



Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In German (1GN0)
Paper 1H Listening and understanding in German

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications are awarded by Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at www.edexcel.com or www.btec.co.uk. Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at www.edexcel.com/contactus.

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: www.pearson.com/uk

Summer 2025

Publications Code 1GN0_1H_2506_ER

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd 2025

Introduction

This paper was worth 50 marks and was divided into two sections, A and B. The first two questions, Section A, were set in the target language. The remaining 8 questions, Section B, were set in English. Candidates had 40 minutes in which to complete their answers; this included five minutes of general reading time at the start of the examination.

The strongest performances were characterised by an ability to recognise attitudes and opinions and to give precise answers. However, there were weaker performances where answers were vague, often based on the identification of single words rather than listening to the extract as a whole.

It is important to note that if candidates give three answers for a two-mark question it is only the first two which will be assessed. For a one-mark question only the first answer will be considered. The quality of some candidates' handwriting continues to cause concern as at times it was impossible to assess work accurately. When crossing out answers candidates must make it clear what they intend their final answer to be. This is particularly important on multiple-choice questions.

Section A

Question 1 (Lesen)

Candidates had to listen to Katarina discussing reading 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 less successful candidates at Higher 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.

Candidates at Higher Tier were frequently able to score full marks on his question. 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 Q01(d) where examiners sometimes encountered *spannend* from the recording rather than *aufregend* from the question paper. Answers often depend on knowledge of synonyms e.g. in Q01(a) *Zeitschriften* on the recording equated to *Magazine* on the question paper. Most stronger candidates realised the links between *ab und zu* and *manchmal*, *spannend* and *aufregend* and also *gut gelaunt* and *glücklich*. A popular but wrong answer in Q01(a) was *Science-Fiction*, possibly because it sounds similar to *Zeitschriften* at speaking speed. In Q01(b) many candidates heard *vor* but failed to realise the significance of the accompanying *beschäftigt*.

Question 2 (Einkaufen)

Candidates listened to Julia discussing shopping. 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. Each of the possible answers was a name. This question was well done by the majority of candidates at Higher Level, many scoring full marks. It proved more accessible than Q01, the other target language question. Q02(d) and Q02(e) were most frequently correct, probably because of the key words *online* and *Mode*, which occurred in both question paper and recording. As in Q1, some of the answers depended on knowledge of synonyms. In Q02(a) candidates had to link *Laden* with *Geschäft*. In Q02(c) the key phrases were *oft* on the question paper and *jede Woche* on the recording.

Section B

Question 3 (Art competition)

Candidates listened to an account about an art competition and then completed a multiple-choice exercise. Many Higher Tier candidates scored full marks on this question. Candidates found Q09(ii) and Q09(iv) the most accessible parts of this question. The least successfully answered part was Q09(iii) where candidates had to link *ein Bild von meiner besten Freundin* with painting a person.

Question 4 (Future plans)

Candidates were asked to identify detailed information about Petra's future plans. They had to select the three correct statements from a given list of seven statements. Most Higher Tier candidates scored well on this question. Most picked out the key phrase in (C) *im Freien*. *Ausbildung* in (D) was known to most Higher Level candidates. In (F) most appreciated that if there is *in dieser Industrie viel Arbeit* it will be relatively easy to find a job.

Question 5 (School rules)

Candidates had to listen to an interview about school rules and then answer three multiple-choice questions. This question proved very accessible with many candidates scoring full marks. All parts of the question were answered well, although in Q05(c) some candidates assumed Lutz was angry with his teacher instead of the teacher being annoyed with him because of his lateness.

Question 6 (Regensburg)

Candidates had to listen to a guide talking about the city of Regensburg and answer open response English questions. The vast majority of candidates were able to gain some marks although completely correct answers were very rare. In questions like this it is crucial to listen out for the meaning of whole sentences rather than just individual words.

In Q06(a)(i) many candidates understood the number *hundert* but wrongly assumed that it referred to the age rather than the number of buildings. Other incorrect answers encountered included old people and even dogs, presumably because of *hundert*. In Q06(a)(ii) *Dom* was frequently unknown although *Bratwurst* caused very little difficulty. Q06(b)(i) was answered well by most candidates, producing variations on walking. However, a minority were misled by mention of the tourist train on the recording, failing to notice that it was so *teuer*. In Q06(b)(iv) many candidates failed to identify the key word *Fluss*, sometimes mistaking it for castle or even candy floss! Those who understood *Fluss* correctly sometimes struggled with *entlang*. A frequently encountered incorrect answer was go to the river.

