

GERMAN

Paper 3025/01
Translation and Composition

General comments

A wide range of performance was seen this year. Candidates were familiar with the rubrics to the questions and with what to expect and there were no instances of candidates attempting more than the required number of questions. Accurate use of tense and verbs was less of an issue this year, although this did occasionally cause difficulties in **Question 2(a)**.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1 Picture Story

This question requires candidates to relate the events depicted using the past tense. The perfect tense, imperfect tense or a mixture of both are acceptable. Use of an appropriate verb was achieved more successfully this year. Most candidates seemed familiar with the setting which depicted a family day out to the beach, and were able to communicate the main parts of the story effectively. Virtually all candidates knew *traurig* and/or *weinen*. Nevertheless there were key items of vocabulary that caused difficulty, notably *Sandburg* and not all candidates were sure of the difference between *fressen* and *essen*. There were several good examples of the use of specific vocabulary items such as *bestaunen*, *fahrlässig*, and *trotz allem*.

Question 2 Essays

When answering questions from this section, candidates usually attempted to cover all five prompts and the prompts were generally well understood.

(a) Der Umzug:

This was the most popular of the questions in this section, with candidates able to demonstrate the ability to describe their new house. Some, however, referred to the move as being in the future when the first bullet point and the general rubric both refer to having already moved house. Nevertheless, the question was well answered. It should be remembered that pre-learnt preambles are to be avoided; several candidates began their email with long introductions which did not refer to the task.

(b) Der Marathonlauf:

Most candidates realised that this question called for a dialogue and were particularly good at discussing the pros and cons of keeping fit. This was the least popular of the questions.

(c) Ferien:

Although there was occasional confusion caused by a lack of clarity of tense, this question was answered quite successfully. Holidays are clearly a topic candidates are familiar with and this was reflected in the quality of the answers and the fact that many candidates chose to answer this question.

Question 3 Translation

This exercise is intended for those candidates who have had considerable practice and teaching in the skills of translation. Candidates who are unfamiliar with the requirements of translation struggle to do well here. Despite this, there was further evidence this year that candidates were coping rather better than in previous years. Certainly the topic was a familiar one this year, and there were fewer vocabulary items that caused difficulty. Candidates were able to get off to a good start with *Als ich fünfzehn Jahre alt war*. Vocabulary items which proved more difficult included volunteers: *Freiwillige* and success: *Erfolg*.

GERMAN

<p>Paper 3025/02 Reading Comprehension</p>
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General comments

Candidates' performance on this paper was in line with that of previous years, with a number of candidates performing particularly well in **Section 1**. **Section 2** proved to be more challenging, though all candidates appeared to be familiar with the rubrics and the question types. **Section 3** as usual posed the biggest challenge for all candidates, but even here candidates appeared well prepared for the layout of the exercise.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Questions 1 – 5

This initial exercise tests comprehension of short reading extracts by way of multiple choice questions. The correct answers had to be selected from four visual stimuli. This exercise posed very few problems and the majority of candidates were able to get off to a confident start. Only **Question 3** caused any problems with some candidates not knowing *Erdbeeren*.

Questions 6 – 10

This exercise was well handled. Short statements needed to be matched to a series of questions about where people live. There were, however, instances of candidates not reading the statements carefully enough, in particular when needing to distinguish between *Wohnung* and *Haus*.

Questions 11 – 15

Again, this exercise was well answered by nearly all candidates. They were required to read a short letter and decide whether statements were true or false. A few candidates answered **Question 15** incorrectly.

Section 2

Questions 16 – 24

In this exercise, short answers had to be produced in the target language in response to questions on a text about an exchange visit. It should be remembered that in most cases only a short phrase or, in some cases, single items of vocabulary are required to give a correct answer. Equally, answers should be sufficiently detailed, as in **Question 23**, where a reference to why Stuttgart and Freiburg were so good was needed. More was expected of the candidate than to simply say *es machte Spaß*.

Questions 25 – 34

Again most candidates performed well on this task. Answers should be complete and unambiguous and the indiscriminate copying of large extracts from the text is unlikely to show true comprehension and therefore cannot be credited. Again some answers were invalidated by the addition of information which was not necessary, e.g. the addition of a reference to *witzig* or a *Happyend* in **Question 29**. Nevertheless many questions, for example **26**, **30** and **31**, were answered correctly by nearly all candidates. **Question 27** was also well answered although some candidates wrongly referred to *bequemere zu Hause* which would of course not be a reason for preferring the cinema.

Section 3

Questions 35 – 54

Many candidates found this cloze test challenging although there were no items that were not known at all. The main problems appeared to be identifying an appropriate item of vocabulary or a conjunction which would make sense in the context e.g. **Question 51**, *teuer*, **Question 53**, *kann*. Many candidates recognised that the final sentence was about moving house and knew the correct verb, however they often used the past participle *umgezogen* as opposed to the infinitive *umziehen*. The spelling of *eigenes* in **Question 41** was equally problematic.