
GCSE

GERMAN

8668/RF Reading Foundation tier
Report on the Examination

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General Comments

The first Reading examination of this new GCSE specification differentiated well between students of different abilities. The mean mark on the paper was just over 26 out of 60 (48%). A good number of students responded well to the questions set and displayed a good range of knowledge throughout the paper on a variety of topics.

Section B of the examination, where students are required to understand questions in German and in some cases respond in German, proved challenging for many. Only the most able students were able to gain high marks in this section. A small number of students answered questions in the wrong language in Section B where answers in German are required.

Section C of the examination, where students are required to translate a short passage into English, proved demanding. Few students scored high marks on this section, where specific vocabulary is being targeted and a precise rendering of the German into English is required.

Students' handwriting was generally legible although occasionally proved challenging to decipher. Few students left questions unanswered, although the number was greater in Section B.

Section A

Question 1

The first two sub-questions proved to be relatively straightforward to students: 74% gave a correct answer to 01.1 and 77% to 01.2. The final section of text, however, challenged many students: *Ich bin ...wieder da, und wir können ... ins Freibad gehen*. As a consequence, the more familiar distractor – *du kannst inzwischen am Computer spielen oder fernsehen* – led many students to opt for the wrong answer, with only 12% of students gaining a mark for part 01.3.

Question 2

Students generally did well on this question and 66% provided a correct response for 02.1 and 44% for 02.2. Some students were confused as to who was having a ceremony/wedding; some thought it was a party. For 02.2, common incorrect responses involved Christmas, birthdays, flowers and clothes.

Question 3

This question was relatively well answered with 68% of students gaining the mark for 03.1, 58% for 03.2 and 77% for 03.3. The most challenging item of vocabulary here was *Sahne*.

Question 4

This question was also answered well by many students. 67% gained the mark for 04.1, 92% for 04.2, 87% for 04.3. Students were more challenged by 04.4 (32% answered correctly) and clearly *vor dem Bildschirm sitzen* was often unfamiliar. Many students opted for the distractor despite the fact that the text said *keine Hausaufgaben*.

Question 5

Most parts of this question were well answered. 65% of students were familiar with the term *Erdkunde* (05.1). Those who answered incorrectly usually opted for sport/PE, although history and chemistry often featured. Just under half of students provided a correct response for 05.2 – those who did not do so often answered with work in *Ausland*, Austria, or Australia, but also with Finland or Iceland. Question 05.3 was not well answered – only 4% of students provided a correct response. Clearly *Klassenarbeit* was unfamiliar to most. Usually students opted for classwork, strict rules/teachers or classmates. 51% of students gave a correct response to 05.4.

Question 6

It was disappointing to note that only 32% of students were familiar with the term *Nachmittag*. Frequently, students offered “night-time”, “midnight”, “middle of the night” or “midday” as incorrect responses. Only 26% of students answered 06.2 correctly. Incorrect responses included “wandering about/around the house/the streets/near the house”. *Gesicht* was unknown to almost all students – only 0.3% answered correctly. Question 06.4 was well answered, with 64% of students answering correctly. Those who did not gain a mark usually answered with “bedroom”. 29% of students gained two marks for 06.5. Most students knew bookshelf or bookcase, but very few students wrote mirror.

Question 7

Students found this question challenging. Only 1.8% answered correctly for 07.1 and 4% for 07.4. The most common responses for the latter sub-question were “car-park” and “car-wash”. 8% of students provided a correct response for 07.3. On a positive note, 71% of students did manage to gain credit for 07.2.

Question 8

This was the first of the overlap questions (therefore targeted at Grades 4 and 5) for Section A and most students found it challenging. Many students gained a mark for “compost” (or equivalent) and a good number provided an appropriate response for “endangered/threatened animals” (Anna). Very few students answered “did nothing” correctly for Leo, but a good number answered correctly for “learn about alternative energy sources” (or equivalent). 30% of students scored one mark, 8% scored three marks and only 0.2% gained full marks.

Question 9

This was the second of the overlap questions for Section A. It was pleasing to note that only 4% of students scored zero for this question and 12% managed full marks.

Section B

Question 10

The question was answered well in the main. 77% of students answered 10.1 correctly, 54% 10.2 and 49% 10.3. Parts 10.4 and 10.5 were answered correctly by 46% and 49% respectively.

Question 11

Only 3% of students gained the full five marks available here. However, it was pleasing to see that 25% scored four marks, 41% three marks and 23% two marks. Only 2% of students scored zero for this question.

Question 12

This was the first of the overlap questions in Section B and students were particularly challenged by parts 12.1 (23% correct) and 12.2 (16% correct). Students fared better on 12.3 and 12.4 with 35% and 52% respectively answering correctly. Many students resorted to copying down sections of the text as their responses, with varying degrees of success.

Question 13

This was the second of the overlap questions in Section B. Only 6% of students gained the full four marks on the question, but 32% did score three and 43% two marks. 15% scored one mark and only 4% of students scored zero for the question.

Section C – Translation

Here students were required to translate a short passage into English. For this question, precise renderings of the text are required. Only 6% of students gained six marks or more from the nine available, 29% of students gained three or four marks and 32% scored two. 7% of students did not score on this question. The first marking point was well answered as was the second, in the main. Many students managed semi-detached, but not *hübsch*. *Eindrucksvoll* was generally unknown. Many students rendered 'I shall meet my friends' as "I am going to the cinema with my friends". Some neglected the plural form of friend. A good number of students translated the final section of the passage well but others offered action films or ignored or were unfamiliar with the concept of *gern*.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.