



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE

In German (4GN1) Paper 01R

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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 – Zu Hause

Candidates had to match short statements about people's homes to four pictures in a grid to identify household items.

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

Question 2 – Einkaufen

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 *Lineal* and *Portemonnaie*.

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 – Freizeit

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

Many candidates scored full marks here. However, some did not hear *Kegelbahn* correctly and were unable to write it down or wrongly assumed that *plaudern* was a sport. Other were unable to deduce that the baker's rather than the café was the sponsor of the new centre.

Question 4 – Karneval

Following an example, six speakers gave their opinions about the annual festival. 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 – Ein Theaterklub

Candidates heard an interview with Oskar about his experiences in a theatre group. 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. The most common incorrect answers were at (c) and (f) which demanded more careful listening.

Question 6 – Ferien

This question was based on part of an interview with a parent talking about allowing their children to go on holiday alone. 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 proved to be the most challenging question on the paper. Especially (a), (b), and (d) were often wrongly answered.

However, many candidates scored at least two marks, usually for (e) and (f).

Question 7 – Bahnfahren

The final task on this paper required candidates to take detailed notes from an interview about rail travel, identifying two advantages and one disadvantage for business people and for tourists.

Only short answers are required but these need to be detailed enough to gain the mark. For example, an advantage of rail travel for tourists was that they arrived directly in the town centre rather than just in the town, *Stadtmitte* rather than *Stadt*. Similarly, the word *Flexibilität* on its own was not enough to secure the mark at (f); it was necessary to state that the tourists offered flexibility.

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 some marks on this question by identifying *pünktlich* or *sauber* as an advantage for business people.

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.

