



Questions matter



GCSE **German**

8668/RH Paper 3 Reading Higher Tier

Report on the Examination

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Section A

Questions and Answers in English

Question 1

This first question was an overlap item and was generally well-answered. A large majority of students gained 2 marks for 1.1. 1.2 proved more challenging with just under half of students providing the correct response. A significant number offered 'Geography' as their answer for 1.2.

Question 2

Over 25% of students gained full marks for this overlap item and over half scored at least 3 marks. Some students answered in the wrong tense for Anke's past tense section, offering 'collects rubbish' instead of 'collected'. The most challenging section proved to be Michael's present tense item – 'heating' was often not well-known and often rendered as 'environmentally-friendly house' or similar. It was pleasing to note that many students were familiar with *mit den öffentlichen Verkehrsmitteln*.

Question 3

Almost 50% of students gained a mark for 3.1. Those who did not score here often omitted the idea of 'at home or with friends and family'. Some also offered 'house music' as their response. 3.2 was generally well-answered, with just over half of students gaining two marks. Some students mistakenly offered 'get to know people' for the first marking point. 3.3 was well-answered as was 3.4, with a large majority gaining marks for both questions. Just over 50% of students were familiar with *Geige*. A full range of instruments was suggested, from 'piano' to 'drum' to 'guitar'.

Question 4

The questions on this item were generally well-answered with many students gaining full marks. The most challenging questions proved to be 4.2 and 4.4 where *vorher fragen* and *Nachricht* were clearly unfamiliar to many.

Question 5

The questions on this item were well-answered by most students. The most difficult question was 5.3, where *Sonderangebote* proved challenging to many. Only just over 20% of students gained the mark here. 5.4 also proved difficult for some, with just under half of the students gaining a mark. *Nähere Umgebung* proved challenging to some students.

Question 6

The questions on this item were generally well-answered. 6.2 and 6.4 proved the most challenging questions to some students, with just over half gaining marks here. *Etwas unbequem* and *die Miete ist sehr hoch* clearly caused some issues (6.2), as did *was mir gefallen hat* (6.4).

Question 7

The questions on this item were well answered even though there was unfortunately a typographical error in the text for this question with the word *weggenommen* having been printed with a single g. An erratum notice was issued, and the spelling mistake was corrected by students before the start of the exam. Having scrutinized many responses and looking closely at the statistics for this question, it was clear that this error had no impact on student outcomes for 7.2, the question focussing on this section of the text. In 7.4 *Pfarrer* was challenging for some students, although approximately 60% still gained the mark for this question.

Section B**Question 8**

This overlap item was well-answered by most students, as would be expected of Higher tier candidates, and over 80% gained full marks.

Question 9

This overlap question was also well-answered by most students, with over 80% again gaining full marks. The limiting factor for some students was the failure to include the required verb for 9.1 (*zu finden*)

Question 10

Over 85% of students gained the mark for 10.1, although some offered a response which was too general in nature, for example *verschiedene Gründe* (taken from the text). 10.2 proved to be the most challenging question, with just over 50% gaining the mark. Over 60% of students gained a mark for 10.3, although some missed the idea of *denken*. 10.4 was well-answered, with almost 80% scoring the mark and approximately 60% gained a mark for 10. 5.

Question 11

This question discriminated well with less than one fifth of students gaining full marks for this item. Many were clearly unfamiliar with *während* and opted for B as a correct statement. In similar fashion, some students struggled with *schaffen* and so were unclear if homework had been done (E). Approximately 60% of students scored 3 marks and just over 90% gained two marks so almost all students were able to score some marks.

Section C**Question 12**

There were many excellent renderings of this translation, and it was pleasing to note the continued improvement in the mean mark, which was almost 6. Around 25% of students gained 8 or 9 marks, approximately 75% scored 5 marks or more and 90% 3 marks or more which was very encouraging.

Some students were unfamiliar with *klettern*, but most were able to translate it correctly. Some students failed to gain marks because they thought that the school was in Austria and that the holiday was 'adventurous'. The latter stages of the translation piece proved to be the most challenging for many students – 'met friends', 'talked to friends', 'saw friends' – were some examples of inappropriate translations. Many students struggled with *aus ganz Europa* and translated it as 'in Europe'. Occasionally,

a lack of precision cost marks – the most frequent examples being the omission of ‘together’ (*zusammen*), and the phrase *viele neue Freunde* (‘many new friends’).

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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