



Pearson
Edexcel

Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In German (1GN0)

Paper 1F: Listening and understanding in German

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Introduction

This unit was worth 50 marks and was divided into two sections, A and B. The first 12 questions, Section A, were set in English. The final two questions, Section B, were set in the target language, German.

Candidates had 30 minutes in which to complete their answers; this included 5 minutes' reading time at the start of the examination. It was encouraging to see that, for the most part, candidates coped well with all topics featured on the paper. Centres are reminded that all the vocabulary on the Foundation paper is drawn from the vocabulary list and that the vast majority of words on the list will feature in examinations over a period of time.

Centres entered their candidates appropriately at Foundation level for the most part. The Foundation examination differentiated well between candidates of different abilities. Weaker candidates were able to identify key words and messages from topics with which they were familiar. Most questions which require the recognition of single lexical items or short phrases were well done, although some individual items of vocabulary caused problems. Stronger performances showed the ability to make simple conclusions and differentiate between different time frames.

The quality of some candidates' handwriting continues to cause concern as, at times, it was impossible to assess work accurately. When crossing out answers, students must make it clear what they intend their final answer to be. This is particularly important on multiple-choice questions.

Section A

Question 1 (School subjects)

Candidates were asked to identify three correct school subjects from a given list of seven, identifying which subjects Aisha mentions. This question tested candidates' understanding of key vocabulary items listed in the minimum core vocabulary and proved a successful introduction to the paper for the vast majority of candidates, many of whom scored full marks.

The most frequent correct answers were *art* (A) and *maths* (D). A minority of candidates were unable to identify the third answer, geography (G), often confusing it with *Geschichte* (history).

Question 2 (Food and drink)

Candidates listened to a conversation about food and drink. Candidates were asked to select the correct answer from four possible ones. This question was done well by most.

The question targeted familiar nouns set in a familiar topic. The most frequent correct answer was (ii); almost all candidates were able to pick out *Käse* as the correct answer. A substantial majority of candidates were able to correctly identify *Frühstück* as *breakfast*. *Eltern* in (iii) was not so well known. The most common incorrect answer was (d) *aunt*.

Question 3 (Local area)

Candidates listened to three people discussing their local area and had to identify what was mentioned from a list of seven locations. This question proved accessible to most students; most candidates managed to score at least 2 marks.

Most candidates were able to identify sea (C) and cinema (D). Less successful candidates were often unable to identify department store (B).

Question 4 (Being green)

Candidates had to listen to some young people talking about how they help the environment and then complete three sentences, choosing three words from a choice of seven. This question was answered well by candidates with almost half gaining full marks. Most candidates coped well with *Glasflaschen* and, encouragingly, also with *Strom*. More surprisingly, *Kleidung* was often assumed to mean refreshments.

Question 5 (Directions)

Candidates had to answer four English questions about directions. This open response question targeted specific items of basic vocabulary, e.g. places, lengths of time and prices. All four parts of the question required a very short answer.

In common with most open-response questions, this question proved more challenging for most candidates, with only a very small minority gaining full marks. The most frequent correct answer was Q05(d) 3 Euros; this was hardly surprising as *drei* is a very common number. However, examiners saw answers as varied as 13, 300 and even 2. Candidates found Q05(a) challenging, *Hallenbad* being unknown to many. It was frequently taken to mean Holland, which often affected the length of time and price given in subsequent answers. Some candidates lost marks by being too specific e.g. by giving 'outdoor pool' as the answer. Examiners accepted a wide range of prepositions in Q05(b) and even answers which did not include a preposition. Although *Bahnhof* is a frequently used noun, some candidates confused it with *Bauernhof*. The majority of candidates understood *Stunde* in Q05(c), although a minority assumed it must take at least half a day to get to Holland.

Question 6 (Jobs)

Candidates were asked to identify what two young people say about their jobs. They had to complete simple sentences choosing from a selection of given words.

This question was done well, with the majority of candidates gaining full marks. In Q06(a), candidates had to distinguish between past and present jobs, which was successfully achieved by most candidates. Encouragingly, both *Kollegen* and *Lohn* in Q06(b) proved well known.

Question 7 (Visiting an art gallery)

This question required candidates to identify the three correct sentences from a list of seven in an account of a school trip to an art gallery. The vast majority of candidates scored at least two marks on this question. Common errors included a failure to realise the significance of *einzig* and that it was Leon's friends and not Leon who disliked the writing task.

Question 8 (My friend Helene)

Candidates had to answer English questions about the speaker's friend Helene. Open-ended questions requiring candidates to answer in English continue to be challenging for many at Foundation Tier. However, performance on this type of question is undoubtedly improving; this year the majority of candidates scored at least 2 marks although full marks were still rare.

Most candidates answered Q08a correctly that Fatima had known Helene for 5 years although a minority suggested 'since Fatima was 5 years old' or 'since Year 5'. Q08b proved the most difficult part of this question, as *schlecht gelaunt* was known only by a small number of candidates. The majority of candidates answered Q08c correctly.

Question 9 (Travelling to Italy)

Candidates listened to a podcast about travel and then completed a multiple-choice exercise.

