

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2014

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
in German(4GN0/01)
Pearson Edexcel Certificate
in German(KGN0/01)

Paper 1: Listening in German

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International GCSE German
Unit 1 Listening in German
Examiner Report

The paper with its rising level of difficulty differentiated well. The weakest candidates were able to score marks on the first few questions whilst better candidates were challenged by the demands of the later questions in the paper.

WETTER - Questions 1-3

This was a well-known topic area and the vast majority of candidates scored full marks.

SPORT - Questions 4-6

Again this was a familiar subject. Occasionally, *Segeln* was not known.

KINOBESUCH - Questions 7-10

In these questions, candidates had to start making links between what they heard and the concept in the question. Thus the links between *Auto/Busse* with *Transport*, or *es kostet zu viel* and *Geld* were reasonably straightforward. Some candidates found the matching of *Grippe* with *Krankheit* and a broken leg with *Unfall* more challenging and there was often a confusion of the two ideas.

ZUKUNFT - Question 13

This was well answered. The most common mistake was the inability to identify Alissa's ambition of becoming a *Schauspielerin*. Centres are reminded that common professions can be found in the minimum core vocabulary list.

IM BUS - Question 14

Alim's account of his journey to school was clearly understood by most candidates. Parts (iii), (v) and (vi) were best answered. However, the inference required to interpret (i), (ii) and (iv) posed problems. Generally, candidates opted for a grammatically correct possibility, but a significant minority took a stab in the dark and gave nonsensical answers such as *C/gelesen* for (i) or *I/unpünktlich* for (iv).

SCHWIMMBAD - Question 15

Surprisingly many candidates found this question difficult and failed to score the full three marks. The challenges were to identify the correct time, day and cost from a range of possibilities heard. The time (21.30) was often given wrongly as 21 or 1.20 and the cost of 8 often incorrectly given as 5.

SCHWIMMBAD - Question 16

This question again required careful listening. Candidates should be reminded that it is not always the obvious answer which is correct. At this level, they need to listen to the whole extract for the gist of what is being said before choosing the correct response. Thus, a link had to be made between *nicht genug Licht* and *dunkel* in (iii) and between *wenn ich Hunger habe* and *essen* in (iv). These two parts saw the greatest number of errors.

WO ICH WOHNE - Question 17

This was a particularly challenging question and most weaker candidates failed to score any marks here. It is sensible to wait until after the first hearing of the whole passage before selecting answers. Scripts showed evidence of various attempts at the answer with multiple crossings-out and scribbled thoughts. Better candidates had used the 5 minutes' reading time well and had glossed the short German sentences on the question paper with English so that their minds were focussed when it came to listening to the interview.

KINDHEIT - Question 18

Despite the length of this extract which contained a significant amount of varied information, candidates scored well and even weaker candidates managed to score a couple of marks at this stage. Most problems occurred in the alter parts of the question with some even assuming that the man had not enjoyed his childhood despite the clear use of *eine glückliche Zeit* at the very end of the transcript. Again, it is worth noting that the best candidates had glossed the German in the question paper so that they could concentrate on finding the correct answers when they heard the report.

DESKTOP ODER LAPTOP - Question 19

There were some excellent responses to this question from the best candidates who were aware that only short phrases in German were required. A few candidates gave answers which they thought might be correct, such as mentioning something about battery life for the laptop in the hope that this might be a correct answer. *Energie sparen* was managed by most, but surprisingly was occasionally wrongly listed as a *Nachteil*. Although an approximation of German spelling is accepted by examiners, it was necessary to give an indication that words had been heard correctly. For example, there was often confusion with *unterwegs* which was sometimes rendered as *Unterricht*, and *Freien* which was sometimes given as *Ferien*. Detailed listening was also required, particularly in *eine größere Kapazität* (the comparative was necessary for the mark) and *Maus/externe Sachen kosten mehr* (rather than simply that they had to be bought).

Candidates are advised to prepare for this paper by doing the following:

- listening to a wide range of German
- having a good knowledge of the minimum core vocabulary list
- ensuring that they understand that there is an incline of difficulty in the paper
- being prepared to listen for gist rather than only for individual words
- being familiar with the requirements of each test type.

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