

Examiners' Report
June 2019

GCSE German 1GN0 3H

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Introduction

The GCSE German Higher Reading paper is worth 50 marks and is divided into three sections, A, B and C. The first 6 questions, Section A, are set in English. Questions 7-9, Section B, are set in the target language. Section C, Question 10, consists of a translation from German into English.

Candidates are assessed on their ability to understand written German in texts drawn from different themes and incorporating different styles of language. Texts use familiar language in unfamiliar contexts and include two literary texts. These consist of short extracts which may have been adapted from the original to make them appropriate for this level.

On the whole candidates entered for this paper were quite successful on the questions set in English requiring knowledge of vocabulary listed in the specification. However, many candidates found questions requiring a modicum of deduction or the ability to draw conclusions rather more taxing. Unsurprisingly, performance on questions set in German was much more varied. Examiners were heartened to note that performance on those test types, introduced last year for the first time, is improving.

Q04 required candidates to read an extract from a German literary text and to choose the correct ending to an English sentence from four plausible choices. This question was well answered by the majority of candidates, although Q04(ii) caused problems for some who did not know the meaning of *Glatze*. They often assumed *Schnurrbart* to mean beard as they recognised the final syllable *-bart*.

Q07: candidates had to read a text about a language course in Heidelberg. They were then required to choose the correct multiple choice answer from four options. Successful candidates were able to cope with the simple deduction required for Q07(i) and Q07(iv). Q07(iii), which also required a very simple level of deduction, was answered well by almost all candidates. However, examiners saw few correct answers to Q07(ii); the majority of candidates assumed that Maria must be German, not realising that this would make a German course in Heidelberg unnecessary. *Aus den Vereinigten Staaten*, the key phrase, was clearly unknown to most, despite featuring in the vocabulary list in the specification.

Question 1

Candidates had to read a short passage on school life and to answer three English questions on the content. A one word answer was sufficient for each of the three answers.

The majority of candidates coped well with this question, many scoring full marks. Q01(c) was answered correctly by almost everybody; the few exceptions who thought pupils could stay in the classroom at break failed to notice that it was explicitly stated that *in den Pausen sind die Klassenzimmer geschlossen*.

Less successful candidates struggled with the meaning of *Aula* in Q01(a), often suggesting the plausible but incorrect "in their classroom".

In Q01(b) a number of candidates gave two answers to a one word question. As always in these circumstances examiners marked the first response only. The key word *Stundenplan* caused some confusion; the most frequently encountered incorrect answer was "student planner".

Question 2

Candidates were asked to respond to four English questions on an extract from a literary text. This question was answered well by more successful candidates but caused some difficulties for many. There were five different characters mentioned in the extract and many candidates found it difficult to identify who was doing what and in particular the reasons for their actions. Precision when writing English was also an important factor on this question. Vague or ambiguous answers were unlikely to score highly. More successful candidates were able to answer Q02(a) and Q02(d) successfully.

Q02(b) required candidates to understand that Rainer was at work and that he would be late coming for dinner. However, it was not correct to say that he was not coming, as claimed by many candidates, because the text makes clear that he hoped to arrive in time for dessert. A frequently encountered incorrect answer was that Rainer had to work. This was not accepted as it did not make clear that Rainer was already at work.

Candidates who answered Q02(d) less successfully were often not sure who was phoning whom or suggested that Elias' phone was out of battery, a plausible reason for him not answering but not one supported by evidence from the text.

(a) Why does Joyce go to the kitchen?

(1)

To get Martin a glass

(b) Why did Rainer ring Gloria?

(1)

To tell Gloria she could come as she had to work.

(c) How does Joyce know Elias?

(1)

From guitar lessons

(d) What happened when Joyce called Elias?

(1)

Joyce became agitated.

(Total for Question 2 = 4 marks)



Q02(a) is a good example of where extra information can negate an otherwise correct answer. "To fetch a glass" would be correct but the text explicitly states that Martin will not need a glass as he is not coming to dinner. Although Joyce actually went to fetch 5 glasses examiners were prepared to accept the singular form ie glass. This candidate has made several errors while answering Q02(b). S/he has assumed Rainer to be a woman despite the use of the pronoun *er* and there is no indication that Rainer is already at work but will be late getting away. In order to score a mark for Q02(c) candidates had to make it clear that Joyce was giving Elias guitar lessons. This answer does not make the teacher/pupil relationship clear. They could both be pupils together. The final answer (Q02(d)) is plausible in the context but not correct. This candidate unfortunately scores no marks.



