



ASSESSMENT and
QUALIFICATIONS
ALLIANCE

Mark scheme

June 2003

GCSE

German B (Modular)

3662

Module 4: Writing tests

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MODULE 4 WRITING TESTS – FOUNDATION AND HIGHER TIERS

PART ONE

1. Principles of marking

- All marking is to be done in accordance with the published Criteria for Assessment.
- The stress is on effective communication. Credit should be given for language successfully conveying the target message without ambiguity.
- There is no need to count the words used to answer each question. The sole criterion is completion of the tasks set.

2. Mechanics of Marking

- All part marks awarded as indicated in the marking schemes must be clearly shown on the candidate scripts. Carefully check marks which may need multiplying and / or dividing to arrive at any weighted totals.

3. MARK ALLOCATION

Foundation	Communication	Quality of Language	Total
Question 1a	2		2
Questions 1b & 1c	4		4
Question 2	8	12	20
Total	14	12	26

Higher	Communication	Quality of Language	Total
Question 1	8	18	
Question 2	8	Awarded globally across both questions.	
Total	16	18	34

3. Foundation Tier Question One

This question will be assessed for Communication only. The marks are allocated in the following way:

Question 1a (List Question):

Marks	Degree of Communication
1	1 - 2 words correct, without ambiguity.
2	3 - 4 words correct, without ambiguity.

Maximum mark - 2

Questions 1b and 1c:

Each task has a total of 2 marks. The Part 2 Mark Scheme each year will outline in detail how those communication marks should be divided and awarded.

4. Question Two

This question is marked out of 8 for Communication and 12 for Quality of Language.

- The assessment of Communication depends upon recognising an attempt to write something about the task.
- You should not take into account the quality of the language used, unless it interferes so much that communication would not take place.

Marks	Degree of Communication	Explanation
0	Nothing of merit: fails to communicate OR occasional words are recognisable within sentences but no complete messages are communicated.	
1-2	Communicates a little basic information (eg simple facts).	Some brief, simple facts are communicated in relation to one or two of the tasks set.
3-4	Some basic information is conveyed; occasional additional details conveyed (eg description, simple opinion).	Some longer descriptions or simple facts conveyed in relation to several of the tasks set.
5-6	Communicates clearly quite a lot of relevant information, including personal opinions; regularly goes beyond a basic response to give more detailed information relating to descriptions and accounts.	Some extended description in more than one of the tasks set. Simple facts conveyed in relation to all of the tasks set.
7-8	Communicates a lot of relevant information; candidate can narrate events, give full descriptions and can express and justify ideas and points of view.	Full descriptions in relation to all of tasks set.

5. Quality of Language

- Marks will be awarded out of 12 for each of Range/Complexity and Accuracy. The resulting total mark out of 24 is divided by 2 to give a total mark out of 12 for Quality of Language.
- If a mark is awarded for Communication this will inevitably lead to the award of a mark for Range/Complexity and for Accuracy.

Marks for Quality of Language are awarded according to the criteria below.

Quality of Language		
Mark	Range & Complexity	Accuracy
0	Very little effective vocabulary. There are occasional recognisable words but they make little coherent sense.	There is little, if any, evidence of understanding of the most basic linguistic structures.
1-2	The vocabulary and structures used are simple, often repetitive, limited in range and may contain many cognates.	There is only limited understanding of the most basic linguistic structures and most sentences contain major errors.
3-4	Vocabulary is appropriate to the basic needs of the task. Structures are simple, often repetitive and are rarely linked.	Most sentences contain errors, many of a major nature, and verb forms are rarely accurate.
5-6	Vocabulary and structures are appropriate to the task with a little attempt at variety and there is some successful attempt to link structures together.	There are some major errors and frequent minor ones. Attempts at verb forms and tense formations are often unsuccessful.
7-8	There is some variety in the use of vocabulary and some successful attempts at a variety of structures including attempts at longer sentences using appropriate linking words. Some personal opinions are successfully expressed. There are successful attempts at using more than one time frame.	There are a number of minor errors and a few major ones, but the piece is more accurate than inaccurate. Verb forms and tense formations are not always correct, but the intended meaning is clearly recognisable.
9-10	There is a wider range of vocabulary and structure which communicate descriptions and opinions with some precision. Longer sentences, including the use of subordinate clauses are used more regularly and with increasing success.	Inaccuracies are mainly of a minor nature although some major errors may occur when complex structures are attempted. Verb forms and tense formations are usually correct.
11-12	A wide range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to the topic is effectively used. Longer, more complex sentences are handled with confidence producing a fluent piece of coherent language.	There are hardly any major and a few minor errors even in more complex structures. The overall impression is of accuracy and verb forms and tense formations are secure.

