



IS LONDON THE CULTURE CAPITAL OF GERMANY?

with Dr Benedict Schofield, German Studies.

Watch the video at www.kcl.ac.uk/3MinT

LINKED SUBJECTS:

Drama & Theatre Studies, English Literature, German and History

DISCUSSION POINTS FOR... GERMAN

1. Why do you think that so many German figures came to London, or wrote about London? What might that tell us about German history and the development German identity and culture?
2. Why does Brecht write the *Kriegsfiabel (War Primer)*? What does this tell us about German culture under National Socialism?
3. The presence of Germans in London is also a story of exile. For what reasons did Germans seek exile from Germany in the 20th century?



COMING SOON...

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DOES THE UK NEED A WRITTEN CONSTITUTION?
SPIT! WHAT YOUR SALIVA SAYS ABOUT YOU.

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DISCUSSION POINTS FOR... HISTORY

1. Why do you think Germans came to London, or wrote about London, in the 19th century? What might that tell us about German history, identity, and the country's path to nationhood in the years 1848-1900?
2. In the poem in the video, Brecht focuses on the British experience of the Blitz. What is usual about this, and what might it tell us about Brecht's politics?
3. The presence of Germans in London is also a story of exile. For what reasons did Germans seek exile from Germany in the 20th century?



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DISCUSSION POINTS FOR... ENGLISH LITERATURE

1. Why might so many German authors have been interested in the work of Dickens? Can you think of other British authors that have had such a global impact on literature?
2. In the video, we learn about Brecht's poetry, which fought against National Socialism. Can you think of other examples of anti-war poetry or prose by British authors?
3. Brecht used poetry to put forward a political message. Is poetry an effective way of doing this? How is it effective, and how is it not?



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DISCUSSION POINTS FOR... DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

1. In the video, we learn about Brecht's poetry, which fought against National Socialism. Can you think of other examples from Brecht's dramatic works where he fights against totalitarian regimes?
2. Brecht often uses London, rather than Berlin, as a backdrop to his works, as in *The Threepenny Opera*. Why would he do this? How does this relate to his theory of the "alienation effect"?
3. How "German" is Brecht's work? When you discuss him in class, do you think of him as a specifically German dramatist or theorist? If not, why not?



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