

# 2022 ASSESSMENT REPORT

## GRM315114 - German

### ORAL EXAM

As usual, the marks awarded covered a wide range from C- to A+. Most students did well on their pre-prepared questions e.g., about their family and school, but some had difficulties with the different tenses required in a conversation. Teachers do need to stress that **all** tenses in the syllabus will be covered in the oral exam - present, imperfect, perfect, future and conditional.

### WRITTEN EXAM

#### SECTION A

**This section assessed Criterion I: listening and responding to spoken texts.**

No real problems were encountered by students in this section, with all receiving more than 30/60. Two obtained 55/60 or more.

#### QUESTION 1

The word “Dorf” was sometimes translated as “town” instead of “village”.

#### QUESTION 2

This was the easiest passage for students. Marks were only lost through not giving enough detail in answers.

#### QUESTION 3

This was the most difficult passage, with several students not performing well.

The last spoken sentence caused the most problems. “Wenn ich nicht nachts mit dem Skateboard gefahren wäre” means “If only I hadn’t gone skateboarding at night”. This sentence structure forms part of the Grammar content for the German 3C course, but perhaps students had not understood the conditional.

#### QUESTION 4

This passage was generally well done and it was pleasing that “Wien” was always translated to “Vienna” and not just left in the German form.

Disappointingly, the phrase “die Hymne der Europäischen Union” was twice translated as “the hymn of the European neon”. As the EU is vital to Germany, examiners felt it quite legitimate to mention it in the exam.

## SECTION B

**This section assessed Criterion 3: reading and responding to written texts.**

Once again, no student failed this section, as the passages addressed themes with which students are familiar.

### PART 1

#### QUESTION 5

This section was answered well overall.

- (h) “kulinarische” proved tricky for several students and yet it is quite easily recognisable as the English “culinary”.
- (i) Tricky words included “achtsam” and “nachhaltig”, yet sustainability is a very important concept in Germany these days.

#### QUESTION 6

Students translated words and parts of sentences, but sometimes missed the overall meaning of the passage/sentence. Therefore, they were awarded only a part of the allocated mark.

- (b) “im Kreis der Familie” i.e., “in the family circle” was not fully understood by many students.
- (c) Students missed the word “unterrichtet”, which indicated Mr. Kelwing was a teacher, not a gardener, who teaches in the school garden.
- (d) Some students missed “Angebaut wird alles, was haltbar ist” i.e., “Everything that is non-perishable is grown” and simply listed all the fruit and vegetables. The marking scheme had not included onions, which all students mentioned.
- (g) Many students missed the fact that the boxes were hanging on the walls and some even translated “Kisten” as “skin”, “scarves” or cushions”. Therefore, they missed the overall meaning of the sentence.

### PART 2

#### QUESTION 7

This question proved to be the most difficult question for students and while there was a big range of answers, it was poorly answered by many. It was also clear that often students found a word or words

from the question and simply copied out the sentence in their answer. This demonstrates a lack of understanding, but is a common thread when questions are asked in the target language.

Very few students understood that “Industrielländer” i.e., “industrial countries” are not all countries but “Länder wie Deutschland und Australien”.

This question caused problems for many students, as they had not understood they were required to write the big numbers in numerals. Many left this question and the following two (e) and (f) blank.

## SECTION C

**This section assesses Criterion 4: express ideas and information in written German.**

Only three of the five topics were chosen by students. None attempted the conversation or the blog, yet these are essay types that students are told to expect in the exam. The majority did an email describing their summer holidays.

A few students wrote far less than the required 250 words. Those who wrote less than half the specified amount, did not pass.

Word order was the perennial problem and students need to know that repetition is not looked upon favourably.

Some students are still incorrectly using “haben” instead of “sein” when writing in the perfect tense. Most dictionaries have a section with verbs. Students should use this during the exam.