



Pearson
Edexcel

Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2024

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in
German (WGN02) Unit 1

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Examiner's Report: Paper 2, Understanding and Written Response

Introduction

External assessment: written examination

Availability: January and June

First assessment: June 2017

Total marks: 90

Weighting: 69.2% of the total IAS raw marks

34.6% of the total IAL marks

Examination time: 2 hours 30 minutes

Assessment across Unit WGN02 01 relates to the following General Topic Areas:

General Topic Area	Subtopics
Youth matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Family relationships and friendships● Peer pressure and role models● Music and fashion● Technology and communication
Lifestyle, health and fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Food and diet● Sport and exercise● Health issues● Urban and rural life
Environment and travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Tourism, travel and transport● Natural disasters and weather● Climate change and its impact● Energy, pollution and recycling
Education and employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Education systems and types of schooling● Pupil/student life● Volunteering and internships● Jobs and unemployment

Assessment

The assessment for this unit has three sections.

Section A: Listening (20 marks)

Candidates listen to a range of authentic recorded TL (Target Language) material and retrieve and convey information given in the recording by responding to a range of TL questions.

Candidates need to show understanding of both the general sense and specific details conveyed. The questions will elicit non-verbal responses and short answers in the target language.

Section B: Reading and Grammar (30 marks)

Candidates read authentic TL printed materials and retrieve and convey information by responding to a range of TL test types. The questions elicit both non-verbal responses and TL answers.

Questions are linked to a range of reading comprehension exercises.

Candidates also need to understand and manipulate grammatical structures in the TL by selecting the most appropriate word form to fit a gap.

Section C: Essay (40 marks)

Candidates write a 240–280-word essay in the TL, in response to a TL stimulus and four related bullet points. The assessment rewards effective communication of information as well as quality of language.

General comments

The examiners marking on the unit would like to thank centres for the effort they put in to ensure the assessments run smoothly for their candidates and to allow them to reach their full potential.

Questions 4, 6 and 7 require short answers in German. Generally, the examinations are designed in such a way that simply lifting words from the texts will not satisfy the requirements of the question. At least some manipulation of the language in the text will be required. Although grammatical accuracy is not assessed in the comprehension questions, the response does need to communicate a full answer to the question, without ambiguity. Particular care should be taken when using pronouns, and candidates should consider using the actual nouns in their answers to aid clarity. Candidates may use their own words, and many are doing so increasingly effectively. Lifting very short, focussed phrases is sometimes enough, but here the skill is really shown in the precision with which information is selected. It is also rarely possible. Lifting full sentences will almost never be a way to score a mark, and it is important that all candidates are aware of this. Most candidates did show an awareness of this. Sometimes only very limited manipulation of the text is required, so this is something which all candidates should be able to manage to some extent.

Candidates need to be aware that tasks 4, 6 and 7 contain questions of varying cognitive demand. For example, low demand questions require candidates to demonstrate comprehension of the text. However, some questions require judgement or inference, and these questions require

candidates to reflect and evaluate on what they have read or heard, before answering.

An essential part of the comprehension test is also the ability of candidates to not only understand the text, but also to understand the questions and answer them directly. Some examples to inform future candidates will also be provided in later sections.

Question 9 requires a written response to a stimulus in German.

Candidates should address all four bullet points in a coherent, well organised and purposeful fashion. Candidates generally performed well in this question and examples of what is meant by the terms coherent, organised and purposeful in the mark grids will be provided below.

Section A: Listening

Q1 Multiple Choice

This was a listening text about keeping fit at home. Candidates had four options A, B, C, or D for each part (the correct response, and three distractors). Candidates generally responded well, but when they did not, it was most often 1c that was incorrectly answered.

Q2 Multiple Choice

This listening text was on the topic of arguments between colleagues. This task is identical in design to question 1 and most candidates responded well. The question was designed to test low and medium demand.

Q3 Summary completion

This question requires candidates to listen to a short passage and then complete a summary text, selecting from a pool of eight items. The topic of the text was E-scooters.

Although the many of candidates were able to provide the correct responses. The most frequent incorrect response was in part c), where a number of candidates incorrectly selected "negative".

Q4 Short Answer Questions

Question 4 requires a written response from candidates, although the quality of the language provided by candidates is not assessed discreetly. Examiners credit responses which communicate the answer to the question in understandable German. It is important that the answer is not ambiguous. Each part is worth 1 or 2 marks. Q4 was about vocational training.

Candidates were nearly all able to gain credit for this question, although some parts proved more challenging.

4b – required to notion of being sure, or certain. Some candidates were too vague, saying that she just "wanted to see" what the job was like.

