



# **General Certificate of Secondary Education**

## **German 4662** *Specification B*

**46604/L    Listening**

# **Report on the Examination**

*2007 examination - June series*

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## LISTENING

### Foundation Tier

The Foundation Tier Listening Test proved to be accessible to the vast majority of candidates who attempted most questions. The question paper included a variety of question types, which catered for different abilities. There was evidence this year that candidates were using their preparation time carefully to study pictures and questions before hearing the tape and were anticipating what might be said. Simply writing in the English translations is good practice, which gets the candidates thinking about what they are doing. Candidates should also be encouraged to use the pause period after each question on the tape to read through the following question again. In this way, they are ready to listen for the information before they actually hear the speaker(s).

#### Question 1

Most candidates found this question easy and it provided a good introduction to the examination. Parts (a) and (b) were correctly answered by almost all candidates, but on (c), there was some difficulty with “*Pferd*” despite the added clue of “*reiten*”.

#### Question 2

This question followed a similar format and was well answered. It is worth noting at this point that an example of how to answer the question is given only when a new question type appears on the paper. Parts (a) and (b) were very successful indeed, but “*wandern*” on part (c) caused problems for a few candidates.

#### Question 3

The majority of candidates scored very well on this question. Only on part (e) was there difficulty with recognising the time “*halb acht*” as “7.30”. Nearly 40% of candidates gave the incorrect answer of “8.30”.

#### Question 4

The topic of shopping was generally well known. The most successful parts were (a), (c) and (d). On part (b), “*Süßigkeiten*” appeared to be unknown by a substantial number of candidates who selected “*Blumen*”. On part (e), 45% of candidates chose the distracter “*eine Sonnenbrille*” having heard “*Sommerferien in Spanien*”. Although a majority selected the correct answer on part (f), it proved difficult for many candidates who did not link “*CDs*” with the answer “*Musikladen*”.

#### Question 5

This question required candidates to give responses in German and it stated in the rubric that only single word answers were required, partly to make the task of answering in the target language less demanding, but also to make the candidates focus on single lexical items. Candidates should be reminded to read all rubrics carefully before attempting any questions. The question words themselves were kept as simple as possible. On part (f), the use of the correct “*wofür*” was avoided at this level. A good number of candidates wrote the meanings above the questions. As always, correct spelling was not a necessity in the testing of the listening skill, but the word had to be recognisable and not be open to confusion with another word. Candidates should also be reminded of the need to write answers as legibly as possible.

Parts (a) and (b) were the most successful. On part (b), two answers were possible: “*interessant*” or “*einfach*”. In cases where candidates wrote both answers, they were awarded the mark. On part (c), only the word “Auto” was needed, but the addition of references to “Mutter” often led to ambiguous answers. The “Bus” element of the question also led to some confusion here. On (d), “*hilfsbereit*” was badly known. “*Zu streng*” was given frequently as the answer, but this could only refer to the “*Chefin*”. Part (e) was reasonably successful, but some candidates found it difficult to pick out the word “*kurz*”. On part (f), the correct answer of “*Fremdsprachen*”/“*Spanisch*” was well known, although most candidates at this tier chose the second option.

### Question 6

Candidates had most success with parts (b), (c) and (d). On part (a), many were distracted by the answer “*letzte Woche*”. On part (e), most candidates succeeded in choosing one correct answer, but only a minority gained the two marks available here. The final sentence “*Auf Heiraten und Kinder haben kann ich mindestens 10 Jahre warten*” caused difficulty for candidates and the fact that it was the last part of the utterance may have led to the belief that it contained the answers.

### Higher Tier

The Higher Tier Listening Test contained a variety of question styles. It was apparent that candidates used their preparation time well and had been made familiar with the rubrics and target language.

### Question 1

Predictably, candidates scored much better on this question than those entered for Foundation Tier. However, failure to read the rubric and understand the instruction to use single-word answers caused unnecessary problems. Provided answers longer than one word were not self-contradictory, they were accepted. However, at this tier, candidates were apparently keen to give lengthy answers, perhaps in the hope that writing much of what was said on the tape would cover the answer somehow. Unfortunately, it was usually the case in this instance that one part of the candidate’s answer contradicted the other part, e.g. “*Bus oder Auto*” on part (c). Parts (a), (b) and (f) were the most successful.

### Question 2

The second of the overlap questions was generally answered very well at this tier. On part (d), however, the majority of candidates chose the distracter answer (c), presumably because they did not link the past tense used in the question to the past tense used in the statement “*Wir hatten einen Urlaub in Griechenland geplant*”.

### Question 3

Again, this question was well done, with most candidates scoring the two marks on each part. Parts (b) and (c) were the most successful.

### Question 4

This question required careful reading of the information in the boxes before listening to the tape. Nevertheless, candidates were quite successful overall, finding part (b) the easiest and (a) the most difficult.

## Question 5

The style of the last question was more challenging as it was targeted at A\* candidates. The first of the three sections required answers in German, but this time it was necessary to write more than a single word. As on Question 1, allowances were made for misspellings and alternative answers. Part (a) was found very difficult by most candidates. Many made references to her going out with friends **but** failed to mention getting home before 23.00. It would have also been acceptable to refer to her drinking alcohol. Candidates were much more successful on part (b), but although a great many understood that she was too young, the spelling of “*jung*” caused many difficulties surprisingly, e.g. “young”, “*yung*”, “*Junge*”. The second and third sections achieved a higher success rate with their multiple-choice format. 83% of candidates got part (c) correct and many were also successful on part (e). On part (d), however, the majority of candidates chose answer B, failing to understand the question properly. On part (f) likewise, a misunderstanding of the initial part of the statement and / or the three answers offered, led to a majority of candidates failing to choose answer B.

## Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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