

**NOVICE *Pass auf!* Study List for 2026**  
**for Houstonfest, Sprachfest, and Winterfest**  
**published in September 2025 by State *Pass auf!* coordinator Rustin Buck**

This is the first version of what I intend to be an annual publication to let students entered in Novice *Pass auf!* know exactly which material to study this year. The information covered in *Pass auf!* is vast and overwhelming; this list will allow Novice contestants to focus on things that will actually be asked in the matches they will play.

I stress that this document applies only to the **Novice level**, not the Varsity level. Varsity contestants should refer to the complete study guide published in September 2025. I also stress that this document applies only to the **2026 Novice contest**. As I write this, I have just finished putting together the question sets that will be used at the 2026 regional Novice tournaments (except for the topic Current Events & Special Topic), and this list reflects the exact material that is covered, plus a light sprinkling of decoys. I will publish new and completely different lists in 2027 and every year after that, reflecting exactly what is covered in the question sets for those years.

It should be pretty obvious that the questions below are not the actual questions in the games. Rather, they are meant to guide you as to which information to look up on each topic.

### Arts & Letters

- Who were the “**big 2**” of **German baroque** music?
- What are some of **Beethoven**’s most famous compositions, including his symphonies and their nicknames?
- What are the most famous **operas composed by Mozart**?
- Which **cities** were important in **Goethe**’s life?
- What are some of Friedrich **Schiller**’s most famous works?
- What are Friedrich **Nietzsche**’s main ideas and works?
- What was important about these people: Sigmund **Freud**, Johannes **Gutenberg**, Heinrich **Hertz**, Robert **Koch**, Carl **Orff**, Sylvia **Plath**, Charles M. **Schulz**, Johann **Strauss Sr.**, Kurt **Vonnegut**?
- What did these **actors/directors** accomplish: Fritz **Lang**, Luise **Rainer**, Arnold **Schwarzenegger** (including his political career), Christoph **Waltz**?
- **Fairy tales**: What is the plot of “**Die Bremer Stadtmusikanten**”? What are the German titles of “**Cinderella**” and “**Snow White**”?
- In which 3 cities was the **Bauhaus** located?
- What is the **Jugendstil** style of architecture?

### Current Events & Special Topic

- You’re on your own for this category. 😊 Keep up with the news and research this year’s special topic, **Expressionism in the arts of the German-speaking world**.

### Erkunde (asked and answered in German)

- Don’t forget the vocabulary list of geography terms on p. 2 of the main study guide.
- Know the **capitals** of the 4 German-speaking countries (D-A-CH-FL) and of the *Bundesländer* of D-A (excluding the city-states Berlin, Bremen, Hamburg, and Vienna)! I won’t reveal which ones will be asked this year.
- Which **countries border D**?
- What are the **2 most populous Bundesländer** of D-A and cantons of CH?
- What are the **4 Großlandschaften** of D?
- What and where is the **Elbphilharmonie**?
- What and where is the **Striezelmarkt**?
- What are the **main rivers** of Bremen, Dresden, and München?
- Which *Bundesländer*/cantons have the **north-/south-/east-/westernmost points of D-CH**?
- What is the **capital of Südtirol**, the German-speaking province of Italy?
- What is the **largest island** of D?
- What is the **highest mountain of the Harz** mountain range?

- Where is the **headquarters of Lufthansa**?
- Where is the **largest stadium** in D?
- What are the **main cities** of Hessen, Niedersachsen, and Rheinland-Pfalz?
- What are the **main sights** of Berlin, Bremerhaven, Dresden, and Vienna?
- Which **Bundesland surrounds Berlin? Vienna**?
- What are some cities of D that start with the unusual letters **J, Q, and X**?
- In which *Bundesland* is the **geographic center of D**?
- In which **cities** were **Beethoven and Brecht** born?

### History & Politics

- Who are the **current heads of state and government** of D-A-CH-FL?
- What are the **populations of D-A-CH** to the nearest million?
- What are the 2 houses of the **German parliament**, and what is the maximum number of years between national elections?
- **Liechtenstein**: Which **currency** does FL use, who was the **first prince to live there full-time**?
- What is the **AfD**?
- What is the German title of the **leader of a German Bundesland** (like a governor in the US)?
- What is the **official residence of the president of D**?
- What is the **European Union**, and are D-A-CH-FL in it?
- What was the **Thirty Years' War**?
- Who was **August the Strong**?
- Who were the **3 emperors of D** 1871-1918, and which dynastic family did they belong to?
- Who was Prince Regent **Luitpold** of Bavaria?
- What was the **Zimmermann Telegram**?
- Who was **Karl Renner**?
- What were the **start and end dates of World War II** (in Europe)?
- **German-American history**: What is important about Baron von **Steuben**? the **Brooklyn Bridge**?
- **German-Texan history**: What is important about **Indianola/Carlshafen**? Who were the **first 2 commissioners of the Adelsverein**?
- What is the status of **nuclear power generation in D**?
- What is the historical significance of **Aachen Cathedral**?

### Odds & Ends

- See pp. 3-4 of the main study guide for the list of **proverbs** that can come up in the Novice contest. I'm not going to reveal which ones will be asked this year.
- Who is Jannik **Sinner**, and what has he won so far?
- Which **Formula One** champion drivers have come from D-A?
- **Fußball**: What are the German names of the positions? How many teams are in the *Bundesliga* each season?
- How do the **flags and coats of arms** of Baden-Württemberg, Nordrhein-Westfalen, and Sachsen look?
- What are the German names of these **holidays**: Easter, Christmas, New Year's Eve?
- What is a **Polterabend**?
- When is the Munich **Oktoberfest** (maybe not as obvious as you think)?
- **Food**: What are *Rösti*, *Sauerbraten*, *Spargelzeit*, *Wiener Schnitzel*?
- **Vocabulary**: What are the German words for freeway, noon, midnight, the 4 seasons, the 4 suits of playing cards (clubs, diamonds, hearts, spades)?
- What was the very **first UNESCO World Heritage Site declared in D**?
- What does the abbreviation **LKW** stand for in German, what does it mean in English?
- What are these **Zodiac signs** in German: Cancer, Leo, Taurus?
- What is the **most-read newspaper** (highest circulation) in D?
- Which cities in D have these **1-letter license-plate codes**: B, D, F, K, L, N, S?
- Where is the **European Astronaut Center**?