



GCSE

German

8668/RF - Paper 3 Reading Foundation Tier

Report on the examination

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General

Students were in the main well prepared for this paper and many were able to cope admirably with the challenges presented to them. This is the final examination of this specification, and students were clearly familiar with question-types and the format and demands of the paper. Handwriting remained an issue for some students, and it is important that responses are clearly presented and that crossings out do not prevent the desired response from being clear to examiners. A small minority of students wrote their responses in the wrong language, especially in section B of the paper.

Section A

Questions and answers in **English**

Question 1

This question, on the topic of life at school, proved to be an accessible start to the paper with over 90% of students gaining a mark for each of the four items tested.

Question 2

For the most part, students tackled this item well, with a success rate of around 80% for each of the five items. Students were clearly familiar with the question-type and topic (family and friends).

Question 3

The topic covered here was mobile technology and the vocabulary was familiar to many students. Approximately 70% of students gained a mark for each of the five items. Item 3.4 proved to be the most challenging, with some students encountering difficulties with the words *altmodisch* and *nützlich*.

Question 4

This was the first item on the paper with questions and answers in English and therefore students were required to provide a written response. The topic covered was healthy living. The first two questions were well answered, with a success rate of over 80%. 4.3 proved challenging to students and clearly many were unfamiliar with the word *Luft*. Only around 25% of students gained a mark here. Approximately 40% of students were familiar with *gerechnet* and gained a mark for 4.4.

Question 5

This item was another multiple-choice question and was based on a literary source. Responses to the four questions were mixed. 5.1 and 5.3 enjoyed a success rate of over 65%, whereas 5.2 and 5.4 were answered correctly by around 45% of students. Problem vocabulary on the latter two questions was *Gasthaus*, *ihr ganzes Haus* and *sauber*.

Question 6

This item covered the topic of voluntary work and was tested via questions and answers in English. There were three questions – 6.1 had two marks available and approximately 60% of students gained the full two marks and about 90% gained one mark. 6.2 had a 40% success rate. 6.3 on the other hand, proved challenging to many students. The word *einsam* proved to be an obstacle. Less than 15% of students gained a mark here.

Question 7

This question was an overlap item and therefore targeted grades 4 and 5. The topic covered was home. Students were required to answer questions in English. Around 40% gained a mark for 7.1; those who struggled thought that Heidi had found a new job and not her mother. Over 70% gained a mark for 7.2, which was pleasing to note. However, 7.3 proved extremely challenging for the majority of students at this level, with less than 5% gaining a mark here. *Hafen* and *Schiffe* were not well known.

Question 8

This question was also an overlap item targeting grades 4 and 5 featuring the topic of sport. The format of the question should have been familiar to students, having been used often in the past. The item proved challenging to many. There were four marks available and less than 5% of students gained 3 or 4. Just over half managed to record one mark. Very few students were familiar with *Turnen* and many thought that *vor der Schule* meant *for the school*.

Section B

Questions and answers in **German**

Question 9

Students were required to read a short passage on the topic of partnership and to select 6 correct statements from a given list. Around 50% of students gained 4 or more marks on the item, with 80% scoring at least 3 marks. It was disappointing to note that a small minority of students left the answer boxes blank when even a guess might have gained some credit and would not have been penalised.

Question 10

This was an overlap item targeting grades 4 and 5, with students required to answer questions in German. The topic covered was music. The first question proved challenging. Many students struggled with the question *Wann?* and offered unrelated responses copied from the wrong part of the text. Less than 25% gained a mark here. The other three questions were reasonably well answered given their level of difficulty and approximately 50% gained marks for each one.

Question 11

The topic covered here was 'my area' and students were required to answer questions in German. Students generally performed well on this set of four questions. On each question, over 50% of students gained a mark, which was pleasing to note. The most challenging question was 11.1. This was due to the fact that some students did not understand the question *Wie?*

Question 12

This item featured the topic of jobs and was an overlap question. The question-type was multiple choice. The first question was generally well answered, with around 60% answering correctly. Question 12.2 had a success rate of approximately 40%. 12.3 was challenging for many students, probably because *der Lohn* was not well known. Equally, 12.4 proved difficult for many, possibly because *Erfolg* was unknown by many students.

Section C

It was pleasing to note that performances on the translation into English continued to improve, with approximately 40% of students gaining 7 marks or more on the item and over 75% scoring 5 marks or more. Students had clearly practised the art of being precise when translating and were familiar with much of the vocabulary required for success. Some students did not know their days of the week and so mistranslated *Dienstag* and others were unfamiliar with school subjects and translated *Erdkunde* incorrectly (usually as History).

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.