

2023 ASSESSMENT REPORT

GRM315114 GERMAN

Oral assessment

Whilst there was a reduction in the number of candidates this year, it was pleasing to see that two-thirds of the students performed well at the 2023 oral examination. Examiners commented that the stronger candidates possessed many fine skills. They understood all questions, replied spontaneously and obviously enjoyed taking part in a conversation that flowed in a natural manner. Their knowledge of grammar was acceptable, and any errors in structure and choice of vocabulary did not impede the flow of the conversation or block comprehension most of the time. The weaker candidates could recognise basic vocabulary and only used well-rehearsed basic or single-word answers but could not formulate answers required at a higher level of examination. The examiners were very appreciative of the teachers' efforts to ensure that students were prepared for the conversation examination. This can be a most challenging skill to foster and develop in the classroom. Still, each year, teachers manage to submit candidates who delight examiners by showing their enjoyment in speaking the German language.

Written examination paper

Section A: Listening and Responding

Candidates did well in this section of the paper and produced a good range of marks. Passage four proved challenging for two-thirds of the candidates, but this did not prevent students from performing well overall. The listening comprehension is the part of the exam in which students seem to experience the greatest level of difficulty as they are balancing structural/grammatical and vocabulary knowledge with the skill of being able to sort, synthesise and note down information in a brief time framework. For this reason, candidates should feel proud of these results as they all did well.

Spoken text 1 – Question 1

Whilst students had no major problems with this passage and its topic, markers remarked that there were a few issues that future candidates may want to note. Firstly, students seemed not to understand specific times during the day, e.g., am Abend. They also confused days of the week, e.g., Dienstag and Donnerstag. Lastly, dates were not understood, e.g., the thirteenth (der dreizehnte) was used instead of the third (der dritte). Across all sections of the exam, students had issues with ordinal and cardinal numbers.

Spoken text 2 – Question 2

This passage was well-received by candidates as they seem to prefer conversations and interviews over narratives. General information was understood, but some key details were missed, e.g., Pfefferminztee is not a spicy drink. Question c) asked students to provide a list of symptoms, but due to a lack of target

vocabulary, students found this challenging to do. In the text, the receptionist offers two proposals for an appointment, but students ended up mixing up both dates and times. Markers felt they did not understand the question because one proposal had the day and the time, and the other had the date and time, which they found confusing.

Spoken text 3 – Question 3

This passage was managed well by all candidates. However, markers noted that in all sections of the paper, students had issues with vocabulary pertaining to transport, e.g., Straßenbahnhaltestelle. Candidates need to note that die Straßenbahn is not a street or regional train but a tram.

Spoken text 4 – Question 4

This was the most difficult text for candidates with specific vocabulary about wellness and associated activities. Question b), which asked candidates about what kind of pools the Wellness Centre had, caused a great deal of confusion among students as to the diverse types of pools on offer. Markers also noted that candidates must carefully consider the number of marks attributed to a question before they answer it. If a question is worth three marks, it usually requires a minimum of three pieces of information. Moreover, students should read questions carefully, e.g., if the question asks when and where, students need to answer both questions.

Section B: Reading and Responding

This section proved to be the most challenging. Students are encouraged to try to answer all questions with as much detail as possible and not to leave blanks. They do not lose marks if their answers are incorrect. This applies to all sections of the paper.

Question 5

All candidates did well in this question with no major problems concerning the subject matter or the questions. However, students found the multiple-choice questions difficult. Once again, students had problems with public transport vocabulary, e.g., Nahverkehr and bundesweit. Sich kümmern um was translated as treating guests politely or having a friendly attitude toward travellers but missed the critical meaning of “to look after”, which was needed for the full mark.

Question 6

This passage proved to be challenging for candidates with a non-passing grade being recorded. The issue here seemed to be that students had the key vocabulary to pick up the big picture/ideas being expressed in the text, but they missed the details. They could not use their key vocabulary knowledge to situate the context, and therefore misunderstood the text’s meaning.

Question 7

Two-thirds of candidates did not achieve a passing grade for this passage. Markers encourage candidates not to leave questions blank but to give what they hope, through deduction if needs be, is a plausible answer. All candidates answered correctly the multiple-choice question in this passage. Markers further suggest that going forward, teachers should try to expose students to more practice in completing passages with the questions and answers in German.

