



General Certificate of Secondary Education

German 46652

46651/R Reading

Report on the Examination

2010 examination - June series

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Reading – June 2010

Foundation Tier

Question 1

Almost all candidates successfully identified the word *gelb*.

Question 2

- a) The word *bis* appeared not to be known by about half of the candidates. Three days (Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday) were mentioned by a large number of candidates.
- b) Most candidates were successful in understanding the word *Mittwoch*.
- c) This question was correctly answered by less than half of the candidates. Although it was only necessary to translate the two halves of the word *Kindernachmittag*, a large number of candidates attempted an explanation, which was often wide of the mark.

Question 3

Although about one third of the candidates managed to score one mark for this question, a score of two marks was rare. There were also a considerable number of poor answers which bore no relevance to the text, and poor handwriting often made it difficult for the examiners to decide whether the candidate had written an answer in English (house) or German (*Hause*).

Question 4

Candidates appeared to have a good knowledge of the vocabulary items tested in this question. 90% of candidates scored three or four marks.

Question 5

- a) Most candidates gave an answer which suggested the firm would deliver to one's home, but had more difficulty with the word *Büro*. However, a wide range of answers (e.g. work, company, firm) was accepted for this second answer.
- b) In order to answer this question, candidates only needed to recognise the word *kostenlos*. Half of the candidates thought that the answer to this question had to be a sum of money. All the figures in the advert appeared at some time: 1 Euro, 20 Euros (from the address), and even parts of the telephone number.
- c) Candidates had difficulty with the phrase *selbst abholen*, and all kinds of special offers were suggested, most of which were not based on the text.
- d) Examiners were surprised that almost half of the candidates were not able to give the English name for *München*. Towns such as Manchester and Madrid were suggested, and also a considerable number of countries. A variety of spellings (including Munich and Munik) was accepted.

Question 6

In (a) *um die Ecke* seemed to pose a problem for some candidates, with only 60% giving the correct answer. In (b), even though *beginnen Sie...* had to be converted into 'before the theatre', 82% gave the correct answer, while 98% correctly identified the word *französisch* in (c).

Question 7

Candidates had little difficulty in recognising the correct vocabulary items in (a), but in (b) the word *Kasse* appeared not to be well known, with only 40% of candidates giving the correct answer.

Question 8

Candidates had a wide choice of facilities to choose from in answering this question, but inexact answers often meant that candidates could not be credited with a mark. *Speisekarte* did not appear to be known and it was suggested that the staff spoke English and French; candidates simply stated that there was a car park, rather than stating that parking places were always available; it was often stated that cheap food was available, rather than mentioning the size of the portions. While there were few candidates who scored three marks on this question, most gave either one or two correct answers.

Question 9

Almost all candidates gave the correct answer to part (b) of this question, Parts (a) and (c) proved a little more challenging, being correctly answered by 70% and 62 of candidates respectively.

Question 10

Candidate performance differed on the various parts of this question. 84% answered (a) correctly; parts (b) (67%) and (c) (75%) were correctly answered by the large majority; parts (d) and (e) proved more difficult and the correct answer was given by only just over half the candidates.

Question 11

A majority of candidates (68%) gained two marks for this question, but only 12% gave all three correct answers.

Higher Tier**Question 1**

Higher tier candidates performed better on this question than the Foundation tier candidates, but the same errors tended to occur here also. Only 26% of candidates gained three marks.

Question 2

Performance on this question was better than at Foundation Tier. A large majority of candidates answered all three parts correctly.

Question 3

Performance on this question was better than on the equivalent question at Foundation Tier. Parts (d) and (e) proved to be less difficult for candidates at this level.

Question 4

Slightly more candidates (25%) gave three correct answers at this level than at Foundation Tier, while two marks (65%) was common.

Question 5

The majority of candidates scored two or three marks on this question, but only a small percentage (7%) were successful in giving all four correct answers.

