

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2010

ELC

ELC German (8926)

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Paper 1 - Entry Level Certificate in German

Centres presented work for this certificate in which the moderator agreed with the assessments from most of the centres. However, in the case of other centres, the evidence presented for some candidates did not fulfil the minimum requirements of 40 tasks successfully completed, so these candidates could not be awarded Level 1.

Issues need to be highlighted when administering the course, in order for candidates and centres to fully meet the criteria set.

Aspects of the administration which warrant comment are as follows:-

OPTEMS

It is pleasing to report that instructions regarding OPTEMS had been followed well.

Candidate Record Sheets

The latest version of the Candidate Record Sheet can be found on the website. This would avoid some things that happened at one centre, e.g. a task being recorded twice, a task being recorded in the wrong skill.

Tasks were generally recorded as the correct Level with a few anomalies.

Assessment Tasks

Examples of anomalies were:

- a task counted as successful when the mark showed it was not.
- a task apparently completed successfully but not recorded as such.
- no evidence of the odd task.
- a recorded Speaking task not completed successfully, but recorded as successful.
- task sheets did not have the name of the candidate filled in.

It is a good idea to include the sheets for Speaking tasks rather than just record them on the Record Sheet. In some cases tasks were not recorded correctly.

Any centre which ensured that candidates had completed several more than the minimum number of tasks found that the odd anomaly did not have serious consequences, such as a change of level awarded.

Coursework

- There was good use of ICT from some candidates.
- Coursework tasks are not pitched at any particular level and therefore should be recorded as 0, 1 or 2, not as displaying a level.
- An old version of the Coursework Coversheet had been used by one centre which did not contain the candidate's signature. This is a requirement. The latest version of the coversheet is on the website. It has spaces for the required signatures from both teacher and candidate in the declaration of authenticity.

Recordings

Recordings on cassette tape or CD were of satisfactory quality. It is easier for the moderator to have a candidate do 3 tasks consecutively rather than several candidates do the same task one after the other.

General

In the case of one centre, the moderator had to point out a misunderstanding that had occurred. This was that the sample needs to include all the work of the candidates, not just seven tasks in each skill.

Samples were generally presented in such a way that made the moderator's job straight-forward.

NB For future reference, it is recommended that the latest documents be used. Both are available to be downloaded in the "Instructions to Centres" on the Edexcel ELC German website. The Candidate Record Sheet has all the tasks listed in the correct skill. The Coursework Coversheet has spaces for the candidate and the teacher to sign the declaration of authenticity.

It is essential that careful reading of the "Instructions to Centres" for syllabus 8926 needs to be undertaken at the outset.

It is advisable that candidates complete a few more than the minimum required number of tasks, e.g. 45 instead of 40 for Level 1, 55 instead of 50 for Levels 2 and 3, so that the odd shortcoming does not result in no award.

Each task worksheet should have the name of the candidate stated and a clear indication of the mark awarded.

The centres that present folders in an exemplary manner do so by arranging the task sheets either in the order A1-32, B1-25, C1-20, D1-15 and E1-21 or by having all the tasks for each skill in the order stated on the Record Sheet.

The moderator does not want to penalise candidates for a failing in administration by the teacher. The odd oversight is excusable, but significant shortcomings can not be tolerated. If a candidate has, for example, either none or only one task from Area E, when the requirement is for at least two to be offered, the result will be no award.

Conclusion

The certificate continued to provide the opportunity to produce work that is meaningful and rewarding. All three Levels available were awarded. The hard work of teachers who help candidates achieve these successes is acknowledged and applauded.

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