4c – needed to communicate the idea that people who have successfully completed the "Realschule" would find it easier.

4d – needed to communicate the full information in terms of 12 additional school days.

Section B: Reading and Grammar

Q5 Multiple Choice Questions

Candidates choose from four options: A, B, C, or D for each item within the question (the correct response, and three distractors). This text was set on the topic of urban life in Munich. Most candidates were able to find the information needed to score marks in this question.

Q6 Short Answer Questions

This question required short written responses from the candidates, each part was worth 1 mark. The quality of language was not assessed here, and responses were considered in the same way as for question 4. The text handled the topic of German Rap Music.

Although the question was generally well answered, part d) proved to be the most challenging. To gain the mark, the answer had to clearly describe the music style, rather than saying how it can be categorised.

Q7 Short Answer Questions

This question also required very brief written responses using a single word, a phrase or a short sentence. The marking principles were exactly the same here as for questions 4 and 6. Each part was worth 1 or 2 marks. This question was about Plastic and Glass bottles.

Many parts of this question were considered to be high demand. Some candidates misinterpreted the main message of the text, so did not score in part a.

Part b required information about how many old bottles are re-processed into new bottles to score. Many left out this detail.

Question 8

This question continued on the theme of bottles. There were 10 words selected, which were presented in the infinitive form for verbs, or the non-declined form in the case of adjectives or articles.

This question requires absolute precision, so it is not surprising that some candidates find it very challenging. Nearly all candidates had some degree of success in this question, zero marks was very rare. Parts h and i appeared to be the most challenging parts, as was expected when the assessment was designed.

Section C: Writing

Q9 Essay

This section requires candidates to write a response based on a short, written stimulus. The recommended length for this is 240-280 words, though examiners mark the full response, whatever its length; they do not count the words when marking the essay. It is perfectly possible for an essay of 240 to gain full marks and candidates should avoid writing essays which are excessively long, as they often start to lack organisation or purposefulness. There is no automatic penalty for responses shorter than the recommended length, the content is assessed on its own merits, but candidates should be aware that detail is a key consideration in this assessment. Short answers may not contain this in sufficient amounts for the top marks.

The topic of the essay was "Vlogs and Blogs" and all candidates were able to respond well.

The marks for content and communication are awarded based on how well candidates address each of the bullet points in the task and how well they structure and present their ideas.

The ideal answer covers all 4 bullet points in a logical order, making good use of paragraphs, which satisfied the "coherent" element of the mark grids. Candidates, whose responses seemed convincing as an email to the magazine editors were able to satisfy the "purposeful" element of the top mark band. Linking paragraphs well also provided good evidence of purposefulness. Those candidates who did not deviate from the topic and therefore did not include additional information that was not required were also able to satisfy the "pertinent" element of the top mark band.

Nearly all candidates addressed all four bullet points successfully. Candidates who did not score the highest marks often relied on information which is normally learned and communicated as part of level 1/2 qualifications, such as iGCSE.

Quality of language was, on the whole, very good and often excellent. Teachers can help their candidates to improve their marks in this section by drawing their attention to key words in the mark scheme.

The highest mark band requires a wide range of structures and vocabulary. Ensuring that all of the task bullet points are thoroughly dealt with, and including different ideas when doing so, will also help the candidates to widen the range of vocabulary and structures that they use.

Finally, the marks for language take account of control and accuracy. It is important to make candidates aware of the following areas, if they wish to attain the highest marks for this assessment objective. Pay attention to verb agreements, particularly in longer sentences.

Candidates should use an appropriate register for writing, rather than conversational German. Completing regular spelling practices would be helpful, particularly for those candidates who speak more German than they write. Many candidates produced German which seemed to be at the level of a native speaker. Such performances were considered to be above the requirements of the task. However, the expectation for full marks was not perfection. All candidates who demonstrated significant progress from level 2 were awarded full marks for language.

Paper Summary

Based on candidates' performance on this paper, we offer the following advice:

- A careful reading of each part, with attention to the specific question words is important. The angle of the question needs attention.
- Manipulation is often required and lifting from the passage is only successful if the correct information is directly given.
- All German offered needs to communicate unambiguously in the comprehension questions.
- Examiners assess the skills of deduction and inference in this specification, and candidates will not find all the required information presented explicitly in the passages.
- Candidates should offer succinct and direct responses.
- In Q9, candidates should address all four bullet points fully and think of the piece of writing as a whole, linking the information well.

Grade Boundaries

There has been much work on the comparability of the speaking units for French, German and Spanish. Senior examiners continue to work closely together to ensure that they apply the common marking guidelines consistently across the three languages. It is possible to find grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, on the website via this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