Question 6

This question, which tested the identification of attitudes and opinions, produced a range of performances. Almost all candidates (91%) answered (b) correctly. Parts (a) and (e) were correctly answered by approximately half of the candidates, but parts (c) (12%) and (d) (17%) proved much more challenging.

Question 7

Only 3.7% of candidates scored all four marks on this question, but the majority gave either two or three correct answers.

Question 8

- a) This question was reasonably well done. A wide range of negative expressions was accepted by the examiners and many candidates were successful in stating that Herr Wegener was not happy with the situation. 46% of candidates gained a mark for this question.
- b) Many candidates just gave a routine activity (e.g. goes to work) in answer to this question. At Higher Tier candidates are expected to read the text closely and inexact answers, such as 'cleaning' could not be awarded a mark. 28% of candidates answered the question correctly.
- c) This question was purely a test of vocabulary and two items had to be correctly stated in order to gain the mark. *Schachteln* was not well known and many candidates made reference merely to 'cigarettes' or 'cigarette ends'. A full rendering of *Essensreste* was required. A mark was achieved by only 12% of the candidates.
- d) Again, an exact rendering (**more than** half an hour) was required. Examiners were surprised that the phrase *eine halbe Stunde* was not known by many candidates, and answers such as 'half a day' and 'one and a half hours' were common. The mark was gained by only 8% of the candidates.
- e) This question was poorly done and there were many answers which were wide of the mark. Many based their answer solely on recognising the word *Knie* and suggested that Herr Wegener had a bad knee.
- f) Again, accurate reading of the text was required. The problem is worst **after** the weekend, although 'on Mondays' was also accepted as a correct answer.
- g) This question was answered reasonably well. Most candidates gave an adequate rendering of Herr Wegener's question. It was important, however, to note that the question was 'How the young people get the money' or 'Where the young people get the money from' and not 'Why'.

- h) Many candidates overlooked the key word *öfter* in the text and simply stated that the police would patrol the area. *In den nächsten Wochen* was often simply rendered as 'next week'.

Question 9

This question, a test of sequencing, was reasonably well done. Both parts were correctly answered by almost half the candidates.

Question 10

- a) Candidates did not always offer an adequate rendering of '*so viel wie möglich*': it does not mean 'everything'. The word *Tagesausflug* often misled candidates into making a reference to 'flying' or 'a plane'. 19% of candidates gained a mark.
- b) Many candidates based their answers on the numerals in the text and thought that the entrance fee was the problem. Only 36% of candidates correctly recognised that Jonas was too old to go on the family ticket.
- c) Answers to this question needed to contain a reference to photography. A correct answer was given by 37% of candidates.
- d) The verb *verbringen* did not appear to be known by many candidates. It was not sufficient to say that Tim wanted to go to the water park. It was necessary to mention that he wanted to spend the whole day there. The alternative answer (he wanted a cap) from earlier in the text was also accepted, but many candidates seemed to think that he wanted to design a logo for the flower show. Only 16% of candidates were awarded a mark.
- e) The key word in answering this question was *Hitze*. Many candidates simply said that it was 'sunny', although the text does not say so. 28% of candidates gave the correct answer.
- f) Again, an exact answer was required: 'for the afternoon **walk**'. Answers which referred to 'afternoon' alone were not accepted. Only 7% of candidates gave the correct answer to this question.
- g) This question required a global understanding of the whole text, but most candidates were able to state that the day had been too expensive. If candidates chose to refer to a sum of money, then they needed to state that the day cost **more than** 100 Euros.
- h) Many candidates gave an answer to this question which was a follow-on from the previous one e.g. 'If it was worth it'. Only 19% mentioned that a second visit was doubtful.

Most candidates for this Higher Tier paper were probably still in Year 10 and had therefore only completed half of this GCSE course. The examiners felt that they therefore lacked the necessary experience of German to attempt the Higher Tier paper. They appeared to be trying to answer the questions on the basis of vocabulary which they recognised and did not have the requisite reading skills (in particular, reading for detail) which are required at this level.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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