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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In German (4GN1 01)
Paper 1: Listening In German

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Paper 1: Listening

Principal Examiner's report

This paper is worth 40 marks. Candidates are required to answer seven questions in 30 minutes preceded by 5 minutes' reading time. Questions based on extracts of recorded German are in increasing order of difficulty. Candidates hear each extract twice. All questions and rubrics are in German.

Question 1 – Zu Hause

Candidates had to match four places at home mentioned in simple statements from a choice of 8 pictures.

The majority of candidates had no difficulty in identifying all four correct answers. However, *Wohnzimmer* at E was occasionally mistaken for B.

Question 2 – Arbeit

Candidates had to identify where three speakers had worked in the past and match their statements to pictures.

Many candidates scored at least 4 marks for this question. It was important to read the rubric carefully: candidates had to identify where the speakers had worked. This meant that E (*Friseur*) was a distractor. *Klempner* was occasionally unknown and some candidates did not give themselves a fair chance of scoring marks by choosing too many or too few options.

Question 3 – Ernährung

Candidates had to make short notes in German from an extract about eating and drinking.

The most successful candidates managed to score full marks here. However, some were unable to choose the correct word when there was a distractor in the extract. Thus, some wrongly listed *Salat* and *Saft* for the first two answers. Examiners allow an approximation of the German spelling when awarding marks. However, when the resulting word is too far removed from the original, it is disallowed: so *Schpudel* and *Gürcke* were permissible, whereas *Spügel* and *gogen* were not. *Butterbrot* was often unknown.

Question 4 – Klassenfahrten

Candidates had to identify whether the speakers were describing class trips positively, negatively or positively and negatively.

Many candidates were clearly used to listening for opinions and scored well on this question. The most common wrong answer was for Jürgen who stated that, although last year's trip was disappointing, this year's trip was a great experience. Even without the more obvious indicators for a dual opinion such as *aber* or *andererseits*, it was clear that he had a split view.

Question 5 – Tradition

Candidates had to answer six multiple choice questions based on an interview about a village festival.

Many candidates managed to make the link between *aus nah und fern* and *von überall her* in (a) and *billigere Waren* and *Sonderangebote* in (b). Thereafter, there were mixed fortunes. However, most candidates scored at least 3 marks for this question.

Question 6 – Helfen im Haushalt

Candidates had to complete six sentences based on an interview about helping at home from a selection of words in a box.

Only the most discerning of candidates were able to score 5 or 6 marks here. To process the information given in the text, it is necessary to use the preparatory 5 minutes' reading time at the beginning of the test and to think carefully about what words might fit into the gaps. For example, the word *verdienen* is not a viable answer to fill the gap in (b), but several candidates gave this answer. The subtleties of the news report were challenging and only a few candidates managed a score of 5 or 6 for this question.

Question 7 – Sport und Bewegung

Candidates had to take short notes based on an interview about sport and exercise, identifying the advantages and disadvantages of this for young children and teenagers.

Most candidates realised that they had only to write short notes for each answer and many scored well here. The most common correct answer was *Hausaufgaben vergessen* at (c) and even the least successful candidates often managed to score a mark here. Otherwise, success often depended on the detail of the answer or of it being placed in the correct box. For example, those who identified that sport could develop good habits in teenagers only scored a mark if they were able to give a good approximation of *gute Gewohnheiten* rather than hoping that some word with *wohnen* might be the answer. If this was listed as an advantage for *kleine Kinder*, it did not gain credit.

Paper Summary

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

- Be familiar with words from the minimum core vocabulary list.
- Learn vocabulary in word groups or keep lists of synonyms and antonyms.
- Practise each test type regularly and know the requirements of the listening paper.
- Approach each question positively: it may be that a more demanding question contains more familiar vocabulary.
- Ensure that you answer each part of each question; sometimes an educated guess is better than leaving a blank space.
- Never cross more than the required number of boxes in a question.

- Use the first five minutes of the examination wisely to think about what you might hear.
- Prepare to listen for gist as well as individual words.
- Use logical deduction to eliminate wrong answers in multiple-choice tasks.
- Write only short answers in note-taking tasks.

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