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# **Examiners' Report**

## Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2017

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE  
In German (4GN0) Paper 01

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This paper differentiated well, starting with questions which were accessible to most and moving on in terms of level of difficulty towards the final demanding note-taking Question 19. However, there were some challenges through the paper which candidates met with varying levels of success.

### **Questions 1-3 – Berufe**

Jobs were well known. However, *Briefträgerin* was sometimes misunderstood.

### **Questions 4-6 – Familie**

This was answered well for the most part, although some weaker candidates struggled to understand *Ohrringe*.

### **Questions 7-12 – Die moderne Welt**

The language in these questions was clearly familiar to the majority of candidates. Very few candidates made the mistake of putting two crosses on one line or of entering more than six answers.<sup>10</sup> (*Sportaktivitäten*) and 11 (*Tiere*) were sometimes confused.

### **Question 13 – Auf der Post**

This question was challenging for many candidates who were often unable to extract the correct answer from the conversation or who may have been confused by the German prompts. Whilst numbers and prices were reasonably well-known and the destination of Berlin was usually correct, the time of arrival was problematic and *Briefmarken* was often wrongly given as *Briefmachen* or *Briefmagen*.

### **Question 14 – Online**

At this stage in the listening paper, candidates needed to start listening carefully to distinguish between the correct answer which may be inferred and the distractors which often are heard and appear in the multiple-choice options. So, for example, video games were referred to the correct answer to (ii) was fashion / *Mode*. Some candidates clearly guessed at the most predictable answers for (iv) and (v) and missed the correct detail given in the report. However, most were able to correctly identify that young internet users excelled at creative subjects in school.

### **Question 15 – Geburtstag**

This caused very few problems. Most were able to give E as the correct answer for Achim. However, weaker candidates then often confused the answers for Marie and Elias.

### **Question 16 – Kindheit**

This was a good example of familiar language used in an unfamiliar context. Whilst many candidates were able to answer (i) and (iv) correctly the middle two answers were often wrong. As always there was a certain skill in identifying the grammatical context of the missing words.

### **Question 17 – Ein Öko-Haus**

Again, the multiple-choice options can be confusing. Sometimes all three options are plausible. Candidates who were able to match synonyms or to infer the answer were successful. Part (iv) caused most problems with only

the very best candidates identifying that the family found gardening *anstrengend*.

### **Question 18 – Karneval**

This was a fairly straightforward question for a lot of good candidates. Multiple attempts at the correct answer and deleted answers suggested that some candidates panicked here. In the listening exam, the basic rule is of matching the idea which the speaker expressed to the statement on the answer paper held. Birgit's statements were generally correctly identified, but Katja and Erwin often left some candidates confused.

### **Question 19 – Einkaufen**

In this question, candidates have to differentiate between an advantage and a disadvantage and to express the concept succinctly in German. There were some readily gained marks: the advantage of a *Spielplatz* and the disadvantage of *kein Parkhaus* allowed even the weakest candidates to pick up one or two marks. However, it was clear that some candidates were unable to hear the detail of individual words in this longer passage. *Unerträglich* was often given as *untrecklich*, *'rumhängen* as *brumhengen* and *gesichtslos* as *Geschichts Loss*. Whilst examiners err on the side of the candidate as far as spelling is concerned, some similarity to the correct German spelling is required to gain the mark. Some answers targeted at A\* required a more detailed answer. Only the strongest candidates correctly identified that a new-build in the town centre would be horrible, that there were fewer problems in bad weather or that it was uncertain whether the new shopping centre would attract new customers.

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