



General Comments

The examiners were quite pleased with the exam paper and with how it was answered. Some candidates did not take enough care in answering the various sections of the written paper, even though there was plenty of time to do so. No candidates should leave the examination room early – they should use all of the allocated time wisely and check their comprehension answers to make sure that they have the required detail. They should also *plan* their essay answers and then check for accuracy.

Aural Comprehension

The first passage was well answered in that candidates had prepared for this passage and were able to give the greater detail which was expected.

Some candidates *did not read* the questions very accurately (eg in Passage 1 (g)(i) the word ‘rarely’ was ignored) and consequently gave the wrong information.

A general problem throughout the Aural Comprehension paper was that candidates did not write down some details because they seemed obvious – but candidates must include these details because they seemed obvious – but candidates must include these details in their answers to obtain full marks. There was a certain amount of misunderstanding of key vocabulary such as ‘Spielfilme’ which was often misunderstood as ‘game-show’ and ‘Umwelt’ which was taken to be ‘a world organisation information centre’ and ‘Studium’ which was interpreted as ‘studio’.

Reading Comprehension

The first passage was not as well prepared (again) by some candidates as it should have been. The examiners have greater expectations in this passage so candidates must ensure that this ‘prepared passage’ is actually well prepared. Candidates should also give their answers in good English – we often found garbled answers based on a direct mistranslation of the German.

The second passage was generally well done, although we had some strange answers such as in Q2(c): ‘he later studied in Strassburg and he studied Leapyears’. In Q2(d) we found ‘Liebesaffäre’ rendered as ‘Safari’ and in 2(g) Goethe’s wife was described as ‘a drunken sausage’.

The third passage was least well answered. There were many misunderstood muddled responses such as for 3(a) ‘German people want to be millionaires’ and for 3(e) ‘good nurses should not be out of work’.

Writing Section

The essay topics were easier this year and far less convoluted. This resulted in a far greater range of topics being attempted and more being written on each topic, than in previous years. This is a good trend but candidates should still pay attention to accuracy. Subject/pronoun and verb agreement was rather poor as was the use of correct auxiliary verbs with past participles. In many topics candidates strayed from the question due to poor planning, having nothing more to write and then continuing to give irrelevant material to fulfil the 'word requirement'. Candidates must give a variety of vocabulary and structures but this needs to be done with greater accuracy.

In topic 4(a) quite a number of candidates did not address *both* parts of the question. Topic 4(b) was the most popular but many candidates focussed on one day or on a *small* aspect of the 'long' summer holidays – examiners marked candidates down for criterion 8 in such cases.

In conclusion not a bad set of essays but it is not a long paper and examiners do expect a greater degree of planning and accuracy.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

Tasmanian Secondary Assessment Board
PO Box 147, Sandy Bay 7006
Ph: (03) 6233 6364 Fax: (03) 6224 0175

Email: reception@tassab.tased.edu.au
Internet: <http://www.tassab.tased.edu.au>