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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In German (1GN0)
Paper 3F: Reading and understanding German
Foundation Tier

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Introduction

This paper was worth 50 marks and was divided into three sections, A, B and C. The first 6 questions, Section A, were set in English. Questions 7-9, Section B, were set in the target language. Section C, Question 10, consisted of a translation from German into English. The examination proved to be a fair test of candidates' ability, providing a suitable level of challenge for more successful candidates whilst also providing questions which were accessible to all candidates. The majority had clearly been well prepared for the translation, the questions in the target language, and for the questions on literary texts and coped well with these questions.

Question 1

Candidates read a blog about jobs and were required to identify key items of vocabulary, matching statements to the correct person. This question proved a highly accessible start to the examination. The vast majority of candidates scored highly on this question, many attaining full marks. The least well answered parts was Q01(c) where some candidates failed to make the connections between Walter saying ich mag die Arbeit nicht and disliking the work and Q01(d) where some candidates did not understand that keinen Job meant that Margrit doesn't have a job. Many of the questions here could be answered by focusing on just one key word.

Question 2

Candidates read a text about an exchange school in Switzerland. They were then required to identify key ideas and words, completing five English sentences with words given in a box on the paper. There were at least two plausible options for each question but only one correct answer. Most candidates scored highly on this question. Q02(a) proved a slightly more challenging question with many candidates not knowing that Schweiz meant Austria and not Switzerland. Q02(b) required knowledge of the adjective klein, which was well known by most candidates. Q02(c) required recognition of numbers and the majority of candidates knew that zwei meant two and not three. There were, however, rather more incorrect answers on Q02(d) as some confused einkaufen for sightseeing. In Q02(e) the majority of candidates knew that dein Klassenlehrer meant your teacher.

Question 3

Q03 required candidates to read a text about ambitions and to answer five English questions. Candidates were not expected to answer in full sentences; indeed, all questions could be answered quite acceptably with a single word. In Q03(a(i)) a large number of candidates misunderstood the word Arzt and thought that Udo wanted a job as an artist, despite the word Arzt featuring in the minimum core vocabulary. A smaller number incorrectly inferred that he wanted to work in a hospital. In Q03 (a (ii)) many candidates knew that Udo's work was either not easy or that it was interesting. In Q03(a (iii)) examiners accepted a variety of answers such as money, giving him money or with financial help. Some candidates incorrectly added that his parents gave him money every Monday. Many candidates found the second part of this question more challenging. Some

assumed that in question Q03(b(i)) Udo must have been buying a car as this was mentioned in part 3(b(i)). A surprising number of candidates did not know the word Wohnung. In Q03 (b(ii)) some candidates assumed Udo would want a big car or a family car. The correct word needed – schnell – was not known by all.

Question 4

Candidates had to read an extract from a literary text, Die Geschichte von Herrn Sommer by Patrick Süskind and then choose the correct option from a series of 4 alternatives. Q04 (i) was correctly answered by a large number of candidates who knew that ruhig meant that Herr Sommer lived in a quiet area. Q04 (ii) was not so straightforward for all candidates who did not know that Haustiere meant pets and not either money, hobbies or garden. Q04 (iii) asked candidates to match Bergen with mountains. In Q04 (iv) some candidates also found it a challenge to correctly answer that morgens meant every morning. In the last part Q04 (v) many candidates were able to match the phrase "Jeden Tag geht er mit braunen Stiefeln und Rucksack aus dem Haus" with the correct choice.

Question 5

Candidates were required to read a text about friendship and to answer three English questions on the content. Even though the text was slightly longer it was still possible to give short answers to each of the three questions. In Q05(a) most candidates could give an answer that the girls had similar or the same interests, or that they were both the same age. Unfortunately, very few candidates had incorrectly written that both girls were 50, and answers like this could not be credited. In Q05(b) the vast majority of candidates were able to answer correctly. Most candidates communicated the meaning of the word egoistisch and not the word gemein, which was not as well known. In Q05 (c) not so many candidates understood that Anna's teacher said good friends should have time for each other – the key word Zeit was not widely known.

Question 6

Candidates had to read a longer and more challenging literary text with more advanced vocabulary and structures and answer English questions on the content. Q06(a) was well answered by many, who correctly realised that you could see the whole town from the tower. Some candidates unfortunately confused this and said that the tower could be seen from the town – and there was no evidence in the text to support this. Q06(b) caused some problems for many candidates who thought that entspannt meant exciting. Q06(c) was successfully answered by the vast majority of candidates who knew that he liked the lake as he could go fishing. There were many possible answers. Sometimes the less successful candidates overlooked the simple options describing the ball as big, or pretty and then were not able to correctly navigate the more complicated pretty dancers or exciting music. Q06(d) was not as simple to answer but many candidates still knew that Roland's grandfather made the museum interesting or that he gave tours.

