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## Examiners' Report June 2010

### GCSE German 5GN03 3H

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## Unit 3 (Higher): Reading and Understanding

These papers were offered for the first time as part of the suite of papers forming the GCSE 2009 specification.

### Assessment Principles and Mark Schemes

A maximum of 40 marks is awarded positively for correct information successfully retrieved and conveyed in each paper. All instructions are in English and no question involves target-language writing. The targeted vocabulary on the Foundation paper is drawn from the minimum core vocabulary list. 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. Grade C/D questions are common to both Foundation and Higher Tiers.

### Mark Schemes

A few days after the examination the examiners discuss any possible versions and variants which have emerged from their considering a large number of scripts prior to the marking process. A definitive mark scheme is agreed by the Principal Examiner. The attention of candidates and teachers is drawn to the detailed mark schemes as published.

All tasks are marked positively, with varying marks available for each question according to the information required in the answer or the difficulty of the question. The number of marks available for each question and sub-question is clearly stated within the paper.

### Candidates' Responses

Examiners were encouraged to note that candidates fared well on this paper and were able to progress purposefully through the questions. The vast majority of candidates had been well prepared for the paper and had been correctly entered for the Higher Tier. Examiners felt that all questions were appropriate in terms of level and discriminated well. The content of the texts was perceived to be well pitched and to hold interest value for the candidates.

### Question 1

The vast majority of candidates for this paper scored full marks on this first crossover question, which served as a gentle introduction to the exam paper. If candidates ticked or crossed more than the required four boxes, then one mark was deducted from their score for each superfluous box ticked or crossed. This rule was applied throughout the paper for appropriate questions.

### Question 2

The second crossover question was not well attempted by many candidates, with C/D borderline candidates typically scoring just one or possibly two marks. Performance was patchy even on the part of more able candidates. The examiners would recommend that further work be undertaken on matters of tense.

### Question 3

Most candidates scored heavily on this task.

#### Question 4

This question with answers in English differentiated very definitely. Candidates must be able to pinpoint the exact information required, although examiners are very tolerant and sympathetic in their approach. In question 4b, for example, candidates were required to pinpoint 'accommodation' or some appropriate alternative such as 'hotel'. Answers which broadly mentioned that the city was too busy could not be rewarded. Vocabulary which caused difficulties included *Bettwäsche* ('bedwash') and *Internetanschluss* ('internet café'). There was a strong view among examiners that some candidates had not read through their answers to make sure they made sense. Even those candidates on the A/B boundary tended not to obtain full marks on this question, while those on the C/D boundary tended to obtain one mark at best.

#### Question 5

Most candidates at the A/B boundary scored full marks on this crossover question, while those on the C/D boundary tended just to drop one mark or so.

#### Question 6

Candidates on this crossover question tended to lose at least one mark if around the A/B boundary or two marks at the C/D boundary. As with the Foundation Tier candidates, a number did not understand *Verkehrsamt* or *im Ausland*.

#### Question 7

This question was generally well done, with A/B candidates obtaining three or four marks and C/D candidates typically obtaining two or three marks.

#### Question 8

The more able candidates who read the three paragraphs carefully were able to achieve a good score on this question and the examiners were encouraged by candidates' performance. The question differentiated well.

#### Advice and Guidance

Superfluous information, information not contained in the printed target-language material, and self-contradictory combinations of correct and incorrect information earn no credit. Similarly, non-synonymous alternatives can be given no credit. Candidates are encouraged to cross through any alternative answer rather than leaving examiners with a choice, though crossed-out work will be marked where the candidate has not replaced it with an alternative response. Candidates should be aware that if just one mark is on offer, as throughout most questions, they should be giving only one item of information in the answer. However, if it is clear that more than one item of information is being solicited (e.g. Paper 3H question 4d), then candidates must ensure that they produce the required number of items in their response. Candidate scripts are marked onscreen for this paper and the examiners struggled to read a number of scripts. Some candidates used very faint ink and there were scripts where the quality of the handwriting was extremely poor. Candidates should be reminded to use black ink and to write as clearly as possible. Many responses indicate that candidates are not reading the texts carefully enough. For those candidates aiming at a higher grade it is imperative that they pay attention to the actual content of the texts and that they do not make assumptions. Especially for the task requiring answers in English, candidates should ensure that what they have written is relevant to the question and can be supported by the text. Candidates should also be encouraged to keep their answers as concise as possible. It is not advisable for candidates to put down everything they have understood, as this may lead to their losing the mark if they hedge their bets or negate their answer. The space given for the answer is deemed adequate for a full and complete response.

## Grade Boundaries

Raw Mark boundaries

Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E
40	33	29	25	21	15	12

Uniform Mark Scale boundaries

Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E
60	54	48	42	36	30	27

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