Section C: Writing in German

Markers found this section of the exam the most concerning. Generally speaking, the writing was not strong, and the samples were not long enough to enable markers to consider students for a higher grade. Basic spelling was an issue with a lack of capitalisation of nouns and a limited range of tenses employed. At times, examiners struggled to understand what a candidate was trying to convey and mistakes in grammatical structures such as incorrect word order and phonetically spelling of words affected meaning. On the positive side, students could use some common structures appropriately, and the spread of topics was such that candidates could find a topic that suited their interests. This is a difficult section of the exam for both teachers and candidates, and markers understand that various factors on the day could have produced this result. This said, markers enjoyed reading the candidates' work and encouraged them to continue reading widely in German, to keep learning vocabulary and structures, which will only positively affect their writing a longer text in the future.

The Marking Coordinator and marking team would like to congratulate the setting examiner for writing a varied and exciting paper, which maintained a high standard of expectation while providing candidates with a fair and accessible set of papers. They would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the critics who provided invaluable feedback to the setting examiner. Lastly, they would like to congratulate the teachers and students for their commitment to the study of German.

GERMAN (GRM315114)

2023 EXAM MARKING TOOL

Part A – Listening and Responding

Question 1

Accept	Also accept	Do not accept
a) Morning magazine (1)		
b) ZDF (1)		
c) Thursday 13 March, 10 past 7 (2)	7:10	
d) Actor (1)		
e) Acted in an English/British (James Bond) film (1)	Acted in a James Bond film	He is a British actor

<p>f)</p> <p>Morning (0.5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperatures 11-13 deg (1) • Light wind from the south (1) <p>Afternoon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max temperature - 15 deg (1) • Light rain (1) <p>Evening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bit foggy (1) 	<p>Showers</p> <p>Misty</p>	<p>Rain (without some form of modifier “light” / a bit of / etc)</p> <p>Foggy (without “a bit”)</p>
<p>g) It will get more windy (1)</p>	<p>Wind will increase; it will be windy</p>	
<p>h) A cold front (1)</p> <p>Strong rain (1)</p>	<p>Heavy rain</p>	
<p>i) 8:50am (1)</p>	<p>10 to 9 this morning</p>	

Question 2

Accept	Also accept	Do not accept
<p>a) Telephone (1)</p>		
<p>b) This week (1)</p>		

c)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrible headaches (1) • Coughs the whole time (1) • Can't sleep properly (1) 		
d) He's in Switzerland (0.5) at a conference (0.5)		
e) Next week (0.5) on Tuesday (0.5)	Next Tuesday (1)	
f) An appointment this week (1) with Dr Danninger (1)	With another/a different doctor	
g) He never has time in the afternoon (1) because he has to pick up his son from school (1)	Wind will increase; it will be windy	
h) Thursday at 9:30 (1)	Thursday at half-past 9	
i) The doctor is booked out (1)		
j) Stay home (1) and drink peppermint tea (1)		

Question 3

Accept	Also accept	Do not accept
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<p>a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He wanted to go with his brother to the skatepark (1) • His brother has now gone out with his friends (1) • He is still at home feeling bored (1) 		
<p>b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The film has already won lots of prizes (1) • It's about the First World War (1) • People say the details are authentic (1) 		
<p>c) He hates war films (1)</p>	He hates films about war	He hates films
<p>d) 7pm (1)</p>	7 o'clock in the evening	
<p>e)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film screens on Monday (1) • Monday is film night (1) • Anna gets student concession (1) 	Therefore, it is cheaper. Anna is still at school.	
<p>f)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30pm (1) • At the tram shop (1) • In front of the cinema (1) 	18:30	

Question 4

Accept	Also accept	Do not accept
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<p>a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a health resort (1) • Famous for the quality of life (1) 	<p>Wellness resort/retreat Spa</p>	
<p>b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open air pool (1) • Indoor pool (1) 		
<p>c) Cold (0.5) with frost (0.5) and snow (0.5)</p>		
<p>d) They use solar (1) and thermal (1) energy</p>		
<p>e)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit under trees in the shade (1) • Read (0.5) • Rest (0.5) 	<p>Unwind/chill/hang out</p>	
<p>f) The sun is quite strong (1)</p>		
<p>g)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking/hiking (0.5) (through the Black Forest) • Eat cherry cake in a cosy café (0.5) • Ride a bike (0.5) to Staufen (village) (0.5) • To visit the castle ruins (0.5) 	<p>Eat Black Forest cake to a neighbouring/nearby village</p>	

