General

Candidates are required to write about 50 words in German on a topic related to the preceding reading passage. Examiners will not count the words and everything a candidate writes will be assessed. However, it should be stressed that a piece of 50 words will be able to access the full assessment criteria. Candidates should be encouraged to keep to about 50 words.

The 10 marks available for this question are sub-divided into:

5 marks	Communication and Content
5 marks	Knowledge and Application of Language

The mark grids are printed on page 12 of the Specification (Issue 1).

The grade descriptions for grades A, C and F are printed in the specification on pages 23 – 24. These give a general indication of the required outcomes at the specified grades. The 3rd paragraph in each set of descriptions refers to the writing. Here the description of the required outcomes in writing at grade C:

They write for different contexts that may be real or imaginary. They communicate information and express points of view. They use a variety of structures and may include different tenses or time frames. The style is basic. They convey a clear message but there may be some errors.

and at grade F:

They write short texts that relate to familiar contexts. They can express simple opinions. They use simple sentences. The main points are usually conveyed but there are mistakes in spelling and grammar.

This is the preceding reading passage:

Task: Q3a.   Sie lesen diese Email.
                    You read this email.

….und wir haben 3 Monate Schulferien im Sommer – das ist echt toll.

Zu Hause sprechen wir Deutsch, aber ich liebe Fremdsprachen. In der Grundschule habe ich mit Italienisch begonnen und jetzt lerne ich auch Französisch.

Ich besuche nun die Oberschule und bekomme wirklich zu viele Hausaufgaben. Vorher hatte ich weniger Schulstress, weil es bis Klasse 8 keine Noten gibt! Zum Glück gibt es keinen Nachmittagsunterricht so habe ich ein bißchen Zeit für Hobbys. Leider muss ich dafür samstags in die Schule gehen.

Das Schulgebäude ist vielleicht etwas altmodish und wir brauchen bestimmt eine neue Bibliothek - aber ich mag meine Schule.

    Q3b.   Mögen Sie Ihre Schule? Schreiben Sie ungefähr 50 Wörter **auf Deutsch.**
            Do you like your school? Write about 50 words **in German.**

Commentary

The candidate has written 55 words and the piece of writing can thus access the full mark scheme.

Communication and content

The mark for Communication and content will be awarded first. Examiners will read the essay through and consider to what extent the response
a) is clear (Communication)
b) relies on the preceding reading passage (Content).

Whilst the response frequently lacks clarity, the candidate has not relied on the reading passage for ideas: indeed, there is some a level of independence. Unfortunately, some points made do not focus directly on the question e.g. *Ich liebe handball und fussball spiele mit fruende* although from the context, one might assume this is in school. Candidates should nevertheless be advised to write simply and to the point if they wish to do well here. The 3 - 4 band is appropriate and we can award a mark of 4 as a best fit.

Knowledge and application of language

The candidate favours a narrow range of high frequency vocabulary - *meine Schule* is repeated 5 times with there is one further mention of *Schule*. Spelling is an issue and this does impinge on communication at times. Sentences are simple and follow the subject + verb + extension model. Short sentences predominate but there are problems with word order. The 1 -2 band is correct for this performance and we would award a mark of 2.

Conclusion

This piece of writing would score 4 + 2 = 6. The performance does not quite fulfil the grade C criteria since the message is not always clear.

Question 3b is designed to enable candidates at Grade C and below to show that they are capable of writing a more extended piece in simple German. Candidates who avoid copying material from the 3a text and who write simply and relevantly are able to reach their potential here.