

GCE German – 6GN04

Research-based Essay Guide

Exemplar 1 – Geografisches Gebiet

Summer 2014

PREFACE

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Please note that:

- Some items may have been removed, such as references to individuals and places. Please refer to the commentaries by the Principal Examiner for specific references.
- In order to maintain the authenticity of the writing, some errors and mistakes have been reproduced from the original candidate's response.

Question 3(a) - Geografisches Gebiet

Welche Traditionen gibt es in der Region/ Stadt, die Sie studiert haben? Inwiefern sind diese Traditionen wichtig für die Region/ Stadt?

In Berlin gibt eine riesige Menge Traditionen, die sehr wichtig für die Stadt sind. Traditionen wie der Berlinale, der Carneval der Kulturen, das Deutsche Jazz Fest und der 'Berlin Festival of Light' sind nur ein paar von vielen jährlichen Traditionen oder Festen, die man besuchen kann.

Zuerst gibt es 'der Berlinale', den größten Filmfest des Welts. Es dauert zwei bis Wochen, und zieht bis zu 500,000 Besucher jedes Jahr, die Filme von 20 verschiedenen Sprachen sehen können. Seit 1961 hat diese Tradition erwachsen, in 2001 gab es nur 300,000 Besucher für die Berlinale und wegen der Regierung, die 16 Millionen Euro für diese Fest ausgeben, gab es zwischen 2012 und 2013 ein 2.46 Prozent Anstieg in Beruf in Berlin. Touristen bleiben jetzt in Berlin durchschnittlich pro Jahr 2.3 Millionen Nächte, und diese Tradition ist ein wichtiger Grund für diese Figur. Sonst gibt es noch viele Menschen, die arbeitslos sind, aber Tourismus wird jetzt als wichtiger Sektor der Wirtschaft Berlins bekannt, wegen Traditionen wie 'Der Berlinale'.

Noch eine Tradition ist der beliebte "Berlin Licht Fest" oder 'Festival of Light'. Das Brandenburger Tor, der Fernsehturm und der Reichstag sind nur 3 Prachtbauten, die während dieser Tradition illuminiert werden. Obwohl ihr Einfluss auf die Wirtschaft Berlins viel kleiner ist, einheimische und Touristen können Berlins diese Fest genießen und es kostet nichts. Es wird seit den 90er Jahren angefangen, und stellt Berlin vor als eine Hauptstadt, die man besuchen sollte.

Zuletzt gibt es den 'Carneval der Kulturen', der in Kreuzberg gefeiert wird. Es fängt im Juli an, und dauert 3 Tage. Es ist sehr wichtig für Berlin, weil in der Vergangenheit es viel Gewalt zwischen Leuten mit verschiedenen Hintergründen gab, und diese Fest zeigt Leuten, dass man miteinander leben kann, egal ob man Afrikaner oder Deutsch ist, oder schwarze/weiße Haut hat. Leute von so weit weg wie Südamerika kommen um zu tanzen, trinken und verschiedene Lebensmittel zu essen, und es bringt jährlich viel Geld für Hotels, und Flughäfen.

(274 words)

Commentary on Exemplar - Geografisches Gebiet

This is clearly an excellent response, and justifies the fact that it has been placed in high mark bands for each of the three criteria. However, it is noted that the essay exceeds the word limit significantly.

The Response, Reading and Understanding (RRU) criterion scored at the upper end of the top mark band (25-30). It is correct to state that Berlin has many traditions and the city of Berlin is a wholly acceptable geographical area which is clearly in the German speaking context. The question has two parts: identification of traditions in the town or area, and also their importance to the town or area. In each of the three areas of discussion, there is treatment to a greater or lesser extent of both parts.

The first paragraph clearly identifies the traditions to be discussed. Mention is made of *der Berlinale* which referenced sources as to length, popularity and the number of films screened. Though footnotes are included, they are not a prerequisite and the marks can be obtained with or without them. Detailed information is given about the level of subsidy over years and the number of stays made as a direct result, plus some sense of how this has varied over the years since 1961. There is reference to the positive effect of this festival on employment; hence the importance of the festival is being evaluated at the same time.

Specific information is offered about the Berlin Festival of Light, with reference to particular Berlin landmarks which are illuminated. There is a more nuanced approach regarding tourism, conceding that while the direct impact on tourism is not great, it nevertheless contributes to Berlin's status as a capital city worth visiting, so this paragraph deals subtly with the second part of the question.

Der Carneval der Kulturen is identified as an important multicultural event which brings all nationalities and cultures together and which, through tourism and participants, provides business for hotels and airports. This time the great cultural and economic importance is mentioned with details of the cultures which meet, though the information on economic impact is more general and could have been improved.

A response attaining an excellent mark for Organisation and Development (O/D) might link the examples better, rather than dealing with them as three quite distinct entities and while there is a clear introduction, there could be a conclusion to draw all of the analysis together. This response scored in the mark band 7-8. The piece is packed with information and the candidates were hard pressed not to exceed the 270 word limit. It is to be noted that if the word limit is exceeded, and if there is a conclusion which wholly or partially lies beyond the word count, the excess words cannot be

considered so that a missing conclusion will affect the O/D mark. That did not apply in this case.

Quality of Language (QoL) is appropriate to the task and scores in the second mark band from the top (5 marks). The response is not faultless, for instance '*...sind nur ein paar von viele Jahrliche Traditionen...*' and '*die grosste Film Fest des Welts*' but there is sufficient clarity and range of lexis to achieve a good score. Some endings could be more accurate and there could be more range, but the QoL is fit for purpose and there is some idiomatic use, such as with *seit*. Also, there are subordinate clauses, decent syntax and use of subordination.