In each mark band, the higher of the two marks is awarded if there is strong evidence of the criteria in that band. If the evidence is more limited, the lower mark is awarded.

Maximum Communication Mark	Maximum Range & Complexity Mark	Maximum Accuracy Mark
0	0	0
2	6	6
4	8	8
6	10	10
8	12	12

The prescribed tasks in Question Two at Foundation Tier and Question One at Higher Tier offer an opportunity for the candidate to write in three time frames. Successful use of these opportunities will give the candidate an opportunity to gain access to the higher quality mark bands. Items of communication containing obviously incorrect / ambiguous time frames / tenses will not score for Communication.

- To score 5 marks for Accuracy there must be some attempt to refer to different time frames.
- To score 7 marks the references to different time frames must be clear.
- To score 9 marks verbs and time frames must be generally accurate.

The maximum mark for the Foundation Tier paper is 26.

HIGHER TIER

Both questions are assessed for Communication using the same criteria as at Foundation Tier.

- The assessment of Communication depends upon recognising an attempt to write something about the task.
- You should not take into account the quality of the language used, unless it interferes so much that communication would not take place.
- Further details of how to award the marks for Communication will be given in the Part 2 Mark Scheme.

Marks	Degree of Communication	Explanation
0	Nothing of merit: fails to communicate OR occasional words are recognisable within sentences but no complete messages are communicated.	
1-2	Communicates a little basic information (eg simple facts).	Some brief, simple facts are communicated in relation to one or two of the tasks set.
3-4	Some basic information is conveyed; occasional additional details conveyed (eg description, simple opinion).	Some longer descriptions or simple facts conveyed in relation to several of the tasks set.
5-6	Communicates clearly quite a lot of relevant information, including personal opinions; regularly goes beyond a basic response to give more detailed information relating to descriptions and accounts.	Some extended description in more than one of the tasks set. Simple facts conveyed in relation to all of the tasks set.
7-8	Communicates a lot of relevant information; candidate can narrate events, give full descriptions and can express and justify ideas and points of view.	Full descriptions in relation to all of tasks set.

At Higher Tier the whole script is marked globally for Quality of Language. Each script is marked out of 12 marks for Range and Complexity and 12 marks for Accuracy according to the table below. These two marks are then totalled, multiplied by 3 and divided by 4 to give a Quality of Language mark of 18.

Quality of Language		
Mark	Range & Complexity	Accuracy
0	Very little effective vocabulary. There are occasional recognisable words but they make little coherent sense.	There is little, if any, evidence of understanding of the most basic linguistic structures.
1-2	The vocabulary and structures used are simple, often repetitive, limited in range and may contain many cognates.	There is only limited understanding of the most basic linguistic structures and most sentences contain major errors.
3-4	Vocabulary is appropriate to the basic needs of the task. Structures are simple, often repetitive and are rarely linked.	Most sentences contain errors, many of a major nature, and verb forms are rarely accurate.
5-6	Vocabulary and structures are appropriate to the task with a little attempt at variety and there is some successful attempt to link structures together.	There are some major errors and frequent minor ones. Attempts at verb forms and tense formations are often unsuccessful.
7-8	There is some variety in the use of vocabulary and some successful attempts at a variety of structures including attempts at longer sentences using appropriate linking words. Some personal opinions are successfully expressed. There are successful attempts at using more than one time frame.	There are a number of minor errors and a few major ones, but the piece is more accurate than inaccurate. Verb forms and tense formations are not always correct, but the intended meaning is clearly recognisable.
9-10	There is a wider range of vocabulary and structure which communicate descriptions and opinions with some precision. Longer sentences, including the use of subordinate clauses are used more regularly and with increasing success.	Inaccuracies are mainly of a minor nature although some major errors may occur when complex structures are attempted. Verb forms and tense formations are usually correct.
11-12	A wide range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to the topic is effectively used. Longer, more complex sentences are handled with confidence producing a fluent piece of coherent language.	There are hardly any major and a few minor errors even in more complex structures. The overall impression is of accuracy and verb forms and tense formations are secure.

