



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2024

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

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Publications Code 4GN1_01R_2406_ER

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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 – Essen

Candidates had to match short statements about what people liked eating to four pictures in a grid to identify common food items.

This was a good introduction to the paper and many candidates gained full marks. Whilst all candidates were able to identify *Suppe* correctly at (a), the word *Champignons* at (d) was less well known.

Question 2 – In der Schule

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 *Aula* and *Turnhalle*.

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 – Mein Vorbild

The recording was of one speaker describing the film star Elyas M'barek. The short note-taking task required candidates to identify one word or a short phrase in response to six cues.

- (a) To gain the mark, a good attempt at the German spelling of *München* was required. This and some other German place names are listed in the vocabulary list in the specification. The English version *Munich* was not accepted.
- (b) *Popmusik* was well-known.
- (c) Only a few candidates struggled to write the correct year.
- (d) and (e) Spelling of the required words had to be as near as possible to the German spelling. *Radhaus* rather than *Rathaus* was not an acceptable version of this common noun. Many versions of *ehrlich* were credited as long as they did not become confused with another word eg *ehelich*.
- (e) Most candidates managed to identify that Elyas was going abroad next week.

Question 4 – Technologie

Following an example, six speakers made statements about technology. 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. However, the most common wrong answers were at (c) where some candidates failed to notice the clear indication of the past with *als*, *war* and *hatte*, and at (d) where future intent was indicated with the present tense. In the latter case, candidates had to listen carefully to the overall meaning of the sentence rather than simply identify a tense.

Question 5 – Tägliche Routine

Candidates heard an interview with Elsa about her daily routine. 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 correctly chosen options were at (c) and (f) where the links between what was heard and the word selection were reasonably clear. However, there was less success at (d) which required a greater degree of inference to work out that Elsa and her sister shared the household tasks.

Question 6 – Die Schweizerische Post

This question was based on part of an interview about post offices in Switzerland. Candidates had to complete six sentences with a word from a choice of twelve from a box above the grid.

Although most candidates managed to score at least some points for this more demanding task, there were varied fortunes. At (a), some were unable to make the link between *in der Nähe von* and *außerhalb*; and at (e), some missed the inference that *Melina's job delivering letters would be im Freien rather than im Büro*.

Question 7 – Sport

The final task on this paper required candidates to take detailed notes from an interview about the advantages and disadvantages of different ways of watching sport.

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, an advantage of live sport events was that the atmosphere was unbelievable. *Stimmung* as an answer on its own as not credited. Similarly, *andere Leute* as a disadvantage of live sport was not

enough without mention of the fact that some other people could become aggressive. However, many candidates managed to pick up some more straightforward marks by noting that watching sport at home was *bequem* or that watching live sport could be *laut*.

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.

