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Examiners' Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2020

Pearson Edexcel GCSE  
In German (1GN0 3H)  
Paper 3: Reading In German

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### **Principal Examiner's report**

This unit was worth 50 marks and was divided into three sections, A, B and C. Questions 1-6 and 10 in sections A and C were set in English. Questions 7-9 in section B were set in the target language. Question 10 in Section was a translation.

Candidates had 60 minutes in which to complete their answers.

#### **Question 1**

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

Many candidates coped well with this question, with some scoring full marks. Q01(a) was answered correctly by almost everybody; the few exceptions who thought people were going on holiday to Greece failed to notice that it was explicitly stated that *Man gibt aber weniger Geld für Reisen nach Griechenland aus als vor 5 Jahren*. Less successful candidates struggled with the meaning of *Wandern* in Q01(b), often offering the incorrect translation of "wandering". In Q01(c) a number of candidates gave vague answers, stating that holidays were more expensive or that families had less money for holidays- but failing to pick out exactly why this was – that plane tickets were more expensive due to rising oil costs.

#### **Question 2**

Candidates were asked to respond to three English questions on an extract from a literary text.

This question was answered well by more successful candidates but caused some difficulties for a few candidates. Most candidates were able to answer Q02(a) and Q02(c) successfully.

Q02(b) required candidates to give two responses about the ticket inspector. Less successful candidates did not correctly translate the word *Zeitung* as newspaper, sometimes offering magazine in error. Some candidates also incorrectly stated that the inspector was wearing a hat, when the text clearly states that *Der Kontrolleur auf dem Gang hat die harte Mutze vom Kopf genommen*

#### **Question 3**

Q03 required candidates to read a challenging passage about the life of a man called Ludwig Traber 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 found some of the questions challenging. Less successful candidates struggled to answer Q03 (a) correctly. It was important in answering this question to give precise detail about what Ludwig Traber did for a living. Acceptable answers were that he sells fish or runs or owns snack bars. Many successful candidates were able to give correct answers to Q03 (b) and Q03 (c). Some candidates found Q03 (d) more difficult to answer, not giving precise enough detail about what prompted Ludwig to start a new career. There were some examples where less successful candidates had clearly understood the passage but did not include the necessary information to gain marks for Q03 (a) and Q03(e).

#### **Question 4**

Q04 required candidates to read an extract from a literary text and answer five multiple choice questions in English.

Some candidates struggled to link the German phrase *in einem schicken Anzug* with the English for smart clothes (Q04 (i)). Many were more successful (Q04 (ii)) at linking camera with *klick*. Q04 (iii) proved to be a challenging question for many, requiring candidates to understand how the fisherman was feeling.

#### **Question 5 (a) - (d)**

Q05 required candidates to read a series of personal opinions about using an e-reader 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. Wiebke talks about having a headache after reading e-books for too long (Q05(a)). Martin talks about reading books at night (Q05(b)). Karl mentions e-books giving you privacy (Q05(c)). Renate talks about books saving space when travelling *Das kleine Gerat nimmt im Koffer keinen Platz weg.* (Q05(d))

#### **Question 5 (e) (f)**

Many successful candidates were able to answer Q05(e) correctly. Some candidates misread this question as what were the *disadvantages* of e-readers and then incorrectly answered that they can give you a headache. This may be mentioned in the text by Wiebke but it was not the question that was actually asked. For Q05(f) candidates ideally wrote that Karl was teased for reading fantasy books but examiners also accepted answers that mentioned his choice of books. A few candidates wrote that he read childish books which unfortunately could not be accepted.

### **Question 6 (i)**

In Q06 candidates had to read a passage on Regensburg university 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). Answer (D) required global comprehension of the third paragraph. Answer (F) relied on the understanding of key items of vocabulary from the sentence, *Man kann die ganze Stadt mit dem Fahrrad oder Inlineskates kennen lernen* – Students do not need a car to explore Regensburg. Whilst answer (G) required candidates to understand that, *Ein negativer Punkt ist der Preis der Unterkunft*– The price of accommodation is expensive.

### **Question 6 (ii)**

Answers to Q06(ii) had to reference a positive advertising effect or an increase in the city's popularity to be credited. Less successful candidates often understood that the ranking was positive for Regensburg but were unsure whether it was positive for the city or for the university, and had not understood the idea of *Werbeeffekt* correctly.

### **Question 6 (iii)**

In Q06(iii) translation of the German word *subventionierte* was the main issue. Many candidates answered that the students would get cheap rooms, without understanding that the university would be subsidising this.

### **Question 7**

This question required candidates to read a passage in German about a well known department store, and answer five multiple choice questions in the target language.

Candidates answered most questions well. Many successful candidates were able to make links between *die Küche* and *Tassen* (Q04 (ii)) or *täglich* and *pro Tag* (Q04 (iv)). Less successful candidates did struggle to link *jeden Tag außer sonntags geöffnet* with *Das Kaufhaus ist am Sonntag geschlossen* (Q04 (v)) Even more candidates struggled to link *Kein Wunder also, dass die Besucher des Kaufhauses meistens drei Stunden dort verbringen und viel kaufen* with the correct answer: *Besucher finden das Kaufhaus fantastisch* (Q04 (iii))

### Question 8

For Q08 candidates had to read a series of comments about a football game 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(b) it was simply necessary to recognise *uninteressant* as a synonym for *langweilig* and in Q08(c) *verlieren* for *keine Chance*. The other questions all required a level of deduction. In Q08(a) candidates needed to link not seeing the whole game with missing the start. This involved understanding the words *ganz*, *Anfang* and *verpassen*, all featuring in the specification vocabulary list but not universally recognised even by Higher Level candidates. In Q08(d) Friederike's stance on eating during a game is expressed by her wanting to eat at her seat and not waste time queuing whilst the match is going on.

### Question 9

In Q09 candidates read a more challenging text on the prize for Germany's best school 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 also able to identify relevant material for Q09(b) from the phrase *Schulleben, Verantwortung und Arbeit in der Gemeinschaft*. In Q9(c) some unsuccessful candidates just answered with the phrase from the text *Beratungsteam aus einer Pastorin und Sozialarbeitern* without including a verb. In Q09(e), whilst there were many acceptable answers, some candidates were confused over whether students from the German school were running a Christmas market, or selling items there. The latter was a correct answer.

### **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 part contained more errors. Words that proved problematic to many included *schützen*, *beschweren* and *Enkelkinder*. Some candidates worked hard to find sensible equivalents under exam conditions, translating *schützen* as to look after, and *beschweren* as to moan or even to hesitate. Most candidates correctly identified the differing tenses and gave the required translations accordingly.

### **Paper Summary**

Based on their performance in this examination, students are offered the following advice:

- Time management is important in this paper and there is a lot for students to complete in 60 minutes. The final two questions are worth 12 marks and candidates should allocate sufficient time for completion of all questions.

- Candidates should write their answers clearly. If they have written two versions of a phrase, such as for the translation, one should be crossed out in order to indicate which answer is to be marked.
- A very small number of candidates answered some questions in the wrong language. No credit can be given in these cases.
- In Q9, candidates are not required to use full sentences.
- Some questions tested candidates' understanding of key vocabulary items listed in the specification for Higher level; for example, *Zeitung* in Q2 and *wandern* in Q1. Candidates should be aware these are the items that will be tested.
- Candidates are expected to give short answers only for all questions. Sometimes providing extra detail can negate a previously correct answer.



