



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2024

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 – Vorbilder

Candidates had to match short statements about role models to four pictures in a grid to identify common professions.

This was a good introduction to the paper and many candidates gained full marks. The most common correct answers were at (a) and (b) where *Schauspielerin* and *Ärztin* were less well-known than *Fußballspielerin* and *Sängerin* at (c) and (d).

Question 2 – Das Abendessen

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 *Hähnchen* and *Blumenkohl*.

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 – Eine neue Schule

The recording was of one speaker describing her life at a new school. The short note-taking task required candidates to identify one word or a short phrase in response to six cues.

- (a) The number 8 was well-known. However, the mark was withheld for some responses when there was no mention of months.
- (b) Most managed to identify that the girl thought there was never enough homework. Less successful candidates were often unable to transcribe *nie genug* correctly and only gained the mark if their version was recognisable enough.
- (c) *Kunst* was almost universally given as the correct answer.
- (d) The word *Kopfhörer* which is listed in the specification was not well-known. Examiners allowed spellings which clearly identified the two separate parts, head and hearing. Thus, a response such as *Kopfuh* which appeared in many scripts was not accepted.

(e) and (f) Examiners accepted a reasonable attempt at spelling *nötig* and *Zeugnis*. Most candidates were able to identify the words but lost the marks if their version was too far removed from the correct German word.

Question 4 – Autos

Following an example, six speakers made statements about cars. The task was to identify whether they were talking about cars or travel by car in the past, present or future 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. Whilst (f) was almost universally correct, (a), also a future reference, caused problems for about a quarter of the candidature. This may have been because whereas the grammatical future was used in (f), the future intent was inferred in what Roshan said.

Question 5 – Zu Hause

Candidates heard an interview with Tommy about the flat he lives in and the surrounding area. 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 at least three or four marks. Although the majority of candidates coped well with the first four parts of this question, with (b) almost always correct, part (e) was more problematic, presumably because it required more information to be processed to reach to the correct answer that Tommy wanted to live in the countryside on a farm surrounded by fresh air and fields. Despite so many indicators being given, the question the process was made more challenging because the other options were mentioned in the recorded passage.

Question 6 – Hobbys

This question was based on part of an interview about young people's hobbies. Candidates had to complete six sentences with a word from a choice of twelve from a box above the grid.

The most correctly chosen options were at (c) and (d) where the links between what was heard and the word selection were reasonably clear. However, there was less success at (a) and (e). Only the most successful managed to make the link between *Zeit lassen* and *vorsichtig* at (a) and between *nicht weit von meinem Haus* and *kurz* at (e).

Question 7 – Tourismus

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 two types of tourism.

In this challenging task in which candidates have to take short notes when hearing the interview only twice, it is necessary to give enough detail to gain the mark in each case. For example, it was necessary to state more than just that mass tourism gave work to locals as an advantage: to gain the mark candidates needed to identify the challenging idea *Hochsaison*. Examiners accepted a wide range of spellings for this word. Similarly, an advantage of eco-tourism was not that you could learn about nature but about *Naturschutz*.

Some words were rarely known. These included *Armut* and *Tierarten*, although in the case of the latter *Tiere retten* or *schützen* were acceptable answers.

Despite the challenges, even less successful candidates managed to score one mark for *Fliegen* or *zu viele Touristen* as a disadvantage of eco-tourism.

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* or *fahren-fährt-gefahren-fuhr-fahrt-ausfahrt-rückfahrt*).
- 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.