This type of question requires answers in clear, well expressed English.

Question 3

Q03 required candidates to read a challenging passage about the work of the Salvation Army in Dresden and to answer five questions in English. This question produced a wide range of performances. More successful candidates were able to score close to full marks whilst others often could only be credited for Q03(c). It was important in answering this question to give sufficient detail. There were many examples where candidates had clearly understood the passage but did not include all the necessary information or where the English used was too vague to be credited.

(a) What does Gert Scharf say is dangerous in winter? Give **one** detail.

(1)

The temperature

(b) Why do these charity workers often work late?

(1)

In order to help more people

(c) What do the helpers not need to bring for the homeless?

(1)

*because they bring clothing instead.
as food is already provided*

(d) How do homeless people often react when they first meet these volunteers?

(1)

thankful and excited

(e) Apart from a hot drink, what do homeless people get in the night cafés?

(1)

a chance to talk to people

(Total for Question 3 = 5 marks)



Q03(a) is an example of a candidate losing marks because s/he does not provide sufficient information. It is not the low temperatures which are dangerous but the act of sleeping outside in the low temperatures. Q03(b) makes the same mistake. The idea of helping people is crucial but in order to gain the mark the candidate has to state who is being helped, ie the homeless. Q03(c) is correct. Although the candidate has answered at length, one word, ie clothing, would have been sufficient. The key word in Q03(d) is "first". Candidates needed to express the homeless people's initial reluctance to go with the Salvation Army members. The candidate's answer describes how s/he felt later and therefore cannot be credited. Although the candidate's answer to Q03(e) is perfectly plausible the text specifically states that they get advice at the night café. This candidate therefore scores one mark.



It is important to read questions extremely carefully and to give sufficient detail in answers.

Question 5 (a) - (d)

Q05 required candidates to read a series of personal opinions about the city of Basel and then to allocate four statements to the correct person. Candidates then answered two English questions on the same texts. Many candidates were able to make the links between the German texts and the English sentences successfully.

Daniel talks about the historic town hall and the medieval cathedral (Q05(a)). He also mentions *leckere hausgemachte Gerichte* (Q05(d)). Lena describes Basel as the *drittgrößte Stadt der Schweiz* (Q05(b)). Zehra mentions bathing in the Rhine in the summer (Q05(c)).

Question 5 (e) (f)

Only the most successful candidates were able to answer Q05(e) correctly. Frequently encountered incorrect answers often referenced the *zahlreiche Bars*. Examiners accepted quite a wide range of answers for Q05(f). Ideally candidates mentioned paintings but the more generic term "art" was also accepted. A few candidates wrote of the pictures of famous artists which unfortunately could not be accepted.

(e) According to Daniel, where do most activities take place?

(1)

under the open sky (outside)

(f) Why does Lena recommend the museum?

(1)

you can spend hours there

(Total for Question 5 = 6 marks)



This candidate has been awarded both marks. Although the answer to Q05(e) is a rather literal translation of the German phrase *unter freiem Himmel* the additional answer in brackets acts as clarification that the candidate has understood what the German phrase means. Most answers to Q05(f) mentioned what there is to see in the museum but this candidate's answer is an acceptable alternative recommendation for the museum, based on *stundenlang* in the text.

Question 6 (i)

In Q06 candidates had to read a passage on Christmas markets and then select the three correct sentences from a given list of seven statements. The second part of this question required candidates to answer two questions in English.

The majority of candidates were able to score at least 2 marks on Q06(i).

Answers (D) and (F) relied on the understanding of key items of vocabulary, *große Fahrzeuge* and *Stromversorgung* respectively. Answer C on the other hand required global comprehension of the second paragraph rather than knowledge of one or two specific words, although the final sentence in the second paragraph contained the key information. Information about the distractors in Q6(i) can be found in the mark scheme.

Question 6 (ii)

Answers to Q06(ii) had to reference Christmas or the atmosphere at the market in order to be credited. Less successful candidates often understood *genug* but omitted the reference to Christmas, eg by an answer such as "to check there were enough decorations". Other plausible but incorrect answers included to check that all the decorations worked - this was presumably based on *dann kümmere ich mich darum, dass alles funktioniert*. This, however, referred to the market as a whole rather than to the decorations, as required by this question. Some candidates were clearly unsure about using the word Christmassy, unsure whether it would be acceptable English.

Question 6 (iii)

In Q06(iii) translation of the German word *Kunsthandwerkshütten* was the main issue. A minority described these as craft stalls, the ideal answer. However, examiners were quite lenient in the answers that they accepted for this question.

