OCR ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE
IN GERMAN (3862)

OCR ADVANCED GCE
IN GERMAN (7862)

Teacher Support: Speaking Cassette Commentary

This Teacher Support booklet is designed to accompany the OCR Advanced Subsidiary GCE and Advanced GCE German specifications teaching from September 2000.

Contents

German: Unit 2661
Speaking Cassette Commentary

1 Role-plays

Both candidates chose to use Role-play B: Caithness.

1.1 Candidate 1

Candidate 1 is a girl.

1A   Response to written text

This candidate asks the first question correctly but forgets to manipulate the word order for the second question. She makes an attempt to locate the Visitor Centre with some detail but her answer is not immediately clear. When explaining what there is to buy, she uses the two items of vocabulary given on the Candidate Sheet but does not attempt 'crystal' or 'ceramics'. Her attempt at explaining what there is to see and do is adequate but lacks detail. The opening times, the easiest item, are dealt with well and she makes an adequate response to the two extra questions but again adds little detail.

3/5

1B   Response to Examiner

The candidate does respond reasonably well to some of the examiner's questions but misunderstands the question 'Gibt es ein Geschäft in dem Zentrum da?' and responds with 'Ja, es ist ein alte Marktstadt' and has to be redirected. When asked about eating out there, her response lacks the final verb: 'Man kann in die Restaurant …' Her response to the final bullet point, asking if it is a good place to visit, is sufficient in terms of communication: 'interessant, die Glasblaserei (sic) to sehen/es ist ein historisches Stadt' but again lacks detail.

3/5

1C   Quality of Language

Her language is often mixed, she has some control over verb forms but not always and she often starts with a modal verb but forgets the infinitive at the end of the sentence. At the end of the role-play she states: 'Wir können nach King's Lynn am Morgen Samstag und in die Stadt ein Stadtbummel'. We understand what she is trying to say but it lacks quality. 'Ein Geschäft in die Fabrik' and 'man kann mit dem Auto gehen' are typical examples of imprecision. However, she does state: '… Fabrik, wo man Briefbeschwerer und Schmuck kaufen kann' so she does know this usage but there is little real attempt at complex structures and errors are fairly common.

2/5

Total: 8/15

1.2 Candidate 2

Candidate 2 is a boy.

1A Response to written text

This candidate makes a good start. In both the opening questions he manipulates the language printed on the Candidate's Sheet effectively. He listens to the replies, makes interested noises and introduces his explanation by suggesting he has a good idea. He is able to locate Caithness Visitor Centre with good language ('es befindet sich in King's Lynn') and explains where the town is. When explaining what there is to buy at the shop, he not only uses the vocabulary given but also 'Glas und Kristall'. Unfortunately he invents the word 'Kraftsmänner' but we understand as he explains the context: ('…, die Glas machen'). He explains the opening times well but misreads and states 'Montag bis Freitag' instead of Saturday. He makes reasonable use of the stimulus material and supplies most of the information required. Often, he includes detail.

4/5

1B Response to Examiner

The candidate gives the impression of being more at home using the language than the first candidate and he responds in a more natural way. When the examiner asks him unexpected questions he is usually able to respond reasonably well. He explains that there is parking and one does not have to pay. His response to the stimulus regarding eating there is to pause, look for the answer in the text and apologise 'das weiß ich nicht', but he answers the final bullet point well, arguing 'wir können mit dem Auto fahren, wenn wir das Haus um 9 Uhr verlassen'. When asked about visiting King's Lynn, he explains it is a market town and near the sea, opening the way for the suggestion of a walk on the beach. He responds well to the examiner and it is a successful role-play.

4/5

1C Quality of Language

Although he makes errors, this candidate mostly shows reasonably good control of language, given that this is AS and not A Level and he had no dictionary to prepare with. In the early stages of the role-play he chooses to use 'befindet sich' instead of 'ist', his verb forms are mostly correct and on several occasions he attempts complex language. He has a confident use of subordinating conjunctions ('wenn man Glas machen sehen wollen, muss man …'), not just with the verb at the end but also with inversion in the main clause, even if 'wollen' should be 'will'. He is at home with this type of construction and uses similar patterns several times ('Geschäft, wo man Geschenke kaufen kann/Restaurant, wo wir essen können'), not just as an isolated incident. He also uses a relative clause ('Kraftsmänner, die Glas machen'). He is Good rather than Very Good.

4/5

Total: 12/15

2 Topic Discussions

2.1 Candidate 1

The candidate chose *Ausländer* as her topic.

