



GCSE

GERMAN

8668/RH: Reading Higher
Report on the Examination

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General Comments

This was the first full exam series since 2019 and this year's cohort of students has faced unprecedented challenges and disruption to teaching and learning during the Covid pandemic. Under these circumstances it was extremely reassuring that this year's paper proved to be accessible to all students. There was, as in previous years, a wide range of performance. There were some excellent scripts at the top end of the range and it was encouraging to see how few students had been inappropriately entered for this tier. It was clear that most students, despite all the difficulties of the last two years, were well prepared; teachers and students alike are to be congratulated on this. The mean mark for the paper was just over 34 which was higher than the last full series in 2019 when the mean mark was 31.5. It was also very pleasing to note that over 12% over students scored 50+ on this paper.

Unfortunately handwriting continues to be an occasional, though not frequent, issue for examiners and students should be reminded of the need to indicate their answers, and any changes to their responses, as clearly as possible. Examiners noted that a few (but fortunately not many) students wrote in the wrong language, usually in section B of the paper.

Section A

Question 1

Question 1 was an overlap item and as such proved a straightforward opening to the paper. 20.25% of students gained the mark for 1.1 (*Wettbewerb*), with an impressive 80%, 90.84% and 77.5% success rate for 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 respectively.

Question 2

Question 2 was also an overlap item and was similarly well answered: 84.91% of students gained the mark for 2.1, 73.85% for 2.2 and 79.52% for 2.3.

Question 3

This verbal answer question was aimed at the most able students and, consequently, proved challenging to many students. The question discriminated well with 3.4 proving to be the most well answered section and 3.1 proving to be the most challenging. Unfortunately, a number of students did not attempt an answer for 3.2 although of those who did approximately 20% scored the mark.

Question 4

Although still challenging, it was pleasing that this medium demand question was well answered with over 90% of students responding correctly to 4.1. The other sections of this question also had encouraging success rates ranging from 50% to over 70%.

Question 5

This question targeted all levels of demand for this tier and proved to differentiate well, as verbal answer questions tend to do. Although approximately half of the students gained one mark in 5.1, fewer than 30% were able to score the second mark because they omitted 'in later life'. 5.2 was reasonably well answered, although many opted for 'fizzy/energy drinks' rather than the correct 'sugary drinks'. 'Less advertising' proved challenging in 5.3 while 5.4 was the most successfully answered element.

Question 6

This question was extremely well answered, the most challenging item proving to be 6.1, but even then, almost 50% provided the correct response. Very pleasingly, the remaining 3 items elicited 83.74%, 81.75% and 81.45% correct answers respectively.

Question 7

This high demand verbal answer question was, in parts, very well answered. 7.1 elicited over 40% correct responses with 7.2 performing at a similar level. In the latter, many opted for 'Instagram followers' rather than the correct answer of 'his family'. 14.49% gained a mark for 7.3, with many opting for 'nervous' or 'confident' and failing to appreciate that Franz Blum was not afraid of criticism. Almost 50% answered correctly for 7.4 and an impressive 74.21% for 7.5.

Section B**Question 8**

This medium demand selection question proved to be a successful opening to Section B with over 75% of students gaining three or more marks for the question.

Question 9

Although this was a high demand question, with the exception of 9.1, it was extremely well answered with between 50% and 65% achieving the correct answers on each item. In 9.1 the success rate was lower at just over 20% but for a question designed to challenge the most able students this was still a pleasing success rate.

Question 10

This question was less demanding than the previous question and was generally well answered. Nearly 65% answered 10.1 correctly, with over 50% successfully identifying that the answer to 10.2 was NT (not in text). 10.3 was surprisingly less well done with just under 40% identifying that the statement was false, however an impressive 81.08% were successful on 10.4.

Question 11

This was an overlap question so was low demand for this tier. Although it was a verbal answer question the students responded well and just under 60% scored the marks for 11.1 and 11.3. 11.2 was even more successful with over 67% identifying and reproducing the correct section of the text.

Section C

It is pleasing to report on the performance of this translation item, where the mean mark was 4.54. This a noticeable and welcome increase from the 2019 mean mark of 3.24. The number of students gaining 8 and 9 marks was also impressive, with the cumulative percentage for these marks being almost 15%. It is especially pleasing to note that only 6 students failed to attempt any element of the translation, this was a definite improvement on previous years.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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