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## Examiners' Report June 2010

### GCSE German 5GN01 1F

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## Unit 1 (Foundation): Listening and Understanding

Centres have entered the vast majority of candidates at the appropriate level. Raw scores on this paper were, on average, higher than on the comparable component on the legacy specification. The English language format of the questions proved accessible; on the legacy specification some candidates had difficulty in understanding the German language questions. The foundation paper differentiated well between candidates of varying abilities. Weaker candidates were able to identify key words and messages from topics with which they were familiar. At the higher end of the ability range, candidates were able to demonstrate more advanced listening skills such as identifying main points, details and opinions.

Much of the advice issued in reports on the legacy specification still applies. Candidates should be prepared to listen for more than key words. They need to develop the skill of listening for the gist and to understand simple sentence structure to help them improve their listening skills. It is also important that candidates are advised on how to best use the five minute preparation time before the playing of the listening material. Candidates should be encouraged to attempt all questions; the importance of having a go at questions cannot be over-stressed. The quality of candidates' handwriting remains an issue. If examiners are unable to decipher what candidates have written they are unable to award marks.

### Question 1 (School)

Most candidates scored well on this question which tested familiar items, all contained within the minimum core vocabulary. *Sport* and *Mathe* were almost universally known and it was pleasing to see that only a small minority of candidates confused *Geschichte* and *Erdkunde*.

### Question 2 (In the café)

Almost all candidates scored well on this question which was based on a very familiar topic to candidates. Many scored full marks, although a significant minority did not know *Schinkenbrot*.

### Question 3 (Work Experience)

Although this was a more demanding question at foundation tier, many candidates coped well with most parts of the question. The exception was question 3b where many candidates heard the distracter *Kaffee kochen* and did not wait for the correct answer (*am dritten Tag habe ich Kunden angerufen - das hat mir besonders Spaß gemacht*), which followed immediately afterwards. It was pleasing to note that the vast majority of candidates were familiar with the word *Reisebüro*.

### Question 4 (In Town)

This was quite a demanding question at foundation tier and it was therefore pleasing to see that many candidates scored highly here, the vast majority gaining at least 3 marks. Some candidates penalised themselves by crossing too many boxes. The maximum mark for this question was 4 and therefore only four boxes should be crossed. Most of the vocabulary was familiar although *Verkehrsamt* was by no means universally known. Not all candidates recognised the link between *eingekauft* and shops.

#### Question 5 (A Visit to Münster)

This question discriminated well at this level, particularly Q5b and Q5d. Almost all understood *fast alle Studenten fahren Rad* correctly. A substantial number of candidates were unable to recognise *das Beste für mich war der Zoo* as Mani's favourite part of the visit. *Jugendherberge* was unknown to quite a few candidates.

#### Question 6 (Dealing with Problems)

This crossover question proved relatively accessible to many better foundation tier candidates. The most straightforward answer was to Q6d: most candidates realised that Martin did not like English food. The most difficult part proved to be *ich habe viel zu viel Geld ausgegeben*, where only half of candidates being able to associate this opinion with Mrs Gruber.

#### Question 7 (Leisure Time)

This question was targeted at grade F and therefore proved well within the capabilities of most candidates. *Stadion* was almost universally known and *Wasserski* and *Flöte* also caused no problems. A significant majority had problems associating *die neuste Mode* and *Kaufhaus* with the shopping icon.

#### Question 8 (Weather)

Most candidates scored well on this question as it is a familiar and much tested topic. Most items of vocabulary were well known, particularly *regnen* and *die Sonne scheint*. However weaker candidates had some difficulties with *bewölkt*. The same word caused problems on the 2009 question paper, as pointed out in the related examiner's report.

#### Question 9 (Family)

This crossover question proved relatively accessible to many better foundation tier candidates. Most candidates coped well with this new question type, realising that in most cases there were only two answers that were possible in the context. Some candidates sensibly wrote the two possible choices on the paper during the 5-minute reading time before making their final decision on hearing the listening material. The main difficulty proved to be *Schlittschuhe* which was only known to about half of the candidates.

#### Question 10 (Train Travel)

This question proved a good discriminator. A small minority of candidates scored almost full marks, whereas many others only scored with *Donnerstagabend*. *Rückfahrkarten* was familiar to better candidates but few were able to cope with the departure time 18 Uhr 15 or the price €32. Frequent wrong answers included 18.50, 8.15, 8.50 and €2.30.

## Grade Boundaries

Raw Mark boundaries

Max Mark	C	D	E	F	G
40	33	28	23	19	15

Uniform Mark Scale boundaries

Max Mark	C	D	E	F	G
60	36	30	24	18	12

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