1D   Topic Presentation

This candidate gives a fairly sound presentation. She shows some degree of preparation and her presentation begins with Germany's need for Gastarbeiter from other countries to help the Wirtschaftswunder. She mentions the Anwerbestop and proceeds to religious and political reasons for Asylbewerber to come to Germany. She is aware of language difficulties which confront the Asylbewerber and the cultural differences they encounter. She is at least in the Adequate category - she has a solid base of information and the exposition is worthy but somewhat stilted. She has no irrelevance and she does make some relevant factual points, although it is not 'well-informed with a range of relevant factual information'. Later in the discussion she includes information such as waiting three months before being able to work and she mentions Bosnia/Neo-nazis/Turks (it is the examiner who mentions Kurds) so the presentation knowledge is sustained in the discussion and her mark is not reduced. She just edges into the Good category.

13/20

1E   Spontaneity and Fluency

If one looks at the descriptors to this category, one will see that development of ideas and opinions plays a large part, not just spontaneity and fluency. The candidate's delivery of the discussion is somewhat laboured, she tends to work out her ideas as she goes along and she is not totally fluent. Questions are often followed by a pause and she does not really enter into debate a great deal. Her responses to some of the examiner's questions tend to be a little weak: asked if the Asylbewerber are really persecuted and if there are religious and economic refugees too, her replies could certainly be fuller. She offers a weak response to the question: 'What can the government do?' Overall, this is an Adequate performance.

8/15

1F   Pronunciation and Intonation

The candidate's pronunciation and intonation are mostly acceptable with some notable exceptions such as 'Auslander' and 'Gebaude' (sic).

3/5

1C   Quality of Language

Here the candidate is certainly in the Poor category. There is much evidence of gaps in basic grammar. She often uses the present tense in response to a past tense stimulus from the examiner, she often uses singular verb forms when she needs plural ones ('sie könnte nicht deutsche sprechen') and occasionally vice versa ('die deutsche Bevölkerung sagen, dass …'). She continues to use modal verbs but often forgets the infinitive at the end and Verb 2nd idea is often abused ('Am Anfang es war, …'). Occasionally she uses a subordinating conjunction correctly ('weil die Wirtschaft nicht so gut war') but the errors outweigh correct usage and sometimes she tries to use language incorrectly ('es war die Auslander, das sie alle Jobben…/weil sie kann Arbeiten finden'). There is no real attempt to use complex structures such as relative clauses, passives or subjunctives and subordinating clauses are infrequent.

2/5

Total: 26/45

2.2   Candidate 2

The candidate chose *Wiedervereinigung* as his topic.

1D   Topic Presentation

This candidate's exposition of the topic is impressive. He starts by using 'es handelt sich um …' and his second sentence begins with the subordinating conjunction 'weil'. He shows good knowledge of the subject which is often demonstrated by the use of good topic-specific vocabulary such as 'konkurrenzfähig/ negative Haltung/ Gewinn nutzen/ Wende/ sich gewöhnen an' etc. He explains how the Ossies expected a West German standard of living from the start, their disappointment and the fall of communism leading to identity problems. His good introduction develops into how the situation has changed for the Ossies and at the end of the presentation we are keen to pursue the ideas with him further. His statements are well-organised and delivered with confidence. He deserves a mark near the top end of the Good category if his knowledge is sustained in the remainder of the discussion.

15/20

1E   Spontaneity and Fluency

The candidate's delivery of the discussion is not as fluent as his presentation (nor will it be for most candidates) but it is less hesitant than candidate 1, as he seems more fluent and at home in his use of the language. He is happy to try to respond to the examiner's questions and in some respects he does as well as some A Level candidates one year later. Some of his responses are better than others. When asked if life is better for Ossies now than earlier, he gives three examples (more freedom/freedom of speech/more money if employed) but earlier he is asked if the Wessies are still as positive as in 1989 and he finds it hard to give an adequate response, merely stating that there are differences. At the start of the discussion he tries to analyse opposing attitudes, Ossies being in Wessies' eyes old fashioned, Wessies being in Ossies' eyes not generous, but he falters a little before giving the last reply. He confuses 'fort' with 'stark' in 'weil die Industrie nicht so fort war'. He can respond intelligently to many of the examiner's questions and will undoubtedly make further progress with another year's study of the language but, at the time of recording, his performance is nearly at the top end of Adequate.

9/15

1F   Pronunciation and Intonation

The candidate's pronunciation and intonation are certainly in the Good category. He has minor error with 'Identitat' (sic) but his attempts at the German 'r' and 'ch' are mostly good.

4/5

1C   Quality of Language

The candidate has good control over much of the basic grammar, such as Verb 2nd idea/verb at the end of subordinate clause/verb comma verb when starting with subordinating conjunction/modals with infinitive at the end etc. In the presentation he even attempted a passive 'die Fabriken wurden hingelegt', although he might have chosen a more suitable past participle. Interspersed are oddities such as 'findeten' and 'willkommten'. His vocabulary continues to impress with items such as 'Verfolgung der Flüchtlinge/ Diskriminierung/ Spalier'. His agreements are mostly sound, he is more consistent than inconsistent and he is ambitious at times with structures, although one would like to hear relative clauses more frequently. He deserves 3½ but cannot be awarded half marks, therefore

4/5

Total: 32/45