

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

ELC German (8926)
Paper 01

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Entry Level Certificate in German (8926)

It is most pleasing to report this year that all candidates were awarded at least the Level suggested by Centres. It was possible to give some candidates a higher Level as there were enough tasks and, more importantly, enough pieces of coursework that had been completed successfully.

The aspects of the administration which warrant comment are as follows: -

OPTEMS

It is pleasing to report that instructions regarding OPTEMS had been followed well. However, Centres should note that only the yellow copies of the OPTEMS should be forwarded to the Moderators. The top copies should be sent to Edexcel at the address given.

Candidate Record Sheets

The latest version of the Candidate Record Sheet was not always being used. This can be found on the qualification page of the Edexcel website.
<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/elc/8926/Pages/default.aspx>

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

Assessment Tasks

Examples of anomalies were:

- Tasks completed successfully but with poor recording quality. Poor quality recordings can affect the outcome of the candidate's moderation and Centres are reminded of the importance of digitally recorded assessments to ensure a better quality recording.
- Tasks recorded on the Candidate Record Sheet but the task sheet was not annotated accordingly
- The same task listed twice.
- Tasks listed as the wrong Level.

Coursework

- There was good use of ICT from some candidates.
- On several occasions, an old version of the Coursework Coversheet had been used and did not contain the candidate's signature. ***It is an essential requirement of the assessment for candidates to authenticate their work.*** Candidates' assessments cannot be moderated without the candidate's authentication signature and any late submissions of the correct form will affect the moderation process and could lead to a delay in candidates receiving their results. The latest version of the Coursework Coversheet can be found on the qualification page on the Edexcel website:
<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/elc/8926/Pages/default.aspx>

Recordings

Recordings of Speaking tasks were submitted on USB sticks, CDs and cassette tape. The digital recordings on USB sticks and CDs were generally of a very good quality and well annotated, which made it very easy for the Moderators to navigate through the recordings.

Centres are reminded of the importance of the correct procedures for recording candidates' assessment as there was evidence of distracting noises on the recordings, either from a microphone wobbling or being fiddled with during the recording. Poor quality recordings can disadvantage candidates as it is often difficult for Moderators to hear clearly the candidates' responses.

General

The samples of work were mostly presented in a way which was straightforward to moderate and at times almost exemplary.

It is imperative that the latest documents be used. Both the Candidate Record Sheet and the Coursework Coversheet are available to download from the "Instructions to Centres" guidance booklet on the Edexcel ELC German website.

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/elc/8926/Pages/default.aspx>

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 is 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.

Minor issues, although they need to be addressed, can be of no significant consequence if the total number of tasks completed far exceeds the number required for the Level requested. This is to be commended.

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.

It is important that candidates are not disadvantaged by Centres not complying with the correct administrative procedures.

Conclusion

The certificate continued to provide the opportunity to produce work that is meaningful and rewarding. All three levels available were awarded and no candidate had to be refused an award. The hard work of teachers who help candidates achieve these successes is acknowledged and applauded.

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