



GCSE

German

8668/RH Paper 3 Reading Higher
Report on the Examination

8668
November 2020

Version: 1.0

Further copies of this Report are available from aqa.org.uk

Copyright © 2020 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.
AQA retains the copyright on all its publications. However, registered schools/colleges for AQA are permitted to copy material from this booklet for their own internal use, with the following important exception: AQA cannot give permission to schools/colleges to photocopy any material that is acknowledged to a third party even for internal use within the centre.

General Introduction to the November Series

This has been an unusual exam series in many ways. Entry patterns have been very different from those normally seen in the summer, and students had a very different experience in preparation for these exams. It is therefore more difficult to make meaningful comparisons between the range of student responses seen in this series and those seen in a normal summer series. The smaller entry also means that there is less evidence available for examiners to comment on.

In this report, senior examiners will summarise the performance of students in this series in a way that is as helpful as possible to teachers preparing future cohorts while taking into account the unusual circumstances and limited evidence available.

Overview of Entry

97 students sat the paper, a small percentage of the numbers involved in a regular summer examination series.

The standard of work was good and the mean mark for the paper was 46.79 (77.98%). This is significantly higher than would normally be expected in a summer examination series.

Comments on Individual Questions

Section A

Question 1

Students fared well on this question with over 80% gaining full marks. Occasionally, students offered *safe* (in isolation) for 1.2, omitting to state that the refugees were *in a safe country*. Some students were unfamiliar with *höflich* (1.3) and some offered a general response for 1.4, usually *rubbish* (in isolation).

Question 2

Over 90% of students gained full marks for this question.

Question 3

Students performed well on this item, with around 90% of students gaining full marks. 3.1 and 3.2 proved to be the most testing questions – *noch nie im Ausland* and *mieten* proving difficult for some students.

Question 4

Again, students performed well on this item, with well over 90% gaining full marks. ...*den längsten Tag des Jahres zu feiern* proved challenging for some students (4.1).

Question 5

Around 80% of students gained full marks for this item. Some students were unfamiliar with *ist mir egal* (5.3).

Question 6

This item proved generally challenging for students, with less than 20% achieving full marks. *Fast niemand* was unknown by many and often rendered as *nobody* (6.1). Almost 50% of students responded incorrectly to 6.5, often answering: *she is not sure*, instead of providing the required detail about being unsure if she will return/come back.

Question 7

52% of students gained full marks for this question. Items of vocabulary which proved challenging were: *zum erten Mal*, *Pferdedünger*, *...leider nicht essen*.

Question 8

8.1 proved challenging to some students with only 33% answering correctly. *Den Job ... mit der Ausbildung verbinden muss*, proved difficult for some. In 8.2 *Aussehen* was unfamiliar to some students, although 60% provided an appropriate response.

Section B

Question 9

Students performed well on this item, with around 85% gaining full marks. Some students did not include *billige* in their response to 9.2.

Question 10

Around 75% of students gained full marks for this item. Question 10.2 proved the most challenging, with some unfamiliar with *trocknen and nass*. Some students found *Bedürftigen* difficult (10.5).

Question 11

Around 70% of students achieved full marks for this item. 11.3 and 11.4 proved more challenging than the first two questions.

Question 12

Around 50% of students gained full marks for this item. Some responses lacked required detail - *aus ganz Deutschland* (12.1), others struggled with *alleinstehend* or *in Not* (12.3).

Section C

Question 13

13% of students gained full marks for the translation into English and 46% achieved 7 marks or more (maximum mark = 9). 2% of students gained 0 marks for this item. This item requires an accurate rendering of German into English and marks were often lost for missing small detail: ... dort,... viel, ...*vor allem*, ... *in dieser Großstadt* were often omitted, paraphrased or incorrectly translated by students.

Concluding Remarks

Students performed well on this paper and the mean mark was significantly higher than previous sessions for the component. Notably, performance on Section C - the translation question – was much improved on previous sessions.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.