath of grain form its coat of arms.
- The five states that were DDR territory: Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt and Thüringen.
- Helmut Kohl is called the Chancellor of German Unity (**Kanzler der Einheit**).

Reading the occupation map

- British zone: north-west. Soviet zone: east. American zone: south. French zone: south-west. Berlin: four sectors on its own.

10 Germany in Europe

Germany helped found the EU, whose central aims are peace and security.

- EU = **Europäische Union**, today 27 member states. Germany is a founding member (the name EU dates from 1993).
- The Treaties of Rome (**Römische Verträge**), signed in 1957, founded the European Economic Community (**EWG**). Their 50th anniversary was in 2007.
- European integration means European states joining together in the EU. Peace and security are central aims. One example is Helmut Kohl and François Mitterrand remembering the dead of both world wars together at Verdun.
- When the DDR joined the Federal Republic in 1990, the new eastern states also became part of the European Community, today's EU.
- The European Parliament is elected every 5 years. Voters elect its members. It works in Straßburg (Strasbourg), Luxemburg (Luxembourg) and Brüssel (Brussels).
- The EU flag: 12 gold stars in a circle on blue.
- Schengen: Germans can travel to many European countries without passport checks. Temporary border checks are still possible.
- Euro notes and coins have been used in Germany since 2002.

Neighbours

- Germany's nine neighbours: **Dänemark** (Denmark), **Polen** (Poland), **Tschechien** (Czech Republic), **Österreich** (Austria), **Schweiz** (Switzerland), **Frankreich** (France), **Luxemburg** (Luxembourg), **Belgien** (Belgium) and **Niederlande** (Netherlands).
- Austria has a large German-speaking population.

11 Jewish life, remembrance and responsibility

Jewish life in Germany goes back about 1,700 years. Germany's special responsibility for Israel comes from the Nazi crimes.

- The first record of a Jewish community in what is now Germany is from about 1,700 years ago (321).
- Berlin and Munich have the largest Jewish communities. The Jewish house of prayer is the **Synagoge** (synagogue).
- The roughly 40 Jewish **Makkabi** sports clubs are open to all people.
- **Antisemitismus**: hostility towards Jews. Denying the Holocaust is antisemitic and can be punished with up to five years in prison or a fine.
- Publicly calling for Israel's destruction is prohibited. Criticising Israeli policy, discussing it or hanging an Israeli flag is allowed.
- Israel was founded on the basis of a United Nations resolution. Resolution 181 of 1947 recommended dividing the land into a Jewish and an Arab state. Israel declared independence in 1948. Germany's special responsibility for Israel comes from the National Socialist crimes against Jews.
- **Stolpersteine** (stumbling stones): small brass plaques in the pavement that remember the victims of National Socialism.
- 27 January is the day of remembrance for the victims of National Socialism. Auschwitz was liberated on that day in 1945.

12 Religion, customs and migration

State and religion are separate, everyone may believe what they want, and Christianity shaped the culture.

- The state and religious communities are separate from each other.
- Religious tolerance: everyone can believe what they want.
- Christianity shaped European and German culture.
- You state your church membership on your tax return because church tax (**Kirchensteuer**) is linked to income tax and wage tax.

Festivals and customs

Occasion	Custom
Rosenmontag (carnival)	Colourful costumes and masks.
Ostern (Easter)	Painting eggs.
Pfingsten (Pentecost)	A Christian holiday.
Advent	The last four weeks before Christmas.

Occasion	Custom
Weihnachten (Christmas)	Decorating a fir tree.

Migration

- **Gastarbeiter** (guest workers): workers West Germany recruited abroad in the 1950s and 1960s. The first came from Italy.
- Most migrants to Germany came from Turkey.
- Migrants in the DDR came mainly from Vietnam, Poland and Mozambique.

13 Family and personal freedom

Adults choose how they live. Parents raise their children, and children are protected.

- At 18 you are legally an adult (**volljährig**). Parents must respect the decision of their adult child, for example about a partner.
- Adults may live together without marrying, also two women or two men. Children under 14 are specially protected. For example, it is forbidden for a 25-year-old to live as a couple with a 13-year-old.
- You may be married to only one person at a time. You may marry again after a divorce or a partner's death.
- Divorce (**Scheidung**): usually after a year of separation (**Trennungsjahr**), in which the spouses live their own lives. You need a lawyer for it.

Children

- Bringing up children is above all the parents' task. The parents or legal guardians decide whether a child goes to kindergarten.
- From age 3 until school, a child is entitled to a kindergarten place. Younger children have childcare rights too, under different rules.
- Hitting a child is punishable.
- The **Jugendamt** (youth welfare office) can take a child who is beaten or goes hungry out of the family.
- Religion: until the child is 14, parents can decide whether it takes part in religion lessons at school. From 12 a child cannot be brought up in a different faith against its will. From 14 it chooses its religion itself.

14 Offices and everyday life

Know which office to go to, and a few rules of daily life.

Situation	Where to go, what to do
You move house	Register at the **Einwohnermeldeamt** (residents' registration office, often the Bürgeramt).
You want to get married	Go first to the **Standesamt** (registry office).
Problems bringing up your children	Get help from the **Jugendamt** (youth welfare office).
Municipal public order	The **Ordnungsamt** (public order office) is part of the municipal administration.
You want to open a restaurant	You need a restaurant licence (**Gaststättenerlaubnis**) from the competent authority.
A new television is broken	Complain to the seller (**reklamieren**).

Daily life

- **Hausordnung** (house rules): the rules all residents of a building must follow.
- **Nachtruhe** (night-time quiet) begins at 22:00.
- The theory part of the driving test can be taken in more than ten languages, possibly your own.

