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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
in German (1GN0) Paper 3H: Reading

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Introduction

The paper is worth 50 marks and is divided into three sections, A, B and C. The first six questions comprising Section A were set in English. Questions 7 to 9 (Section B) were set in German. Section C was a 40-word translation from German into English.

Candidates had 1 hour to complete the test.

Question 1

In question 1, candidates answer questions in English with words or short phrases in order to demonstrate their understanding of a German text. The topic of this text was Weather, taken from specification Theme 2.

The majority of candidates were not successful with their answers to 5a. Either they did not recognise the word "Gewitter" from the specified vocabulary list, or they did not correctly understand the sequence of events in the text, signposted by the words "gestern" and "heute".

When 5c was incorrectly answered, it was mostly because candidates had focussed on low temperatures or inferred that the "Alps are always cold", which is not confirmed in the text so could not be credited.

Question 2

Question 2 was based on an extract from a literary text and proved accessible on some level for nearly all candidates.

Almost all candidates who attempted 6a recalled the word "Flughafen" from the specified vocabulary list. Question 6b proved more challenging, and the words "kurze Hosen" and "Geschenke" were less familiar. Many candidates recognised "Hosen", but the answer "trousers" could not be credited. Whilst the exact translation of "Schild" as "sign", as listed in the specified vocabulary list, was often not successfully handled, examiners were pleased to award the marks whenever the candidates answered in a way that clearly demonstrated an understanding of exactly what was happening at that point in the text.

Less successful candidates confused which of the characters were taller in answering question 6d, incorrectly stating that Janick was taller. Another frequent misconception for 6d was that the two characters were different ages.

Question 3

This question required candidates to read a magazine article about International Events from Theme 5 of the specification.

The word "Monat" was readily recognised, but only the most successful candidates understood "fast jeden" in order to score the mark. Some candidates confused "Monat" with "Montag".

The word "Gesellschaft", taken from the specified vocabulary list, was only recognised by the more successful candidates and question 3e, which tested the phrase "Fairer Handel" from the specification, was the most frequently incorrectly answered question in the entire examination.

The listed term "Fußballweltmeisterschaft" was comparatively well known in question 3c. To be credited the mark for 3d, candidates had to specifically mention "air". Pollution on its own was too vague to be credited.

Question 4

This question was based on a short extract of literature. The text related to Theme 3 of the specification and described a scene taking place at the entrance to school.

Nearly all candidates were able to demonstrate their ability to understand some key information from a work of literature in German. Candidates who were less successful overall often showed a good level of understanding of this particular text. Candidates should feel proud of their ability to understand a text of this nature. Parts iii and iv proved to be the more challenging aspects of this task; the adverb "schon" was problematic for less successful candidates.

Question 5

Question 5 was adapted from an online forum about places to live, relating to Theme 2 of the specification. Candidates complete 4 English sentences by choosing one of the four names given.

Candidates demonstrated a very good understanding of this area of the specification, with frequent examples of full marks on this question.

Question 6

This question was based on an article about online shopping. Candidates demonstrate the level of their understanding in two ways. Firstly, they are required to select three correct statements, written in English, about the text. There is a choice from 7 possible statements. This is followed by two questions, specifically targeting points in the text.

The candidates who were less successful in this question were not able to recognise the past participle "bestellt", which linked to statement B. The noun "Ermäßigungen", which linked to statement D, was recognised by more successful candidates.

Part iii proved itself to be more accessible, with a wider ability range recognising "Weihnachten" than the phrase "Geld zurück", which was required to gain credit for part ii.

Question 7

Question 8 is a multiple-choice question set entirely in German. This year, the question was based on Theme 5, Environment. The majority of candidates were able to link the phrases "gut für die Umwelt" and "ist umweltfreundlich" in 8i and even the least successful candidates were able to demonstrate an understanding of this aspect of the specification in this way. The most common incorrect answer in 8ii was option A. Both A and the correct option C the word "nicht", as did the text.

Both 7b and 7c proved to be the more challenging parts of this question. Parts 7d and 7e, however, were more likely to gain credit. Candidates recognised the phrases "Mit Freundinnen" and "Vorteile und Nachteile" more readily. They found making the link between "nur aus der Region" and "kommt immer aus der Region" the most difficult aspect of the question.

Question 8

This question is set entirely in German. Candidates are required to demonstrate their comprehension of the text by choosing the correct name to complete sentences, which focus on specific points made in the text. Because the text is divided into 4 discrete sections, the sentences do not adhere to the order of information in it.

Almost all candidates were able to demonstrate a reasonable understanding of Theme 4, Work in response to the text. The most frequently given correct responses were 9d and 9e. The correct links were made between "ärgerlichen Kollegen" in the text and "mit den Kollgen unzufrieden" in the questions. Candidates also showed that they had understood the word "arbeitslos" and were often able to successfully link it to "hat keinen Job".

Question 9

This is the only question which requires candidates to verbalise their answers in German. The quality of the language is not assessed and any answers which communicate the correct message without ambiguity are credited with marks.

When 9a was not successfully answered, it was often due to ambiguous use of pronouns or possessive. Answers which contained the word "unser" were often considered too ambiguous to be credited. Any third person singular possessive was accepted as correct, regardless of gender.

9b was the most successfully answered of the 5 parts in question 9, but 9c proved more challenging. Answers which merely referenced the size of the park were not credited. Candidates had to communicate why the size of the park was beneficial.

The word "Schloss" was well recognised as the response to 9d, however, in order to gain credit for 9e, candidates had to show that they had inferred that the colleagues had eaten the chocolate in order to score. Only the most successful candidates were able to do this.

Question 10

In this question, candidates needed to translate a continuous piece of text from German into English.

Very few candidates did not attempt the question, although there was evidence of this amongst those candidates who were, overall, less successful.

The first sentence was in the present tense, but some candidates incorrectly rendered it into the future "I'm going to go...", which examiners considered to be a departure from the true meaning of the German text. The word "gern" was characteristically missed in the translations of less successful candidates too.

In the second sentence, the word "leider" proved itself to be less well known and was often omitted. This had a limited impact on marks when candidates had correctly translated "das kann ein Problem sein", as the idea of "leider" is less necessary in this instance.

The plural form of "Charaktere" was often translated as a singular noun. "Lachen" was well recognised, but some candidates altered the meaning of the text in their translation of "nicht immer", which was a consideration when awarding marks.

The performance of better candidates was characterised by:

- careful reading of the questions and recognition of the key question words – what, why, when, where, which.
- good knowledge of vocabulary from the list in the specification.
- processing of information and recognition of different ways of saying the same thing.
- recognition of common adverbs, particularly in relation to time and intensity.
- good knowledge of question words in German – was, warum, welch-, wohin.
- a good knowledge of adjectives, particularly those used to express opinions.
- Attention to detail in the translation, particularly in relation to adverbs.

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