



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In German (4GN1) Paper 01

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Candidates had been well-prepared for the listening paper and knew what was expected of them in each question. Very few felt unable to attempt all questions.

Question 1 – Beim Arzt

Candidates had to match short statements about health issues to four pictures in a grid to identify common ailments.

This was a good introduction to the paper and many candidates gained full marks. The most common correct answer was (b) *Sonnenbrand*, but other ailments were less familiar and caused problems for some candidates.

Question 2 – Urlaub

Candidates had to choose six correct icons from a grid to match short statements of more than one sentence from 3 speakers.

It is difficult to assess the reasons for wrong answers. However, the words which seemed to cause most problems were *Sandburg* and *Seen*.

If a candidate crosses more than the required number of boxes, one mark is deducted from the correct answers for each extra cross. A minority of candidates lost one or more marks in this way. Others did not cross enough boxes. This year, the majority entered only the 6 required crosses.

Question 3 – Arbeit

The recording was of one speaker describing a present job and future career plans. The short note-taking task required candidates to identify one word or a short phrase in response to six cues.

Just under half the candidature gained full marks. The most frequent cause of a loss of a mark was in (a) where the spelling of *Kassierer* caused problems. Other occasional problems were caused by a misunderstanding of what was being asked. For example, the answer to *Job - was* often appeared as *Supermarkt*.

The number 12 in (d) was well-known and the correct answer *drei Jahre* at (f) was usually successful.

Question 4 – Helfen im Haushalt

Following an example, six speakers gave their opinions about helping at home. The task was to identify whether the opinions were positive, negative or positive and negative by putting a cross under the correct timeframe in a grid against each speaker's name.

This question was well answered. There were very few wrong answers.

Question 5 – Die Medien

Candidates heard an interview with Yannick about his experiences working on the school newspaper. The multiple-choice task had four options for each of six statements.

Having a choice of answers available seems to allow candidates to do well in this question and many scored three or four marks. The most common incorrect answers were at (c) and (e).

Question 6 – Ein deutscher Feiertag

This question was based on part of an interview with a student describe the German public holiday on the 3rd of October. Candidates had to complete six sentences with a word from a choice of twelve from a box above the grid.

As in previous series, this prove to be the most challenging question on the paper. Especially (a), (c), and (d) were often wrongly answered.

However, many candidates scored at least one mark, usually for (f).

Question 7 – Klassenfahrten

The final task on this paper required candidates to take detailed notes from an interview with a teacher, identifying two advantages and one disadvantage of the school trips in the countryside and in towns.

Only short answers are required but these need to be detailed enough to gain the mark. For example, an advantage of school trips in the countryside was not simply that the that learning was better but that *praktisches Lernen* was better. Similarly, in (f) one disadvantage of trips in towns was not just that there was traffic there but that the traffic presented certain dangers.

Despite the challenge of listening to an extended recording of German at this stage in the paper, even the least successful candidates often managed to pick up a final mark on this question by identifying *ideal für Grundschule* as an advantage of trips to the countryside.

Conclusion

To ensure success in this paper, candidates should:

- learn as wide a range of vocabulary as possible from the minimum core vocabulary list in the specification,
- think of vocabulary in word fields rather than as individual items (eg *Karotten* and *Kartoffeln* = *Gemüse*),
- practise listening to language in a range of different contexts and with passages of varying lengths,
- listen to the overall sense of the passage rather than simply for individual words so that they can understand details and gist,
- practise taking short notes in German,
- think about how to best use the five minutes' reading time before the recording starts.