The following restrictions apply in the award of marks for Range and Complexity and Accuracy:

Maximum Communication Mark	Maximum Range & Complexity Mark	Maximum Accuracy Mark
0	0	0
4	6	6
8	8	8
12	10	10
16	12	12

- To score 5 marks for Accuracy there must be some attempt to refer to different time frames.
- To score 7 marks the references to different time frames must be clear.
- To score 9 marks verbs and time frames must be generally accurate.

The maximum mark for the Higher Tier paper is 34.

Writing Tests – PART TWO

Foundation Tier

Question 1

Part A

(2 marks)

This question is assessed for Communication only.

Task: You are staying with your German penfriend and make a list of souvenirs you plan to buy. Make a list IN GERMAN of four further items you plan to buy.

Marks	Degree of Communication
0	No understandable words
1	1-2 understandable words
2	3-4 understandable words

In Part A accept all **understandable** words for souvenirs. Tick each word you accept.

NB: When awarding marks *Buch* is the example. Articles need not be correct provided they do not confuse or render answers ambiguous. Items need to be credible souvenirs. Reject menu items of food and drink.

Parts B and C

(4 marks)

These sections are assessed for Communication only.

(b)	Write something about what your German friend looks like AND about his/her personality.		
	<p>Accept:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any detail of friend’s appearance (1 mark). • <i>Eg. Er hat braune Haare. Sie ist sehr klein etc.</i> • Any detail of friend’s personality (1 mark). • <i>Eg. Sie ist freundlich. Er ist faul etc.</i> • Friend may be male or female, any age. <p>Reject:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of first person. <i>Eg. Ich bin klug etc.</i> • Answers which are not in complete sentences. 		
	2	1	0
	Both tasks communicated	One task communicated	Neither task communicated

c)	Describe what you like and what you dislike about your German friend's house.	
	Accept: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any detail about the house or the house in general that is liked (1 mark). <i>Eg: Das Haus hat einen netten Garten. Ich mag das Schlafzimmer von meinem Freund.</i> Any detail about the house that is disliked (1 mark). <i>Eg: Das Badezimmer ist klein / kalt.</i> Reject: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answers which do not indicate approval or disapproval. 	
2	1	0
Both tasks communicated	One task communicated	Neither task communicated

Question 2

(8 marks – Communication)

(12 marks – Quality of Language)

A mark between 0 and 8 will be awarded for Degree of Communication and a further 12 marks for Quality of Language.

There are 6 tasks. Any relevant information on these tasks will be rewarded. The point at which the task has been successfully completed will be indicated within the body of the text.

N.B. Although candidates are required to write a letter, there is no penalty for not setting out their answer in a letter format.

Communication

1	Warum willst du diesen Job haben?	
	Accept	Reject
	Candidates are expected to give a reason related to the job. <i>Eg. Ich will Geld verdienen. Ich habe kein Geld.</i> The word <i>Geld</i> may be used from the advertisement but it must be incorporated into an answer of the candidate's own making to earn a mark. Candidates may use any time frame in their answer.	

2	Was hast du letztes Jahr gemacht?	
Accept		Reject
<p>Candidates are expected to give an account in the past of activities undertaken last year. These may be many and varied but must in some way be related to the post being applied for. It could relate to their hobbies or interests, having a large family, being a member of a club or going on an activity holiday last year etc.</p>		

3	... und wie hast du das gefunden?	
Accept		Reject
<p>Candidates are expected to express an opinion or give a view about what was related in the previous section. Candidates may use any time frame in their response. <i>Eg. Ferien mit meinen Eltern finde ich immer langweilig. / Ich werde das nie wieder machen. / Es war toll.</i> Also accept responses stating how the candidate found the job - eg saw advert in newspaper.</p>		

4	Was sind deine Zukunftspläne?	
Accept		Reject
<p>Candidates are expected to give an account of their future plans. These may be many and varied and may or may not be related to the holiday job. Candidates must use the future tense or the present with a future indicator. Occasionally due to the nature of what is being described, a present time frame may be acceptable for communication purposes.</p>		

5	... und warum?	
	Accept	Reject
	To award a mark for the response, the candidate is expected to express an opinion or give a view about what was related in the previous section. Candidates may use any time frame in their response.	

