

GCE O Level

Edexcel GCE O Level

German (7233)

Summer 2006

Examiners' Report

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Report

Generally there was a wide range of marks, with some candidates clearly out of their depth but far more papers this year scoring very highly.

Paper 1

Question 1 - Dictation

Marks for this question were better on the whole, with fewer bad scores and several full ones. Surprisingly everyday words were often misspelt: *Frühstück, Kaffee, Fleisch, Brötchen*. More expected frequent errors were : *mächtigen, äußerst, Appetit*, and for some candidates the vocabulary about the farm proved difficult.

Question 2 - Listening Comprehension

Most marks here were in the middle range. There was some confusion between Berlin and Hamburg, with more than one candidate talking about walking from one to the other! The most common misinterpretation was in Section 3, where many students thought Kurt's father had promised to buy him a motor bike. At times the passage was understood but the relevant English vocabulary was lacking.

Paper 2

Question 1 - Translation

This was satisfactory on the whole. Quite a few of the candidates had the translation for the third sentence the wrong way round: "He decided to wait for the tram instead of walking home in the cold!" Tenses were not always correctly rendered and where the English words were not known, German compound words were translated over-literally: the bureau, train on the street, butterbreads, head street, foottreads and fatally tired. Commonly not known were: Pfad, Diele, hatte die Absicht gehabt, er wollte eben: and spelling was too close to the German at times: telefon, notize, pfath, theater.

Question 2 - Directed Production

There were some good attempts here, with a variety of imaginative answers for (d) (e) and (s). Unfortunately weak candidates still copy chunks of the text for no credit. The most common mistake was that the visitor at the end was male, so *weibliche Stimme* was obviously not understood.

Question 3 - Picture Essay

There were different interpretations here. For most candidates the first picture was a plane, but for others a train: both were accepted if the vocabulary was consistent. The story was successfully rendered either as a girl returning home or as visiting a host family. Too many candidates however were writing outside the story told in the pictures: e.g where she had been studying, her favourite subject, the airport she went to beforehand. Several spent almost half of their essay on such unnecessary material which was not credited.

Question 4 - Essay

There was an even choice in this question with candidates writing quite well and mostly now keeping to the word limit. The unusual day at school was usually when school shut for some reason! However there were some interesting accounts of school festivals/ projects which were presumably based on fact. The cinema visit was mostly a trip with friends, but on occasion produced exciting stories such as thieves stealing money in the darkness, running away from a man with a pistol or mum sitting behind her daughter discovering the boyfriend!

GERMAN 7233, GRADE BOUNDARIES JUNE 2006

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade (Max =85)	55	45	36	32	25

Note: Grade boundaries may vary from year to year and from subject to subject, depending on the demands of the question paper.
