



General Certificate of Secondary Education

German 46651

46651/L Listening

Report on the Examination

2010 examination - June series

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Listening – June 2010

General Comments

This is the first examination series of this specification. However, the entry was small, 323 for the Foundation Tier and 280 for the Higher Tier, so, although trends can be identified, they may not be indicative of the performance of future candidates.

Candidates entered for the Foundation Tier appear to have been entered correctly; however, their performance on the more difficult questions was markedly inferior to that on the easier questions. On the other hand, candidates entered for the Higher Tier did not perform as well on the more challenging questions as in previous years. Many Higher Tier candidates would probably have done just as well had they been entered for Foundation.

Inappropriate answers were not an issue. Examiners reported that answers in English as required by the new specification were easier to deal with than answers in German.

Performance at Higher Tier was better than at Foundation on the questions common to both tiers, except for Question Foundation 14(c) / Higher 9(c).

There is some evidence that candidates are more comfortable with words familiar from the previous specification or what they learnt at the beginning of their studies than they are with the vocabulary of the new specification, dealing as it does with less personal themes. See the comments for Foundation questions 6, 12, 14, 15, Higher 1, 11, 17.

Foundation Tier

Questions 1-3

Nine out of ten candidates scored a mark for each of these questions.

Question 4

More candidates recognised "*Schuhe*" (4(a)) than "*Ohringe*" (4(b)), although the difference was small.

Question 5

Candidates had no problems with these questions.

Question 6

Many more candidates recognised "*Urlaub*" than "*müde*" or "*keine Arbeit*".

Questions 7 & 8

Very few candidates had a problem with either of these questions.

Question 9

Part (i) was not a problem, but for part (ii) fewer than half of candidates could recognise that the speaker was not happy with the situation, despite the fact that it is said twice using different expressions.

Question 10 (a)

This question was answered in the candidate's own words in English. Examiners reported that most candidates attempted an answer, but with varying degrees of success. The element of free food seemed to be understood but it wasn't always expressed in relation to the person speaking – "she gets free food". Fewer than one third of candidates scored a mark.

Question 10 (b)

This question was answered even less successfully. Fewer than one in five candidates scored a mark.

Question 11

This was a much longer text, so it was pleasing that seventy per cent of candidates scored 2 marks.

Question 12

Part (a) more candidates (40%) answered B than the correct answer A (19%). Perhaps they did not recognise "*viel zu ruhig für mich*", but the phrase "*Ich habe die Nase voll*" should have indicated that B was wrong. This phrase is in the new specification in this form. For part (b), one third answered correctly, with the other responses distributed equally between the other options, which is quite unusual.

Question 13

This was a less challenging question than the previous one and, appropriately, it presented no problem to the majority of candidates.

Question 14

Fewer than half of candidates scored a mark for parts (a) and (b), yet twice as many scored in part (c), possibly because they heard the familiar near-cognate "*Garten*".

Question 15

This was the most difficult question for candidates, and performance decreased with each successive part. For part (a), examiners reported that although what was being tested was virtually a cognate, most candidates found it difficult. Part (b) was also a problem, possibly because candidates were not explicit enough in their answers. Only one in twenty candidates managed to score a mark for part (c), and 18% did not even attempt an answer. "*Zucker*" was not generally known.

Question 16

A less challenging question to end the examination: more than half of candidates scored two marks.

Higher Tier

Question 1

This was intended to be an easy start to the examination. However, most candidates seized on the single word "*fünf*" (61%), ignoring, or not understanding, the surrounding text. There is also a tendency for candidates to answer with the word they hear last, as in this case. Only 35% scored a mark. The word "*pünktlich*", the correct answer, is more likely to be tested in the new specification than simple numbers.

Question 2

A similar, but better, performance to that at Foundation Tier (Question 9).

Question 3

Performance once again reflected, but was an improvement on, that at Foundation Tier (Question 10).

Question 4

A little over three-quarters of candidates scored a mark.

Question 5

This was the first relatively difficult question on the paper (apart from Question 1), and performance reflected this. The part most successfully answered, by a large margin, was (b): this appears to be because in the spoken text the German for the word listed on the question paper ("*unabhängig*") is actually heard; in the other two parts candidates have to work out the answer from the whole text. However, teachers are reminded that the drawing of inferences is a skill required by the higher grade criteria and will be tested.

Question 6

Nearly all candidates scored two marks.

Question 7

This question caused the same problems here as at Foundation Tier (Question 12). In part (a), B was once again the commonest choice (45% of candidates). A quarter of candidates scored a mark. Part (b) was not a problem for most candidates.

Question 8

This was meant to be a more challenging question and proved to be so, with just under half of candidates scoring a mark for each part. For both parts B was the next most common answer; in the case of part (b), almost certainly because the last word heard is "*jung*" (compare Question 1).

Question 9

Once again, a similar performance to Foundation Tier (Question 14), but with the oddity that a smaller percentage scored a mark for part (c) than at Foundation Tier.

Question 10

In part (i), one examiner reported seeing only two correct answers "saves time and work". Most of the answers were complete guesses. Part (ii) was done better, but only 41% scored a mark. It was anticipated that this would be a challenging question.

Question 11

Two-thirds of candidates scored a mark for part (i), yet only half that number for part (ii). More (38%) answered A ("not bothered"). Given what the speaker says, it is difficult to see how candidates arrived at this. Teachers are advised that the examination will always use authentic contemporary language so that learners are fully prepared when visiting a German speaking country. Part (iii) was not a problem.

Question 12

Candidates scored better at part (a) (73%) than part (b) (47%), despite the key word being the last word heard in part (b). One can only assume that they were confused as the English word appears in two of the options.

Question 13

Very few candidates failed to score on part (a), perhaps because they heard the word "*Straße*" so clearly towards the end. Part (b) was much trickier: many correctly heard the items in picture B and so that was a popular answer; many more (57%) heard "*Kino*" at the end and so scored a mark. Only two candidates answered C.

Question 14

This question tested understanding of the whole text, so it is pleasing that 65% scored a mark for part (ii) and 73% for part two.

Question 15

This was intended to be a more challenging question than most, testing overall understanding of a point of view, and this was reflected in the fact that 40% scored a mark for part (a) and 47% for part (b), with no outstanding wrong answer.

Question 16

For part (i), examiners reported that a good number of candidates, 42%, got this right. However, many candidates simply answered "her birthday" without specifying the person, so losing a mark through ambiguity. Just over half of candidates scored a mark for part (ii).

Question 17

This was meant to be a very challenging question, but even so it does seem that once again the use of contemporary language (see Question 11) has proved difficult for candidates. Part (i) was answered correctly by 44% of candidates, but 45% answered C. In part (ii), 21.4% gave the correct response (C), but 34.6% answered A and 44% answered B.

Question 18

In part (i), candidates recognised the drug element but not always that "*handeln*" means "dealing", leading to incorrect answers such as "giving drugs to children" and guesses such as "kidnapping". Almost 30% scored a mark. There were fewer ways of expressing "ran away" for part (ii) so candidates had a guess or got it right (35%).

Question 19

This is the same question as Foundation Tier Question 15. The same difficulties were encountered by candidates, but more of them were successful (for part (a) 49%, for part (b) 41%, for part (c) 12%).

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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