6	Frag etwas über diesen Job	
	Accept	Reject
	Any relevant question	Any statement.

Marks	Degree of Communication	Explanation
0	Nothing of merit: fails to communicate OR occasional words are recognisable within sentences but no complete messages are communicated.	
1-2	Communicates a little basic information (eg simple facts).	Some brief, simple facts are communicated in relation to one or two of the tasks set.
3-4	Some basic information is conveyed; occasional additional details conveyed (eg description, simple opinion).	Some longer descriptions or simple facts conveyed in relation to several of the tasks set.
5-6	Communicates clearly quite a lot of relevant information, including personal opinions; regularly goes beyond a basic response to give more detailed information relating to descriptions and accounts.	Some extended description in more than one of the tasks set. Simple facts conveyed in relation to all of the tasks set.
7-8	Communicates a lot of relevant information; candidate can narrate events, give full descriptions and can express and justify ideas and points of view.	Full descriptions in relation to all of tasks set.

Quality of Language

Quality of Language marks are awarded according to the Quality of Language criteria grid below.

Quality of Language		
Mark	Range & Complexity	Accuracy
0	Very little effective vocabulary. There are occasional recognisable words but they make little coherent sense.	There is little, if any, evidence of understanding of the most basic linguistic structures.
1-2	The vocabulary and structures used are simple, often repetitive, limited in range and may often contain many cognates.	There is only limited understanding of the most basic linguistic structures and most sentences contain major errors
3-4	Vocabulary is appropriate to the basic need of the task. Structures are simple, often repetitive and are rarely linked.	Most sentences contain errors, many of a major nature, and verb forms are rarely accurate.
5-6	Vocabulary and structures are appropriate to the task with a little attempt at variety and there is some successful attempts to link structures together.	There are some major errors and frequent minor ones. Attempts at verb forms and tense formations are often unsuccessful.
7-8	There is some variety in the use of vocabulary and some successful attempts at a variety of structures including attempts at longer sentences using appropriate linking words. Some personal opinions are successfully expressed. There are successful attempts at using more than one time frame.	There are a number of minor errors and a few major ones, but the piece is more accurate than inaccurate. Verb forms and tense formations are not always correct, but the intended meaning is clearly recognisable.
9-10	There is a wider range of vocabulary and structure which communicate descriptions and opinions with some precision. Longer sentences, including the use of subordinate clauses, are used more regularly and with increasing success.	Inaccuracies are mainly of a minor nature although some major errors may occur when complex structures are attempted. Verb forms and tense formations are usually correct.
11-12	A wide range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to the topic is effectively used. Longer, more complex sentences are handled with confidence producing a fluent piece of coherent language.	There are hardly any major and a few minor errors even in more complex structures. The overall impression is of accuracy and verb forms and tense formations are secure.

Mark Scheme

The following restrictions apply in the award of marks for Range & Complexity and Accuracy.

Max. Communication mark	Max. Range & Complexity mark	Max. Accuracy mark
0	0	0
2	6	6
4	8	8
6	10	10
8	12	12

Marks are given out of 12 for Range and Complexity and out of 12 for Accuracy. The resulting mark out of 24 is divided by 2 to give a total mark out of 12 for Quality of Language.

Higher Tier**Question 1****(8 marks – Communication)
(12 marks – Quality of Language)**

There are 6 tasks. Any relevant information on these tasks will be rewarded.

A mark between 0 and 8 will be awarded for Degree of Communication.

The point at which the task has been successfully completed will be indicated within the body of the text.

N.B. Although candidates are required to write a letter, there is no penalty for not setting out their answer in a letter format.

Communication

1	Warum willst du diesen Job haben?	
Accept		Reject
<p>Candidates are expected to give a reason related to the job. <i>Eg. Ich will Geld verdienen. Ich habe kein Geld.</i></p> <p>The word <i>Geld</i> may be used from the advertisement but it must be incorporated into an answer of the candidate's own making to earn a mark. Candidates may use any time frame in their answer.</p>		

2	Was hast du letztes Jahr gemacht?	
Accept		Reject
<p>Candidates are expected to give an account in the past of activities undertaken last year. These may be many and varied but must in some way be related to the post being applied for. It could relate to their hobbies or interests, having a large family, being a member of a club or going on an activity holiday last year etc.</p>		

3	... und wie hast du das gefunden?	
Accept		Reject
<p>Candidates are expected to express an opinion or give a view about what was related in the previous section. Candidates may use any time frame in their response. <i>Eg. Ferien mit meinen Eltern finde ich immer langweilig. Ich werde das nie wieder machen. Es war toll.</i> Also accept responses stating how candidate found the job - eg saw advert in a newspaper</p>		

4	Was sind deine Zukunftspläne?	
Accept		Reject
<p>Candidates are expected to give an account of their future plans. These may be many and varied and may or may not be related to the holiday job. Candidates must use the future tense or the present with a future indicator. Occasionally due to the nature of what is being described, a present time frame may be acceptable for communication purposes.</p>		