A–Z Glossary

Politics, rights and history

Abgeordnete	members of parliament
Abstimmung	vote, voting decision
Adler; Bundesadler	eagle; federal eagle
Amt	office, public post
Asyl	asylum
Behörde	public authority
Besatzungszone	occupation zone
Briefwahl	postal voting
Bund	federation, federal level
Bundeskanzler	Federal Chancellor
Bundesland; Länder	federal state; states
Bundespräsident	Federal President
Bundesrat	Federal Council
Bundestag	federal parliament
Bundesverfassungsgericht	Federal Constitutional Court
Bundesversammlung	Federal Convention
Bundeswehr	armed forces
Bürger; Staatsbürger	citizen; national
Bürgermeister	mayor
Diktatur	dictatorship
Einheit	unity
Flagge	flag
Fraktion	parliamentary group
Freizügigkeit	freedom of movement
Gedenktag	day of remembrance
Gemeinde; Kommune	municipality
Gesetz	law, statute
Gesetzgebung	law-making
Gewalt; Staatsgewalt	power; state authority
Gewaltenteilung	separation of powers
Gewissen	conscience
Gleichbehandlung	equal treatment
Gleichberechtigung	equal rights
Grundgesetz	Basic Law, the constitution
Grundrecht	fundamental right
Hürde	threshold, barrier
Kapitulation	surrender
Koalition	governing alliance
Luftbrücke	airlift
Mauer	wall
Mehrheit	majority
Meinungsfreiheit	freedom of expression
Menschenwürde	human dignity
Nationalhymne	national anthem
Opfer	victim
Opposition	members of parliament outside the government
Parlament	parliament
Partei	political party
Planwirtschaft	planned economy
Pressefreiheit	freedom of the press
Rechtsstaat	state under the rule of law
Regierung	government
Regierungschef	head of government
Religionsfreiheit	freedom of religion
Sitz	seat
Sozialstaat	welfare state
Staatsoberhaupt	head of state
Stimme	vote; also voice
Stimmzettel	ballot paper
Verfassung	constitution
verfassungswidrig	unconstitutional
Versammlung	assembly, gathering
Volk	people
Volkssouveränität	sovereignty of the people

Wahl; wählen	election; to elect, to vote
wahlberechtigt	entitled to vote
Wahlrecht; aktives / passives	right to vote; to vote / to be elected
Wappen	coat of arms
Weltkrieg	world war
Wende	turning point
Wiedervereinigung	reunification
Wirtschaftswunder	economic miracle

Daily life

Abitur	university entrance qualification
anmelden	to register, to notify
Antrag; beantragen	application; to apply for
Arbeitgeber	employer
Arbeitnehmer	employee
Arbeitsgericht	labour court
Ausbildung	vocational training, apprenticeship
Betriebsrat	works council
Brauch	custom, tradition
Bürgerinitiative	citizens' initiative
ehrenamtlich	voluntary, unpaid
Einspruch; Widerspruch	objection; administrative objection
Einwohnermeldeamt	residents' registration office
Elterngeld	parental allowance
Erziehung	upbringing
Erziehungsberechtigte	parents, legal guardians
Feiertag	public holiday
Freiheitsstrafe	prison sentence
Gastarbeiter	recruited foreign worker
Geldstrafe	fine
Gericht	court
Gewerkschaft	trade union
Hausordnung	house rules
Jugendamt	youth welfare office
Krankenversicherung	health insurance
Kündigung	dismissal, notice
Kündigungsfrist	notice period
Kündigungsschutzklage	action against dismissal
Lebensversicherung	life insurance
Mutterschutz	maternity protection
Nachtruhe	night-time quiet
Ordnungsamt	public order office
Pflegeversicherung	long-term care insurance
Prozess	trial, court case
Rechtsanwalt	lawyer
reklamieren	to complain about a defect
Richter; Schöffe	judge; lay judge
Scheidung	divorce
Schulpflicht	compulsory schooling
Sozialabgaben	social security contributions
Standesamt	registry office
Steuer; Steuerbescheid	tax; tax assessment
strafmündig	criminally responsible
Straftat	criminal offence
Synagoge	synagogue
Trennungsjahr	year of separation
Urteil	judgment, verdict
Versicherung	insurance
Volkshochschule	adult education centre
volljährig	legally an adult
Weiterbildung	further education

Words in the questions

wer; wen	who; whom
was; welche	what; which

wann; seit wann	when; since when	**heute; zurzeit**	today; currently
wo; wohin	where; where to	**früher; damals**	formerly; at that time
warum; weil	why; because	**gehört zu**	belongs to
wie viele; wie lange	how many; how long	**bedeutet; heißt; genannt**	means; is called; called
nicht; kein / keine	not; no, not a	**ernennt**	appoints
nur; alle	only; all	**schlägt … vor**	proposes
darf; muss; kann	may; must; can	**leitet; regiert**	leads; governs
erlaubt; verboten	allowed; forbidden	**beschließt**	decides, passes (a law)
frei; gleich; geheim	free; equal; secret	**vertritt; repräsentiert**	represents
direkt; unmittelbar	directly	**kontrolliert**	scrutinises, monitors

Your Bundesland

The test also asks 3 questions about your Bundesland, from the 10 in the catalogue for it. They are not in this guide: practise them in the trainer.

Sources

Question catalogue “Leben in Deutschland”, BAMF (Stand 07.05.2025): https://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Integration/Einbuergerung/gesamtfragenkatalog-lebenindeutschland.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=23

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