

Examiners' Report /
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

GCSE German (5GN01) Paper 1F

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Examiner Report

Centres entered the vast majority of candidates at the appropriate level. The Foundation paper differentiated well between candidates of varying abilities. Lower grade candidates were able to identify key words and messages from topics with which they were familiar. At the higher end of the scale candidates were able to demonstrate more advanced listening skills, such as identifying main points, details and opinions.

Much of the advice given in previous reports still applies. Candidates should be prepared to listen for more than key words. They need to develop the skill of listening for gist and to understand simple sentence structure to help them improve their listening skills. As has been the case over the past few years, the English language questions at the end of the paper proved particularly taxing to many students. However, the reduced reliance on icons in the current specification proved advantageous to those candidates who find pictures difficult to interpret.

It is important that candidates are advised on how to best use the five minute preparation time before the playing of the listening material. In many cases this time can be used to narrow down the choice of possible answers. Candidates should be encouraged to attempt all questions; the importance of having a go cannot be over-stressed. All targeted vocabulary on this paper is taken from the minimum core vocabulary listed in the specification.

Question 1 (Shopping)

This question tested familiar items and therefore most candidates scored well here. Nearly all were able to identify *Fotoapparat* and *Hose*, although *Handschuhe* proved problematic for many candidates. This is surprising as the same word was tested last year and was identified by the vast majority of that cohort.

Question 2 (In town)

Places around town are a much taught and practised topic and as such caused few problems to candidates, many scoring full marks on this question. The use of pictures caused little or no problems for candidates.

Question 3 (Job advert)

Although this was a more demanding question for Foundation Tier, many candidates coped well with the first two parts of the question. However, the last two parts of the question proved very difficult for Foundation Tier candidates. In selecting when applicants must be prepared to work, many candidates selected the distracter *ist das Wochenende immer frei* and missed the correct answer *bereit, ab und zu abends zu arbeiten*. Almost all candidates selected the past tense information *ich habe schon gestern Ihre Website angesehen* instead of the correct information i.e. what Peter is going to do today.

Question 4 (Shopping problems)

Although this was a crossover question it was well done by many Foundation Tier candidates. This is clearly a topic about which candidates are confident and this showed in the answers, the vast majority gaining at least 3 marks. Most candidates attributed the possible answers correctly to either Monika or Peter.

Question 5 (Café)

This question discriminated well at this level, particularly Q5ii and Q5iv. Most candidates were able to identify *Hähnchen* correctly. Food is a topic about which most candidates feel quite confident. Fewer could identify where the speaker sat in the café despite the presence of both *draußen* and *Terrasse* in the dialogue. Slightly over half of candidates understood € 4,95 correctly, which was encouraging as number recognition is often a problem at this level.

Question 6 (Family)

It was pleasing to see that few candidates penalised themselves by crossing too many boxes, as this has often proved a problem in the past. The maximum mark for this question was 4 and therefore only four boxes should be crossed. Family is a very familiar topic to all candidates and this showed in the answers, the vast majority gaining at least 2 or 3 marks. Far fewer candidates experienced problems with characteristics and adverbs of frequency than was the case in the equivalent paper last year. It was pleasing to see how many candidates correctly identified *geschieden* as the key to a correct answer.

Question 7 (Booking a flight)

This crossover question proved fairly taxing for many Foundation Level candidates. Predictably, the time proved a stumbling block for many who were unable to distinguish between 16.15 and 06.50. Less surprisingly, many candidates misinterpreted *übermorgen* as meaning tomorrow. Most candidates coped well with this relatively new question type, realising that in most cases there were only two answers that were possible in the context. Some candidates sensibly wrote the 2 possible choices on the paper during the 5 minute reading time before making their final decision on hearing the listening material.

Question 8 (Leisure time)

Most candidates scored extremely well on this question as it is a familiar topic, in a well-known format. The majority scored full marks.

Question 9 (School)

Many candidates scored 3 or 4 marks on this question which targeted very familiar vocabulary across a range of topics. The only part that caused difficulties was Q9iv; *Schauspieler* was unknown to lower grade candidates.

Question 10 (Work experience)

This question proved a good discriminator as lower grade candidates find these open-ended questions very taxing. Only the very best Foundation Tier candidates scored well on this question. Reassuringly, the majority recognised unfreundlich as meaning unfriendly. However, for many this was the only mark they scored. Perhaps unsurprisingly, halb fünf was often assumed to mean 5.30 and even fewer candidates knew Metzgerei or Dorf, either of which was accepted as the answer to 10a. Schmutzig was known only to the very best candidates, despite it being on the vocabulary list in the specification.

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