(iii) What is the new feature of this year's market?

(1)

^{five}
The art work pieces can be sold



This answer was not credited as it does not mention stalls and erroneously refers to 5 art works. The number 5 of course should refer to the number of stalls.

(iii) What is the new feature of this year's market?

five different
The ~~hand~~ ^{hand} ~~art~~ ^{hand} ~~work~~ ^{work} stalls selling products
of art work hand-made.

(1)

(Total for Question 6 = 5 marks)



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Examiner Comments

This is by no means a perfectly expressed answer but it does include the crucial elements: stalls and what they are selling. "Art work handmade" is rather clumsily expressed but is close enough to craft to be credited.

Question 8

For Q08 candidates had to read a blog about technology and then match a number of German statements to the correct person. This proved a demanding task but was well done by a substantial number of candidates. This test required the ability to recognise synonyms in German. There were a number of plausible distractors in the text and candidates needed a thorough understanding of the text in order to choose the correct answers.

In Q08(a) it was simply necessary to recognise *SMS* as a synonym for *ich simse* and in Q08(c) *Netzkamera* for *Webcam*.

The other questions all required a level of deduction. In Q08(d) candidates needed to link success in online competitions with winning. This involved understanding the words *Erfolg* and *Wettbewerb*, both featuring in the specification vocabulary list but not universally recognised even by Higher Level candidates.

In Q08(e) Petra's ambivalent attitude to technology is indicated by her wanting to continue using her old camera rather than her phone. However, she uses the computer to store her photos.

Question 9

In Q09 candidates read a more challenging text on the New Year's concert from Vienna and then had to answer five questions in German on the content of the passage. Full sentences were not required and candidates were allowed to make targeted lifts from the text in order to answer the question. Incorrect spelling or grammar was not penalised as long as the meaning was unambiguous. Although this question was targeted specifically at candidates aiming for the highest grades it was encouraging to see the proportion of candidates who managed a good score on this question.

Q09(a) was answered correctly by many candidates. They were able to identify relevant material for Q09(b) although not all gave an answer which addressed the phrase *international berühmt*. In Q9(d) most candidates referred to the acoustics, lifting an appropriate section from the text although hardly any candidates adjusted the gender of the pronoun to reflect the noun used in the question. However, this did not affect whether the mark was awarded or not. In Q09(e), whilst there were many acceptable answers, some candidates just answered *Rathausplatz* without a following verb, which does not answer the question *was kann man machen?*

(a) Wo in Wien findet das Konzert statt?

im Goldenen Saal des Musikvereins (1)

(b) Was macht das Konzert international berühmt?

durch Fernsehübertragungs (1)

Es wird in über 90 Länder ausgestrahlt
Es hat ein großes Publikum.

(c) Warum ist es schwierig, eine Karte zu bekommen?

Es gibt ~~es~~ große Nachfrage (1)

(d) Warum ist die Konzerthalle ideal?

Er ~~Sie~~ ist schön und er hat auch perfekte Akustik. (1)

(e) Was kann man machen, wenn man keine Karte bekommt?

Mann kann bei Übertragungen im Freien (1)

am Rathausplatz und am

(Total for Question 9 = 5 marks)

Stephansplatz es erleben. TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 15 MARKS



This is an excellent answer and deservedly scores full marks. The candidate has identified the key information for each question and his/her answers are absolutely clear. Although all answers except Q09(a) are full sentences there is no requirement to do this. It will be noted that the grammar in this answer is not perfect. There is a missing article in Q09(c) and genders in Q09(d) and Q09(e) are incorrect. However, this does not affect communication in any way.

(a) Wo in Wien findet das Konzert statt?

(1)

Es ist ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ über 90 Länder für ein Millionenpublikum ausgestrahlt.

(b) Was macht das Konzert international berühmt?

(1)

Das Konzert live in Wien zu sehen.

(c) Warum ist es schwierig, eine Karte zu bekommen?

(1)

Die Eintrittskarten kosten zwischen €35 und €1090.

(d) Warum ist die Konzerthalle ideal?

(1) ^{17. Juni 2014}

Das Musikprogramm mit Musikstücken der Strauss-Familie sorgt für einen guten Start ins Jahr.

(e) Was kann man machen, wenn man keine Karte bekommt?

(1)

Man kann die Übertragungen im Freien am Rathausplatz und am Stephansplatz.



