

Additional Senior Examining Team responses to delegate queries at 17BAL05 (16th January) A Level German Mocks Marking

Paper 1

Section B

Script D:

On (b) delegates accepted the fact that the inclusion of 'Es ist wahrsohenleich,' is the reason that the student doesn't achieve the mark but then were concerned that (e) does achieve despite ambiguity. Some felt that (e) should get the marks as the response could be a present tense or looking forward conditional - which was considered ambiguous by one or two delegates.

Delegates accepted the first part of the sentence as being preamble but wondered about 'Kultur' in the second part being accepted as the text talks about foreigners (Aussiedler) finding good jobs and there being hardly any problems.

For (b) delegates felt that the word 'überdurchschnittlich' (above average) needed to be included in the answer in some form. The answer in the mark scheme does not do so.

Principal Examiner response:

7(e) This is not ambiguous. The first sentence was seen as preamble and the second is in the same tense just modal word and in MS so mark awarded. The mark scheme accepts as an answer that Aussiedler are well integrated OR they found work. So although Kultur is not in MS it communicates the same message (you can integrate into German culture/society) and I would accept it.

7(b) the questions asks the candidate to name two MAIN problems with young Aussiedlers. The MS states they take drugs and they are imprisoned. Now the question itself implies that it is main problem and thus frequent/common. So 'überdurchschnittlich' (above average) is not necessarily compulsory.

Section C

Script I:

Point 15 - 'certainly' isn't rendered in the translation, so delegates queried why this was given a mark, when the marking had been very particular on other points.

Principal Examiner response:

Point 15 was awarded as 'certainly' was translated in 16 with 'security' and we did not want to double penalise as 16 was not awarded.

Paper 2

Section A

General

Delegates questioned how strictly word order in translation was being marked. Delegates wondered whether you will be strict on verb, but not so much on time and place?

Chief Examiner response:

Candidates should always aim to get TMP right, as it is a fundamental convention. However, this could be an issue of standardisation, and also, the demand of a particular element of the translation. If the only grammatical concept being tested was TMP, i.e. if the paper had been designed in a particular way to test that rule, then yes, it would not gain the mark if incorrect. If TMP was one of a few things being tested for one mark, and other, more complicated elements of the language were correct, then the decision may be made to overlook TMP in order to be able to credit other language. This is, however, hypothetical, and encouraging candidates to get TMP right is the most sensible way forward.

Script L:

Delegates queried why point 9 was rejected - student had written 'haben wurden' - is it because the umlaut is unclear?

Chief Examiner response:

The commentary has been updated in order to award the mark for the umlaut, but students should be reminded of the importance of clarity in their writing.

Sections B/C:

General question:

Is there a correct style to use for the embedding of quotations and should essays be generally written in present tense?

Chief Examiner response:

The essay should be written in whatever tense the candidates deems appropriate, and an articulate piece of writing will naturally use different tenses. There is no set format for quotations, examiners will look to see effective use of quotations to support an argument, which are presented in an appropriate and coherent fashion.

Script P:

Delegates asked for more information as to why this script achieved Band 4 for AO3 (grammatical structures), not Band 5. What else could the candidate have done to show 'consistent variation'? They felt that this script was beyond what any of their students would ever be able to achieve in exam conditions and therefore were concerned that it did achieve nearer full marks for AO3-grammatical structures (they were in agreement with AO4 and AO3 - accuracy).

Chief Examiner response:

It is the "use of terminology appropriate for literary analysis" which is not satisfied to the extent required for the top box. In this script "Schlink wollte sagen" and "Im Buch" are two examples of terminology that are used quite repetitively, and a greater range of analytical phrases and language can be expected from the highest performing A Level candidates.

Script O:

Delegates didn't think this was only 1 less on AO3 (grammatical) than Script P - and if this was 14 then Script P should have been higher than 15 - or Script O should be much lower than Script P.

Chief Examiner response:

The "use of terminology appropriate for literary analysis" is much stronger in this essay, and whilst it does some things not quite as well, there is a lot of evidence of this terminology - in the first paragraph alone, examples are "Hauptcharakter, Nebenfiguren, Handlung, Film Kunstgriff" Delegates should be reminded that all aspects of the mark band are considered to find the BEST FIT and that examiners won't just ignore one element of the band if it isn't satisfied. Single elements of a mark band will not decide the mark, but they will "pull" the best fit upwards or downwards.