

Examiners' Report/  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2016

Pearson Edexcel GCSE  
in German (5GN01/1H)  
Paper 1H: Listening and Understanding  
in German

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## GCSE German

### Unit 1H: Listening and Understanding in German

#### Examiners' Report

##### General Comments

The performance of most candidates was encouraging on the majority of the paper. The questions that were intended to discriminate did so effectively. As in previous years, the performance of weaker candidates was frequently characterised by vague answers, often based on the identification of single words rather than listening to the extract as a whole. Centres are reminded that questions appear in a sequence of peaks and troughs to encourage candidates to keep going to the end and that individual questions follow the sequence of the text and thus appear in chronological order. Many students continue to make good use of the five minutes reading time by underlining key words in the title, rubric and questions, narrowing down the choice of possible answers and anticipating key German words they may hear in the recording.

Many of the comments made in previous reports still apply. For the Higher Tier paper it is essential that candidates have the opportunity to practise global listening techniques. The strongest candidates were able to recognise attitudes, opinions and emotions drawn from a variety of sources and to give precise answers on Q4, the open-ended English questions. Examiners are unable to award marks if they cannot read a candidate's handwriting. When crossing out sections candidates must make it absolutely clear what their final answer is supposed to be.

##### Question 1 (Technology)

This crossover question was answered very well by most Higher Tier candidates, with most candidates scoring at least 3 marks. Although Q1i and Q1ii caused no problems for Higher Tier candidates, results were more mixed for the last two parts. *Stellenangebote* in Q1iii was unknown to some, despite featuring in the Minimum Core Vocabulary list. A minority of candidates did not associate *Ich habe ein Computerspiel bestellt* with shopping online.

##### Question 2 (In the restaurant)

This crossover question was answered successfully by most Higher Tier candidates, the majority of students scoring 3 or in many cases 4 marks. Where candidates had any substantial difficulties this was often with Q2iii where some did not recognise *die Einzigen*.

##### Question 3 (Shopping online)

This question proved slightly more challenging than the previous crossover questions. By far the most taxing part was Q3iv – despite fairly straightforward language (*Ich habe es einmal getragen, bevor ich es reparieren musste*) almost

half of candidates failed to equate this with disappointment in the quality of the product. Perhaps more understandable was the difficulty weaker candidates had in linking Steffi's disappointment with the colour as the relevant information was quite deeply embedded. It was reassuring to see that most candidates were able to cope with questions requiring global comprehension rather than merely the identification of single lexical items.

#### **Question 4 (Nordic walking)**

This question type continues to be an excellent discriminator and for most candidates the most taxing on the paper. As in previous years, weaker candidates failed to cope with the more open-ended format and, even if they understood the listening material, did not answer with sufficient precision to be awarded the marks. It is also important that candidates give the answer given on the recording rather than one they assume must be correct from common sense or general knowledge. Better candidates, however, listened to the whole extract rather than just homing in on individual items of vocabulary and were thus able to supply the detail and accuracy required at this level. Q4ai was well answered by many, although weaker candidates sometimes omitted to mention the essential element of Germany in their answer. The most frequent error was to assume the website was set up in 2003. Although there were many good answers to Q4aii comparatively few candidates scored the full two marks. Weaker candidates often jumped to conclusions instead of conveying what was actually said, e.g. assuming that walking must make you tired. A common misunderstanding was to equate *müde* with being moody. Q4aiii proved difficult for many candidates as it required them to express their answer very precisely or to draw conclusions from the information given. For Q4ai many candidates scored one mark but few were able to gain the full two marks. Common mistakes included reference to a specific walking event or the wrong number of Nordic walkers. Many candidates mentioned TV and radio, overlooking the negative phrase *nicht mehr so gehyped*. Very few candidates included the alternative correct answers about lots of beginners or requests for information. Most candidates scored one mark for Q4aii, usually relating to the blog. Some candidates drew on their wider knowledge of websites and invented ways to contribute such as uploading photos or donating money.

#### **Question 5 (Staying in a hotel)**

This crossover question was answered well by most Higher Level candidates. However, only the best candidates understood the significance of *ohne* in Q5iii. Most candidates heard *Frühstück* and concluded wrongly that it must be included in the price. All other parts of the question were answered correctly by the vast majority of Higher Tier candidates.

#### **Question 6 (Lifestyle)**

This crossover question was answered very well by most candidates at Higher Level, although some weaker candidates picked out the right answers but attributed them to the wrong person. A few found it difficult to deduce from

*Marthe hat begonnen, die Schularbeit ernst zu nehmen* that her attitude to work had changed.

### **Question 7 (At the tourist office)**

This question proved a good discriminator, particularly Q7i which was correct only in a minority of cases. Many candidates were clearly expecting to hear *Schloss* and did not recognise the more accurate *Burg*.

### **Question 8 (Work experience)**

Many candidates scored over half marks on this question but only a small minority gained full marks. Taxing elements to this question included Qaiii where weaker candidates heard *in den letzten Jahren* but did not register the key word *only* in the question or that the work experience will be offered again next year. Only stronger candidates were able to interpret the information given for Q8ii and deduce that the money had been unexpected. Although the language for this question was relatively complex most candidates scored more highly than in Q4 because of the question type, picking the correct answer from three possibilities.

The factors mentioned last year as being essential for success on this paper remain relevant and are quoted again here:

- thorough knowledge of vocabulary on all the prescribed topics
- reading rubrics carefully
- listening to the passage as a whole rather than concentrating on individual words
- clear expression in English
- basing answers on facts in the listening materials rather than suppositions based on candidates' own ideas and experiences
- recognising negation and partial negation

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