This candidate has answered Q09(a) with information that is actually the answer to Q09(b). The answers given here for Q09(b) and Q09(d) are lifts from the text but unfortunately the information does not match the questions asked. Q09(c) illustrates a common error. The price is not the reason that it is difficult to get tickets; it is because there is a high demand. Although there is an infinitive missing at the end of the sentence the meaning in Q09(e) is clear and therefore the answer can be credited. In total this candidate scores one mark.



It is important to read the question words carefully. Some candidates answered when the concert took place rather than giving the venue.

Question 10

The translation proved a challenging exercise for many candidates, although the vast majority were able to score something for their version of the earlier sentences. Candidates had to show an ability to transfer meaning accurately into English in a passage that contained a wide range of tenses, structures and vocabulary. Many candidates were able to score more than half marks on this exercise and it was pleasing to see a number of near faultless translations from non-native speakers of German. Candidates are reminded to attempt as much of the passage as possible even if they do not know a key word. The penalties for leaving out a phrase or sentence are greater than for using an incorrect word or omitting just the unknown word. As the sentences gradually increased in difficulty throughout the passage it was not uncommon to see scripts where the first half was largely correct but where the last sentence did not make much sense.

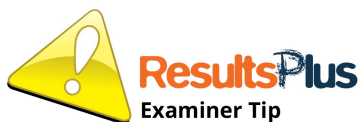
Words that proved problematic to many included *Gegend*, *gefallen* and *Familienausflüge*, which many translated as flights. Most candidates correctly identified the past tense verbs in the second and third sentences. However it was not uncommon to see the past tense continued into the final sentence instead of the required translation of future intent. Geography was not a strong suit for many - examiners saw *Süddeutschland* translated as Switzerland and even Sweden. *Schwarzwald* was frequently mistranslated as the Black World.

Letztes Jahr habe ich mit meiner Familie eine Woche in Süddeutschland verbracht. Um die Gegend zu sehen, haben wir ein Auto gemietet. Obwohl es teuer war, hat es uns sehr gefallen, weil wir schöne Familienausflüge machen konnten. In den Ferien haben wir vor, in den Schwarzwald zu fahren, und wir freuen uns sehr darauf.

Last year, I spent a week with my family in South Germany. On the trip to see, wir hired a car. Although it was ~~very~~ expensive, ~~and that~~ it pleased us, because we could make the familytrip lovely/beautiful. In the holidays, we have to the black forest ~~to~~ travelled, and we ~~were~~ ~~free~~ are freed and very excited.



This script is typical of many translations seen by examiners in that it starts very well and then becomes more inaccurate in the more demanding last sentence. It is certainly true that the meaning of the passage is mostly communicated. However, the tense in the last sentence is incorrect, which is one of the descriptors in the 1-3 band. This translation is therefore placed at the bottom of the 4- 6 band and is awarded 4.



The passage will feature different tenses in different sentences. Candidates should take care to answer in the appropriate tense. Translations should not be in the same tense throughout.

Letztes Jahr habe ich mit meiner Familie eine Woche in Süddeutschland verbracht. Um die Gegend zu sehen, haben wir ein Auto gemietet. Obwohl es teuer war, hat es uns sehr gefallen, weil wir schöne Familienausflüge machen konnten. In den Ferien haben wir vor, in den Schwarzwald zu fahren, und wir freuen uns sehr darauf.

Last year I spent a week with my family in South Germany. In order to see the area, we rented a car. ^{Despite} ~~because~~ it ^{being} ~~was~~ expensive, we ~~was~~ liked it a lot because we could go on beautiful family day trips. In the holidays, we ~~wanted~~ ^{go} to the Black Forest, and we ~~would~~ ~~like~~ ~~to~~ look forward to it a lot.



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Examiner Comments

This is an excellent translation. It conveys the meaning of each sentence clearly and, although the translation of the verbs in the final sentence is a little stilted, a mark of 7 is fully merited.



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Examiner Tip

It is important to read the finished translation through carefully to ensure that it makes good sense and that no words or phrases have been omitted.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper candidates are offered the following advice:

- It is important to be familiar with all the vocabulary listed in the specification under both Foundation and Higher Tier. There will be a small number of unfamiliar words in the texts but these are usually not tested.
- No credit can be given for answering questions in the wrong language.
- It is important to leave sufficient time to answer the last two questions properly as they are worth 12 marks.
- Candidates are reminded that questions set in German will often require the identification of common synonyms. Other questions will involve deduction or the drawing of simple conclusions.
- Questions are only set on the content of the texts. No general knowledge is expected or tested.
- At the end of the examination candidates should read through their answers carefully to check that they have answered the questions set.

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