

Examiners' Report /
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

GCSE German (5GN03) Paper 3H

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Examiner Report

A maximum of 40 marks is awarded for this paper. All instructions are in English and no question involves target-language writing.

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.

The vast majority of candidates had been entered correctly for the Higher Tier.

Question 1

This was the first crossover question which is common to both Foundation and Higher papers and the vast majority of candidates fared well. However, a number of candidates were unable to identify the vocabulary item *neblig* correctly and failed to gain a mark for question 1(a). 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 posed a bit more of a challenge although the best candidates were able to identify all items correctly and scored full marks. Slightly weaker candidates were often unsure about question 2(iv) where they were finding it difficult to understand *gleich bleiben*.

Question 3

The topic of Cycling was well-handled and most candidates scored well throughout this task. Slightly weaker candidates often missed out on question 3(ii): the word *U-Bahn* was not as familiar as expected at this level.

Question 4

Parts of question 4 proved quite challenging to most candidates as they were too imprecise with their answers or gave extra and often contradictory information and henceforth could not score a point here. Question 4(a) proved to be the most difficult as candidates could not identify that appearance was becoming more important.

Candidates often scored one mark out of two in question 4(b); however they did often not specify that they were meeting in the shopping centre rather than just go there or shop there. In question 4(c), candidates at times confused who took the classes and who had the money for them. question 4(d) proved quite a challenge to most candidates with very few precise answers across the board. For question 4(e), a high number of candidates were unable to give a satisfactory answer as the answers often lacked precision. The last question was handled well although the word *weniger* seemed unknown to quite a number of candidates.

Question 5

This was the third crossover question and the more able candidates were generally successful in scoring four points in this question, the most difficult part being where the word *Urlaub* needed to be identified in order to answer the question successfully.

Question 6

The fourth crossover question was on the whole handled satisfactorily by most candidates. Question 6 required the understanding of different time frames. The most able candidates were successful in doing this, it proved more of a challenge to those on the C/D borderline.

Question 7

This question with the topic 'Sport' was generally handled well and most candidates were able to gain three or four marks.

Question 8

The last question on 'A year in Austria' targeted the most able candidates and this was obvious in the number of points scored for the whole question. The most able candidates scored an average of 6 or 7 points whereas weaker candidates often scored only one or two.

Additional Guidance

When answering questions, candidates should avoid giving superfluous information or information not contained in the printed target-language material. 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 for 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 questions 4(b) and (f)), then candidates must ensure that they produce the required number of items in their response. Candidates should also note that the space given for the answer is deemed adequate for a full and complete response.

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. This is particularly important 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 with additional incorrect information.

Candidates should be reminded to use black ink and to write as clearly as possible.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

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