

languages ICT

Using ICT effectively at Key Stage 4

Teaching about personal details in German

Useful site: www.juma.de (researched March 2008)

Juma.de is the archive site of the well-known Juma magazine which folded in 2006. It contains the complete text of the magazines from 2000–2006.

The articles in Juma are those of a typical teenage magazine with pedagogic intent. Despite the fact that the magazine went out of production in 2006, the validity of some of the articles remains intact. The following are some of the articles to be found in the final issue of the magazine from January 2006.

- Umwelt und Naturschutz: Berlin's Green places.
- Das richtige Zubehör: equipping oneself for teen sports.
- Schule : craft lessons in school.
- Weltjugendtag: 800,000 young people celebrate their catholic belief in Köln.
- Internet: surfing tips for the Football World Cup 2006.
- Musik : Germany's first Pop Academy.
- Natur :in the Eifel National Park.
- Neues aus der Kultur: details of 6 people from the current music scene.
- Questionnaire: about unrequited love.

But perhaps the most useful resource is the series 'Wir sind ...' which follows a girl and boy, Lena and Alex, from their 13th to their 17th year. By reading the texts chronologically students can build up a real picture of teenage life, see how to express opinions, learn the kinds of activities they get up to, the hopes they have for the future, and whether they actually do achieve any of their dreams.

The text of articles written after 2002 can be downloaded as a pdf file.

For teaching and learning

The great number of articles and themes over the years of publication make this a resource for many topics at GCSE and beyond.

Activities can be prepared with text taken from the site and exploited in electronic worksheets or interactive exercises. Students can work on the interactive whiteboard with a teacher exploring and extending vocabulary and grammar arising from the articles.

The summary and the text can be used to create activities and exercises to help students adapt and adopt the language for their own use.

The site itself is ideal for guided research whether individually or in groups and much creative work could ensue.

The suggestions outlined below all refer to the development of Lena and Alex over the years as detailed in Wir sind.

The Wir sind series begins with the second magazine for 2002 in an article entitled Wir sind 13.

It then continues in the 1st issue of following years up to 2005. All these can be found by clicking on Archiv.

The final instalment Wir sind 17 can be found by clicking on Juma neu and then Juma Inhalt.

From 2003 to 2006 Wir sind is placed under the heading Jugend.

Each article contains a summary of personal details. These are simple and straightforward enough to be easily read and understood. They can be used for building vocabulary, or as a start point for revising grammar.

What is interesting are the changes over the years and students might work independently or in groups to track the development of one character, researching by topic or theme such as likes and dislikes, routines, and free time activities. The information gathered could be used for extended writing, or for role play work.

The longer texts are quite accessible because, more often than not, simple sentences are used, without a multiplicity of subordinate clauses to confuse.

All articles written after 2002 can be printed out as pdf files so individual reading could follow whole class reading of the same text on screen.

Why this topic was chosen

This series of 'Steckbriefe' offers a 5 year continuous monologue from two teenagers. It will go far in helping students to extend their language when talking or writing about themselves, their ideas, hopes, and attitudes.

About the 'Using ICT effectively at Key Stage 4' series

www.languages-ict.org.uk/technology/ks4.htm

This series of advice sheets deals with the effective use of ICT at Key Stage 4 for teachers of modern languages. The series focuses on online resources characterised by their richness and potential for stimulating teaching and learning languages, particularly French, German and Spanish, at Key Stage 4. It is hoped that the suggestions and ideas put forward in the sheets will be of use to teachers of other languages.

The sites were chosen as useful resources for teachers dealing with topic areas which, for various reasons, may be classed as 'hard to teach' at Key Stage 4.

The sites chosen are not presented in any way by CILT, ALL or Becta as unique or comprehensive and no responsibility is taken for any changes which may take place subsequent to this research.

The sheets were researched and written by a small team of consultants working on behalf of CILT, the National Centre for Languages.

All advice and references in the series refer to content as found during the first quarter of 2008.

The project was funded by Becta during the academic year 2007–08.