Question 7

Candidates were required to read a text about a school rules and to complete five sentences with the correct German words chosen from a given list. This test type is the same as for Q02 with the crucial difference that the sentences and possible answers are all in German, thereby increasing the question difficulty. The question also required some deduction, albeit at a very basic level. Successful candidates knew for Q07(a) that doof was the same as dumm in the text. Less successful candidates chose one of the other words, despite the fact that these did not make grammatical sense. In Q07(b) less successful candidates failed to realise that manchmal was the correct word to convey eating in the hall occasionally if it rains from the text. Q07(c) required candidates to draw the conclusion that if they couldn't be loud that leise was the correct day. In Q07(d) a few candidates associated nicht laufen with langsam. Q07(e) was answered correctly by nearly all candidates who knew that Handball should be associated with spielen.

Question 8

Candidates read a blog about environmental protection and had to choose the correct answer from 4 possible choices. This question type is very similar to Q04 with the crucial difference that the sentences and possible answers are all in German, thereby again increasing the question difficulty. In Q08(i) successful candidates were able to work out that letzten Juli meant Frank had won a competition last summer. In Q08(ii) many were able to deduce that it was his sister who worked with animals. Candidates who were able to answer Q08(iii) correctly, knew that Frank's parents were never environmentally friendly. It was pleasing that candidates were able to successfully link Studium with University study for Q08(iv). In Q08(v) most candidates were able to successfully connect Bahn and Zug for a correct answer.

Question 9

Candidates had to read some information about summer holidays and then match a number of German statements to the correct person. This is one of the most demanding tasks on the Foundation Level paper, but many candidates were able to gain marks. This question required the ability to recognise some synonyms in German and candidates needed a thorough understanding of the text in order to choose the correct answers. In Q09(a) it was simply necessary to recognise dreckig as a synonym for schmutzig. In Q09(b) candidates needed to match sonnig with the idea of great weather. Q09 (c) required a level of deduction to work out that it was Edith who hadn't slept well so she was tired. In Q09(d) candidates needed to link a long car journey with spending hours travelling. In Q09(e) successful candidates matched Kurt loving the different restaurants and the fish with the idea of liking the food. This required knowledge of the word köstlich which was not widely known by foundation candidates.

Question 10

The translation into English gives candidates the opportunity to show how accurately they have understood a German text and how precisely they can convey the meaning in English. The sentences gradually increase in difficulty throughout the passage. Most candidates were able to translate the text accurately enough to score some marks. The more successful

candidates were able to translate the past tense sentences appropriately. In the first sentence most candidates were able to translate this correctly, with like as a translation for liebe being a common misconception. In the second sentence the precise translation of viele was often missed, with some candidates translating this as four, some, a few, or simply missing it out altogether. Some candidates also used the wrong tense. In the third sentence many candidates correctly translated Mein Freund with some even being able to give my male friend or my boyfriend. Some struggled with geht gern but offered several variations that did not detract from the flow or meaning of the translation, for example my friend likes it in the cinema. The fourth sentence caused the most problems for candidates with many not understanding aber, and even more struggling with Ich höre lieber and translating it as I love to listen, or I like listening. The final sentence, while complex, was also correctly translated by many candidates – perhaps surprisingly the idea which caused the most problems for candidates in this sentence was im Rathaus, with many not knowing the meaning and often simply leaving it out. It is pleasing to see more candidates understanding more complex structures but in order to gain the highest marks they will also need to understand all ideas – the simpler elements too.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper candidates are offered the following advice:

- It is important to be familiar with all vocabulary in the minimum core vocabulary as all questions are based on this.
- It is crucial to answer questions in the language required. If candidates answer questions in German when English is required or vice versa their answers cannot be credited.
- When completing gap fill exercises candidates must ensure that their answers correspond to what is written in the text rather than just inserting words that at first sight might seem plausible.
- Candidates should be aware that if they give several answers for a one-mark question only the first can be credited.
- Candidates should beware of over-long answers where a subsequent detail negates a previously correct answer.
- A knowledge of grammar is essential when completing gap fill exercises in German, as it enables candidates to eliminate some answers immediately before even reading the text.
- Some questions will require candidates to make simple deductions, draw conclusions or identify synonyms for vocabulary from the specification.
- It is advisable not to leave gaps in the translation as omitted phrases are likely to limit attainment to a mark of 3 or 4.