Part B – Reading and Responding

Accept	Also accept	Do not accept
a) The whole of (0.5) Germany (0.5)	Throughout Germany/local area/train transport	
b) Because the could travel cheaply (1)	Cheap travel	
c) Because the original one was so successful	The 9 Euro ticket was very successful – only valid until the end of 2022	
d) One month (0.5) all over Germany (0.5)		
e) (0.5 each) buses, regional trains, underground, trams	Subway	
f) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you cross the border (1) • To a neighbouring country (1) 		
g) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trains run on time (1) • Trains are reliable (1) 	Trains are punctual	
h) They look after the travellers (1)	They take care of travellers. 0.5 also awarded for friendly or kind attitude towards travellers or being polite	
i) (They have different classes) you can travel according to your budget and needs (1)		

j) You can book a sleeping car (1) and spend the night in a comfortable bed (1)	You can sleep on the train (1)	
k) An article (2)		
l) Persuade (2)		

Question 6

Accept	Also accept	Do not accept
a) Go to university (0.5) or another higher education institution (0.5)	College (this is the Collins dictionary entry)	High school
b) An apprenticeship (0.5)	Become an apprentice	Anything to do with teaching/teacher
c) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To perfect their skills (1) Collect experiences (1) 	To perfect their craft/trade To perfect the work they do with their hands	
d) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A craftsman/tradesman (0.5) Successfully (0.5) completed training (1) Goes on a journey (0.5) 	Goes on a trip/travels around	
e) 3 years and 1 day (1)		
f) Have no fixed above/address (1)	Place of residence	

<p>g) Any three of the following (1 mark each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximum 30 years old • single • have no children • have no debts 	<p>Unmarried Childless</p>	
<p>h) Hitch (hike) (1)</p>		
<p>i)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in different enterprises (1) • Refine their craft/skills (1) • Improve their ability (to do their work) 	<p>Work in different businesses/factories Improve themselves</p>	
<p>j)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different ways of working (1) • Different regions and people (1) 	<p>You can sleep on the train (1)</p>	
<p>k)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprentices (Gesellen) are sought after in Germany (1) • They have many possibilities for careers (1) • They have excellent training (1) • They have lots of practical experience(s) (1) 	<p>In demand in Germany They have an outstanding level of education</p>	

Question 7

Accept	Also accept	Do not accept
a) in anderen Ländern (1)	Im Ausland	High school
b) reisen ins Ausland (1)		Anything to do with teaching/teacher
c) Spanien (0.5)		
d) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bis Weitem das beliebteste Urlaubsland (1) • mit rund 12 Millionen Touristen (1) 	am Liebsten fahren die Deutschen nach Spanien	
e) Italien, Türkei, Österreich (0.5 each)		
f) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative Folgen für (1) • Klima (0.5) und • Umwelt (0.5) 		
g) Dabei entsteht: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eine Große Menge an CO2 (1) 		
h) in beliebiger Reihenfolge, (0.5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotels • Restaurants • Straßen 		

<p>i)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touristen verbrauchen viel Wasser (1) • Gerade in südlichen Gebieten ist das ein Problem (1) • Weil das Wasser knapp ist (1) 	<p>In Süditalien Im Süden</p>	<p>Touristen produzieren Bergen von Müll</p>
<p>j) manche Hotels achten jetzt darauf:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Die Natur zu erhalten (1) • wenig (0.5) Strom (0.5) und Wasser (0.5) verbrauchen • dreckiges Wasser zu reinigen (1) • Müll zu entsorgen (0.5) oder recyceln (0.5) 		<p>Strom und Wasser verbrauchen (ohne wenig)</p>
<p>k) sie sind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • noch selten (1) • (in der Regel) teuer (1) 		
<p>l) ein Ratgeber für das Reisen</p>		