

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2013

International GCSE German (4GN0)
Paper 1 Listening

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General Comments

It is clear that most students are prepared well for this paper. During the 5 minutes when they are allowed to read through the paper, many make notes around the questions in English or write synonyms in German which may help when they hear the recordings. In Question 13 Teil 2, many were able to identify the two possible words which would fit into the blank spaces in the four sentences to be completed. All of this is acceptable as long as the correct answer is clearly identifiable.

The paper is structured with an incline of difficulty beginning with the matching of words to icons and progressing to more complex passages of spoken German which require careful listening for gist and inference. It is crucial that students realise this in order to avoid giving the incorrect answer. .

The below comments relate to each of the questions on the paper and address the overall performance.

Q1 - 5 Mein Leben

This was an accessible start to the paper which allowed most students to score 5 points. However, there was often confusion between *Reihenhaus* and *Bauernhaus* in Question 2 and in Question 5 where some students were unable to make the link between *nass* and the rain icon in C.

Q6 - 10 Internet

Despite the slightly complex words in the left column of the answer paper, most students again scored full marks here. Many candidates answered incorrectly with 'Cosima' who was often thought to have used the internet to write emails rather than to do her homework.

Q11 Freizeit

This relatively straightforward passage was accessible for most. Occasionally, *Geige/Violine* were not known and *humorlos* was misunderstood as *humorvoll*.

Q12 Teil 1 Karneval der Kulturen

There was quite a lot of information to process and some distracting numbers in the spoken report about the event. Often, it was thought that there were 500,000 nations in Berlin rather than foreigners.

Q12 Teil 2 Karneval der Kulturen

The difficulty here was in the volume of spoken German. An impressive number of students scored 3 or 4 marks by identifying the correct activities that 'Marko' was able to do during his visit to the event. Most issues arose through a a misunderstanding of the fact that he had left his mobile phone at home, thus making C and G wrong answers.

Q13 Teil 1 Partnerschule

It was necessary to read through the information given to identify the correct sentences here. Attention to detail was required here. For example, it seemed that some students ignored or misunderstood *nie* in (ii) and *keine* in (vii). Furthermore, many students failed to recognise that (iii) was a correct answer.

Q13 Teil 2 Partnerschule

The final question again required careful listening for gist. The subtlety of (c) in which *fast* was the correct answer rather than *genau* was spotted only by the more able students. Some students were also unable to make the connection between *normale Post* and *Briefe* in (d).

In preparation for next summer's examination, centres are advised to refer to the specimen assessment material available on the Edexcel website.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

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