5	... und warum?	
Accept		Reject
<p>Candidates are expected to express an opinion or give a view about what was related in the previous section. Candidates may use any time frame in their response.</p>		

6	Frag etwas über diesen Job	
Accept		Reject
Any relevant question		Any statement.

Marks	Degree of Communication	Explanation
0	Nothing of merit: fails to communicate OR occasional words are recognisable within sentences but no complete messages are communicated.	
1-2	Communicates a little basic information (eg simple facts).	Some brief, simple facts are communicated in relation to one or two of the tasks set.
3-4	Some basic information is conveyed; occasional additional details conveyed (eg description, simple opinion).	Some longer descriptions or simple facts conveyed in relation to several of the tasks set.
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7-8	Communicates a lot of relevant information; candidate can narrate events, give full descriptions and can express and justify ideas and points of view.	Full descriptions in relation to all of tasks set.

Question 2

(8 marks – Communication)

There are 6 tasks. Any relevant information on these 6 tasks will be rewarded.
A mark between 0 and 8 will be awarded for Degree of Communication.

The point at which the task has been successfully completed will be indicated within the body of the text.

1	Wie deine Ferienreise war...	
Accept		Reject
Candidates are expected to express an opinion or give a view about their holiday journey. Candidates are expected to use a past time frame in their response.		

2	...und ein Problem unterwegs.	
Accept		Reject
Candidates are expected to give an account of a particular problem experienced on the journey. Candidates are expected to use a past time frame in their response. Accept answers stating that there were no problems on the journey. Accept problems not directly connected with means of transport. Eg. an incident en route.		No marks should be awarded for a problem at their destination, for example with their hotel etc.

3	Was das Beste und das Schlimmste an deinen Sommerferien war.	
Accept		Reject
Candidates are expected to make a comparison of the best and worst feature of the holiday. These may be many and varied. Candidates must use the past time frame, although there may be occasions where the present would be equally suitable, perhaps in a comment or observation.		

4	Wie es ohne Eltern war.	
Accept		Reject
<p>Candidates are expected to express an opinion or give a view about being on holiday without parents. Candidates are expected to use a past time frame in their response. Occasionally due to the nature of what is being described, a present time frame may be acceptable for the purposes of communication, perhaps in a comment or observation.</p>		

5	... und warum?	
Accept		Reject
<p>Candidates are expected to justify the opinion or view, expressed in the previous section about being without parents on holiday. Candidates are expected to use a past time frame in their response. Occasionally due to the nature of what is being described, a present time frame may be acceptable for the purposes of communication, perhaps in a comment or observation.</p>		

6	Etwas über deine Pläne für Oktober.	
Accept		Reject
<p>Candidates are expected to give their future plans for October i.e. the immediate future. These may be many and varied BUT must reflect something realistically in the immediate future. Candidates must use the future time frame or the present with a future time indicator. Occasionally due to the nature of what is being described, a present time frame may be acceptable for the purposes of communication, perhaps in a comment or observation.</p>		<p>Plans which are not realistically in the immediate future, e.g. going to university, getting married etc.</p>

Quality of Language

Questions 1 & 2

18 marks

A mark between 0-18 will be awarded globally over both questions for Quality of Language.

Quality of Language		
Mark	Range & Complexity	Accuracy
0	Very little effective vocabulary. There are occasional recognisable words but they make little coherent sense.	There is little, if any, evidence of understanding of the most basic linguistic structures.
1-2	The vocabulary and structures used are simple, often repetitive, limited in range and may often contain many cognates.	There is only limited understanding of the most basic linguistic structures and most sentences contain major errors
3-4	Vocabulary is appropriate to the basic need of the task. Structures are simple, often repetitive and are rarely linked.	Most sentences contain errors, many of a major nature, and verb forms are rarely accurate.
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Marks	Degree of Communication	Explanation
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7-8	Communicates a lot of relevant information; candidate can narrate events, give full descriptions and can express and justify ideas and points of view.	Full descriptions in relation to all of tasks set.

The following restrictions apply in the award of marks for Range & Complexity and Accuracy:

Max. Communication mark	Max. Range & Complexity mark	Max. Accuracy mark
0	0	0
4	6	6
8	8	8
12	10	10
16	12	12

The mark for Range & Complexity and Accuracy are added together to give a mark out of 24. This mark is then multiplied by 3 and divided into 4 to give a Quality of Language mark out of 18. (Half marks are rounded up).