

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2009

IGCSE

IGCSE German (4375) Paper 1

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Publications Code UG022352

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Paper 1: Listening

Question 1 Essen

This section of the examination is designed to be accessible to all candidates as they settle into the examination. It was answered almost universally correctly, although *Erdbeeren* was not known by a few candidates.

Question 2 Mein Wohnort

This task required candidates to match a picture with a word or concept in a short statement in German. A few candidates experienced problems with some lexical items here e.g. *Bauernhof*, *Küste*. Candidates should be reminded that they may not use the same icon twice - each answer will require a different icon.

Question 3 Das Wetter

As a topic, the weather remains a firm favourite and the majority of candidates performed well in this question.

Question 4 Stress in den Ferien

Teil 1

Many candidates seemed uncomfortable, if not unfamiliar, with note-taking in German and struggled with this question. Centres are reminded that this is a common task type and regular practice is therefore essential. There were examples of random lifting from the transcript - whilst lifting of appropriate and correctly transcribed information is allowed in itself, it is not recommended that candidates should lift indiscriminate chunks.

Teil 2

Candidates were much more at ease with this task type and generally fared well. There was, however, some evidence of candidates plucking words randomly from the word box without any consideration as to whether the chosen word would fit grammatically e.g. (c) Paul will das große *einkaufen* starten.

Question 5 Handy-Verbot

Candidates need to listen very attentively to the recordings for the final two questions since these target the top grades.

Teil 1

Fortunes were surprisingly mixed in this section and some candidates seemed to have chosen answers according to a plan rather than based on what they heard.

Teil 2

Many candidates enjoyed complete success here, but this section discriminated extremely well. A popular incorrect answer was (d).

General comments

Now that past papers for several series of the IGCSE German examination are available, it is strongly recommended that teachers use them for practice in class as the types of tests used in the examination are not always those used in class or in class textbooks.

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Order Code UG022352 November 2009

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