Candidates found Q09(i) and Q09(iv) the most accessible parts of this question. The least successfully answered part was Q09(ii); many candidates assumed that smaller towns must have less to see or fewer restaurants. In Q09(iii) many candidates did not make the link between *empfehlen* and the fact that hiring a bike would be a good idea.

Question 10 (International swimming camp)

Candidates were asked to listen to a podcast about a swimming training camp in Spain and answer English questions on the recording.

This question produced the full spread of marks, most candidates scoring 1 or 2 marks. The most common correct answer was Q10(a), although candidates had to specify the end of March in order to gain the mark. Q10(b) required a precise answer, namely that it is not too hot at that time of year. Many candidates presumed that it must be hot purely because the training camp was in Spain. In Q10(c) many candidates heard *zwei Stunden vormittags*, assuming this must be the relevant length of time, and failed to listen for the key word *nachmittags*. Q10(d) required candidates to phrase their answers carefully to make clear that the swimmers stayed with host families rather than their own family. This proved taxing for many candidates.

Question 11 (Environmental campaigns)

Candidates were asked to identify detailed information about environmental campaigns. They had to select the three correct statements from a given list of seven statements. The test type helped to ensure that almost all candidates gained some credit here, but only a few candidates scored full marks. The key phrase in (C) *unseren Wald schützen* proved particularly taxing for less successful candidates. In (G), *die vielen Plastiktüten am Fluss aufsammeln* proved a stumbling block for many. The most frequent incorrect answer was (F) use less plastic. Less successful candidates recognised the first element in *Plastiktüten* and drew the wrong conclusion.

Question 12 (Tour guide)

Candidates listened to a description of the work of a tour guide and then answered open-response English questions. This question proved most effective in discriminating between the most successful candidates and the vast majority who, as expected, found this question demanding. The most frequent correct answer was Q12(a) *am Flughafen* although some candidates took this to mean that the tour guide was on the plane. In

Q12(b), many candidates made their answers far too complex and often, by doing so, also incorrect. All that was required to gain the mark was *beim Einkaufen*, with shopping. The key phrase for Q12(c) was *den Urlaubsort gut kennen*. More successful candidates coped well but there were many guesses, e.g. 'must be friendly'. In Q12(d), most candidates did not realise that the tour guide was based abroad or assumed that she enjoyed going on lots of holidays.

Section B

Question 13 (Als ich jünger war)

Candidates had to listen to Leonie discussing her early life and then fill in the gaps in target language sentences. Answers were chosen from a list of 11 words.

This style of target language question poses significant challenges for candidates at Foundation Level. The first of these is to understand the possible answers in the box and then the language in the questions. More successful candidates chose words which fitted grammatically into the sentences, whereas those who were less successful often picked words completely at random. A few candidates chose their own words rather than picking from those in the box, as required by the rubric. This was most frequent in Q13(e), where examiners often encountered *Sportzentrum* from the recording rather than *Freizeitzentrum* from the question paper. Answers often depend on knowledge of synonyms, e.g. in Q13(a), *Innenstadt* on the recording equated to *Stadtzentrum* on the question paper. In Q13(c), *Großmutter* on the recording equated to *Oma* on the question paper. Q13(d) required simple deduction: candidates had to recognise that Leonie's best friend was successful as she had good grades at school. Candidates would be well advised to use the 5 minute reading time at the beginning of the examination to ascertain which words could possibly fit in each gap and make grammatical sense, thereby making the actual listening task a little more straightforward.

Question 14 (Meine Zukunft)

Candidates listened to Jana discussing her school subjects. The question required candidates to fill the gaps in target language sentences by choosing the correct answer from a list of four possibilities. One of the four possible answers had to be used twice. Candidates could not supply their own words to complete the sentences but were only permitted to use one of the four words provided. Each of the possible answers was an adjective.

This question produced the full range of marks at Foundation Level and proved more accessible than Q13, the other target language question. Q14(b) proved the most accessible part, probably because *die Arbeit langweilt mich* was almost identical to the adjective *langweilig*. The most taxing parts of this question proved to be Q14(a) and Q14(e). In Q14(a), candidates had to link *ich muss nichts bezahlen* with *kostenlos*. In Q14(e), *eine Menge Geld* was understood by many, but it was clear that many candidates thought *kostenlos* meant costly.

Advice to centres - section B

Questions 13 and 14 are set in the target language and require candidates to complete sentences in Question 13 and to identify the appropriate word in Question 14.

- Advise candidates to use the reading time to try and work out in Question 13 which answers possibly make sense in the context and which part of speech is

required to complete the questions e.g. Q13(e) *Wir haben Federball im gespielt* requires a noun.

- Simple synonyms are often the key to success in the target language questions.

General advice to centres

- Advise candidates to use the reading time available to think carefully about the requirements of the questions asked, concentrating in particular on the question words. The question title often provides an important clue.
- Advise candidates to check the number of marks available for each question. If there are two marks available two pieces of information will be required.
- Candidates should ensure that they are familiar with the full range of vocabulary contained in the Foundation Level minimum core vocabulary.
- Candidates should focus on understanding whole sentences rather than just individual words in order to eliminate distractors more readily.
- Handwriting needs to be legible. Examiners cannot mark what they cannot decipher.