Question 7 (Berlin music festival)

Candidates had to listen to a report about a music festival and then answer English open response questions on the content. This question required precision to score

marks. Many incorrect answers lacked crucial details. However, many stronger candidates managed to score full marks on this question. Many candidates answered Q07(a)(i) correctly. Many wrong answers declared the festival to be the biggest in Europe, missing the vital “one of”. Q07(a)(ii) required candidates to phrase their answers carefully and in particular their interpretation of *Modenschau*, which frequently became “model show” with no obvious connection with fashion. In Q07(b)(i) most candidates successfully picked out the key phrase *zu laut*. Q07(b)(ii) was best answered by focusing on the key information required for the mark. Candidates who also included information about the location of the hotel often incorrectly placed it in the town centre or by the beach, misinterpreting *Strand*.

Question 8 (Coastal pollution)

Candidates had to listen to a description of coastal pollution and then complete multiple-choice sentences. This question was answered well by most candidates. The most accessible parts were Q08(a)(i), Q08(b)(i) and Q08(b)(ii), all answered correctly by the vast majority of candidates. In Q08(a)(ii) *Lärm* was unknown to some candidates and in Q08(a)(iii) *Ausrüstung* was understood by stronger candidates only.

Question 9 (Social media)

Candidates listened to a podcast about social media and then answered English questions on the content. This question required detailed knowledge of a complex passage and clarity of expression from candidates if they were to access the highest marks. Less strong candidates frequently relied on their general knowledge, which, while undoubtedly true, usually did not reflect the information in the podcast. In Q09(a)(i) many candidates assumed that Herr Brandt was talking about messaging current school friends, having failed to recognise the importance of the adjective *alt*. In Q09(a)(ii) many candidates correctly identified spending too much time on the phone as a problem but far fewer mentioned the lack of face-to-face meetings. A frequently encountered incorrect answer stated that young people do not go into town as often. Q09(a)(iii) was undoubtedly the most taxing as it involved the much-discussed fear of missing out. Candidates needed to understand the difficult phrase *nicht verpassen*. In Q09(b)(i) the crucial information was *die meisten Leute*, a detail that many missed. In Q09(b)(ii) examiners were looking for the key phrase “more quickly”. Candidates gave many valid reasons why social media could help when looking for a job. However, most of these were not mentioned in the podcast. In Q09(b)(iii) a good number of candidates correctly listed cyber bullying as one of the risks. Far fewer gave the risk of illicit access to addresses and phone numbers. In Q09(b)(iv) the answers often related to sensible advice that candidates had been given in school, advice that was not necessarily repeated in the podcast. Most candidates correctly identified informing the police but the second course of action was often to tell a teacher or parent. At this level answers are unlikely to depend on the understanding of just one vocabulary item but require global understanding of one or more sentences.

Question 10 (Janina Jakobs)

Candidates listened to an interview with a famous actor. They were then asked to identify the two correct statements from a given set of five sentences. The language in this listening excerpt was demanding but the multiple-choice test type enabled most candidates to gain some marks. In Q10(i) the most challenging answer was B, which relied on understanding the contrast between *gern auf der Bühne* and *zu schüchtern*. Most candidates were able to link *die Zuschauer lachen* with the mood in the theatre. Q10(ii) was answered well by the majority of candidates.

Advice for future performance

- Advise candidates to listen to the whole sentence or paragraph rather than just concentrate on individual items of vocabulary.
- They should listen for negatives, time indicators (both time phrases and tenses), qualifiers, comparatives and superlatives, positive and negative opinions.
- 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 remember that if they give two answers for a one-mark question examiners will only mark the first answer.
- Candidates should ensure they give precise but complete answers to the questions. However, it is worth bearing in mind that too much information can sometimes negate the given response.
- Handwriting needs to be legible. Examiners cannot mark what they cannot decipher.

Pearson Education Limited. Registered company number 872828
with its registered office at 80 Strand, London, WC2R 0RL, United Kingdom

