

GERMAN

<p>Paper 3025/01 Translation and Composition</p>
--

There was a wide range of candidates for this examination, including native or near native speakers of German. Candidates were familiar with the rubrics to the questions and with what to expect and there were very few instances of candidates attempting more than the required number of questions. Accurate use of tense and verbs was less of an issue this year, although this did occasionally cause difficulties in **Question 2a**. Relatively few candidates used the present tense to narrate events in the past, but some candidates seemed to forget that all nouns in German begin with a capital letter.

Question 1 Picture Story

This question requires candidates to relate the events depicted using the past tense. The perfect tense, imperfect tense or a mixture of both are acceptable. Use of an appropriate verb was less of a problem this year. Most candidates seemed quite familiar with the shopping setting and were able to communicate the main parts of the story effectively. Nevertheless there were some items of vocabulary that caused difficulty, notably *Polizist*, and when referring to the toyshop simply as "*Spielwaren*" rather than *Spielwarengeschäft*. There were several very good examples of the use of impressive idioms such as *jdm. über den Weg laufen*, *die Hand fest umklammern* and *einen Kloß im Hals haben* as well as the specific vocabulary items *sich schleichen*, *Felgen* and *eitel*.

Question 2 Essays

When answering questions from this section candidates usually attempted to cover all five prompts and the prompts were generally well understood.

(a) *Ein Arbeitspraktikum:*

This was the most popular of the questions in this section, with candidates able to demonstrate the ability to describe their work experience. Some did, however, write about their experience in the present tense which was confusing. Many candidates began their account by explaining, "*ich habe vor kurzem ein Arbeitspraktikum gemacht.*" Candidates must be made aware that credit is not given for simply copying phrases from the question.

(b) *Eine Party:*

Some candidates again did not appreciate that this question called for a dialogue and simply wrote about a party they were organising. Others had particular difficulty in this question avoiding using phrases from the rubric in their answers, often simply copying "*eine Party organisieren*" and "*weil sie ... Geburtstag hat*". Nevertheless the concept of organising a party was one which was clearly accessible to candidates and there were many good answers.

(c) *Mode.*

This was the least popular of the options, but candidates who attempted this task wrote interesting descriptions of their own attitudes to fashion. Again, copying from the rubric was a problem particularly where candidates wrote "*Ist Mode wichtig für Teenager*" as an introduction to their response to this bullet point.

Question 3 Translation

There was evidence this year that candidates were coping rather better than in previous years. The topic was one with which candidates were familiar and there were fewer vocabulary items that caused widespread difficulty. Vocabulary items which did prove to be more challenging than others included nurses: *Krankenschwestern* and ambulance: *Krankenwagen*. Candidates also had difficulty with attentive:

General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level
3025 German November 2011
Principal Examiner Report for Teachers

aufmerksam and many of the verbs, particularly the imperfect “were playing”, “was screaming”, “was reading” and “was lying”.

GERMAN

Paper 3025/02
Reading Comprehension

General comments

Candidates' performance on this paper was in line with that in previous years. There was a full spread of marks, with a number of candidates achieving full or nearly full marks, in **Section 1** in particular. **Section 2** proved to be more challenging, though all candidates appeared to be familiar with the rubrics and the question types. **Section 3** posed the biggest challenge for all candidates, but even here candidates appeared well prepared for the layout of the exercise.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Questions 1 – 5

This initial exercise tests comprehension of short reading extracts by way of multiple choice questions. The correct answers had to be selected from four visual stimuli. This exercise posed very few problems and the majority of candidates were able to get off to a confident start, with most scoring full marks. Only **Question 2** caused any problems with a fair proportion of candidates not knowing *nebelig*.

Questions 6 – 10

Many candidates also scored full marks on this exercise, where short statements needed to be matched to a series of questions about lifestyle preferences.

Questions 11 – 15

Again, this exercise was well answered by nearly all candidates. They were required to read a short letter and decide whether statements on it were true or false. The majority of 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 comparing life in the town and in the country. Answers should be complete and unambiguous, and it should be remembered that in most cases only a short phrase or, in some cases, single items of vocabulary are required to give a correct answer. Answers also need to be unambiguous, as in **Question 24** where a reference to the children was required for a correct answer and *sie können sicher spielen* was considered too vague as it could refer to someone else.

Questions 25 – 34

Most candidates were able to score well on this task. Some answers contained additional information which was not necessary, but many questions, for example **30**, **31** and **33**, were answered correctly by nearly all candidates. Candidates successfully used their own words to express the idea of working for nothing in response to **Question 31**. On the other hand, relatively few candidates were able to gain both marks in **Question 34**. Candidates were required to show how Richard had tried to get a job, and while the majority realised he had sent off a CV, very few actually mentioned exactly to whom he had sent it, which was required.