

GERMAN

Paper 3025/01
Translation and
Composition

General Comments

The majority of candidates performed well in this examination and showed a good understanding of the requirements of the questions and with what to expect. Encouragingly, very few candidates used the present tense to narrate events in the past. Candidates who did best on this paper were those who chose to answer **Questions 1 and 2** and did not attempt the translation.

Comments on Specific Questions

Question 1 – Picture Story

The convention of this type of question is to relate the events depicted using the past tense: the perfect tense, imperfect tense or a mixture of both are acceptable. Use of the perfect tense where the pluperfect was probably more appropriate was tolerated. Most candidates were able to cope with the vocabulary necessary to tell the main elements of the story, although descriptions of putting a poster on a tree were not always successful. Nevertheless there were many good examples of the use of idiomatic German and a wide variety of vocabulary, particularly when expressing the how upset the little boy was.

Question 2 – Essays

Although candidates seemed to be aware that credit is not given for simply copying phrases from the question this was still an issue. Where this did happen, answers tended to be quite repetitive and not score well for Impression.

Questions 2 (a) and 2(b) were equally popular:

Question 2(a) Candidates were quite successful in describing the film. Some described going to the cinema rather than watching on television but this did not unduly affect their final mark.

Question 2(b) The conversation question was answered with varying degrees of success and some answers were very repetitive and relied on *einen neuen Computer kaufen* from the rubric. Nevertheless candidates were able to think of reasons for having a computer, usually a very expensive one justified by needing it for school work.

Question 2(c) This was the least popular of the essay questions which only a handful of candidates chose.

Question 3 – Translation

Many weaker candidates struggled to do well on the translation question if they opt for it, and score considerably fewer marks than on the other questions. Many vocabulary items proved difficult and there were mistakes with basic verb forms like *fährt*. Tenses were also often incorrect.

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Paper 3025/02
Reading and Writing

General Comments

There was a full spread of marks across the range, with several candidates achieving full or nearly full marks, in Section 1 in particular. The second part of 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, but even here candidates appeared well prepared for the layout of the exercise and most performed well.

Comments on Specific Questions

Section 1

Questions 1–5

The first exercise tests comprehension of short reading extracts by way of multiple choice questions. As usual the correct answers had to be selected from four visual stimuli. Candidates dealt well with this section of the paper.

Questions 6–10

Most candidates also scored full marks on this exercise.

Questions 11–15

Again, this exercise was well answered. Most candidates scored full marks here.

Section 2

Questions 16–24

In this exercise, longer answers had to be produced in the target language in response to questions on a text about the benefits of home grown vegetables. Most candidates were able to score well here and many gained full marks.

Questions 25–32

In this exercise about a cycling holiday candidates were expected to be more grammatically correct in their answers to demonstrate true comprehension. Therefore in **Question 28** where the correct answer was *er hat Dörfer besucht und Leute getroffen*, candidates who used the future tense were not rewarded. Most questions can be answered quite concisely and longer answers are likely to include material which negates an otherwise good answer. Indeed, in all of Section two, indiscriminate lifting of large chunks of text is unlikely to show comprehension. An example of this would be the use of the first person lift from the text *‘ich habe keine Reifenpane gehabt’* in answering **Question 31** when use of the third person is required.

Candidates are reminded that careful reading of the question is always advisable especially if there is time to check answers towards the end of the exam.

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Section 3

Questions 33–52

Although many candidates find this cloze test, the last exercise on the paper, particularly challenging there was further evidence that performances are improving. There were hardly any gaps left unfilled and a majority of candidates were able to cope well with the passage, some indeed scoring full marks. The only vocabulary item which proved difficult for more than just a few candidates was *füttern*. On the whole candidates scored creditably here.