



Part 1 – Reading and Responding

This section was well answered but some candidates gave the information (showing comprehension) but as a response to the wrong question. Others tended to give answers which were too brief and therefore did not gain the maximum marks for the particular question. Even with dictionaries some phrases were misunderstood such as ‘feste wasserdichte Schuhe’. Candidates thought ‘feste’ was a festival (Fest) rather than ‘solid’ or ‘firm’. Candidates need to use the meaning in the dictionary which fits best into the context. Even the word ‘kein’ was misinterpreted in the phrase ‘kein Genie’. At this level of German they need to know this meaning.

Part 2 – Writing in German

The examiners found that there was a good spread in the questions answered but too many answers were too short. Many essays started well but then ‘fizzled’ in terms of accuracy and grammar. The vocabulary was good, probably due to dictionaries being allowed, but but the grammar was in many cases unsatisfactory. Too many candidates looked up the meaning of words and then gave the incorrect alternative in their essay. It was good to see some candidates applying more complex structures such as conditionals, subordinate conjunctions, relative and infinitive clauses. For the majority of candidates there were difficulties with the basic conjugation of common verbs, with cases and formal and informal address. ‘Umlauts’ were left off or placed in the wrong places and incorrect auxiliaries were used with past participles. Possession was also poorly handled as well as adjectives after ‘my’, ‘your’ etc. Some candidates also mixed up ‘liegen’ with ‘legen’. We also found that parts of sentences had been ‘whited out’ and the words not replaced. In summary, communication was good but detail was often poor.

Part 3 – Listening and Responding

Examiners were satisfied with responses in this section. Most candidates understood the main ideas but were a bit short on detail. Candidates need to be reminded that they have to give as much detail as possible in order to gain full marks. We were surprised to find that many candidates did not understand ‘time’. Language to do with travel (by rail) was also often misunderstood. There was no excuse for not understanding words such as ‘Wald, hohe Berge, Eier and Wurst’.

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