AQA

GCSE

GERMAN

8668/RF Paper 2 Reading Foundation Tier
Report on the Examination

8668/RF
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Version: 1.0

General Comments

Changes were made to the 2023 papers to reflect the removal of the regulatory requirement to test vocabulary outside of the published vocabulary list.

The aim of the examination team was, as always, to make this year's paper as accessible as possible to all students. There was, as is to be expected, a wide range of performance, with some excellent scripts at the top end of the range and few students who had been inappropriately entered. It was clear that most students, were well prepared. Teachers and students alike are to be congratulated on this fact. The mean mark for the paper was 32.34 out of the total of 60 marks for the paper.

Handwriting was occasionally but not frequently an issue for examiners. Unfortunately, as has been seen in previous examinations, a number of students wrote in the wrong language, usually in section B of the paper.

Section A

The first four items on the paper targeted non-verbal responses and were intended to provide reassurance to students before the more challenging questions were introduced.

Question 1

The first question provided a gentle start to the examination with 2 clues to the correct answer being provided in parts 1.1 and 1.2. 1.3 required slightly more thought but in all 3 sub-questions most students performed extremely well, with between 80% and 90% gaining a mark on each item.

Question 2

Students also performed reasonably well on this question, some parts of which were targeting a medium level of demand. This was very encouraging as the environment is often considered to be one of the more difficult topics with the vocabulary less well known than other in topics. Previously this question type has also been problematic for some students so it was pleasing to see a strong performance on some elements here. 59% gained the mark for 2.1 and 64% for 2.2. 2.3 enjoyed a 95% success rate. 2.4 proved the most challenging item (53% success rate) and 2.5 was answered correctly by 69% of students.

Question 3

This question was well answered by students with between 80% and 90% providing correct responses. The majority of the sub-questions were considered to be low demand and so the question as a whole performed as anticipated.

Question 4

This question was intended to be slightly more challenging with students having to understand all the statements in order to select the correct name to answer each question. Overall this was well answered by students with individual items enjoying success rates of 80% or higher.

Question 5

This was the first question on the paper requiring verbal responses. 5.1 was generally well answered with a 76% success rate. Some students mistook *keine* for 'lots of energy'. Again, 5.2 was well answered by most (77% success rate). The majority of students knew *Keller* and/or *Spielzimmer*, but some lacked the activity (verb) required. Many students were able to identify 'watch TV'; however, some answers were less specific with just 'watching films'. 5.3 proved more challenging with a 45% success rate. Clearly not everyone knew *gefallen* and typical incorrect responses included 'not entertaining' or 'not exciting'. 5.4 was well answered (71% correct answers) although the German spelling of *Afrika* occasionally caused an issue.

Question 6

It was pleasing to note that this more challenging non-verbal literary question was well answered, with 46% of students answering 6.1 correctly, 35% for 6.2 and a highly impressive 72% and 83% success rate for 6.3 and 6.4 respectively. Traditionally, questions on literary texts are often thought to be more difficult for students. This particular question was aimed at the strongest students at Foundation tier which makes the success rate particularly encouraging.

Question 7

This was the first of the overlap questions on the paper and, as intended, was demanding for Foundation tier students. 47% gained a mark for Q7.1, 33% for Q7.3 and 20% for Q7.4. Question 7.2 proved extremely challenging for students at this level and only a handful knew both *beliebt* and *erfolgreich* and so scored 2 marks. On 7.1, some students mistranslated *nervt mich* as 'nervous' or 'has a lot of nerve'. On 7.2, despite the challenge, some students were able to gain a mark for *beliebt* by rendering it as 'like/love him'. On 7.3, there was generally good recognition of *Klassenfahrten*, although some students missed the plural form. On 7.4, many students misunderstood the Paris connection and/or missed the time marker.

Question 8

Question 8 was also an overlap question and, therefore, among the most testing on the paper and both 8.1 and 8.2 proved challenging for students. 24% gained a mark for 8.1 and only 5% for 8.2. Few students recognised *Silvester* (8.1) and most did not recognise the idea of 'early hours' despite spotting *Morgenstunden* correctly.

Section B

Question 9

Question 9 was a non-verbal item and reasonably well answered: The two most challenging items were 9.1 and 9.5 which were aimed at a medium level of demand and achieved success rates of 40% and 43% respectively. The remaining three items were targeted at a lower level of demand and, not surprisingly, were better answered: success rates of 72%, 64% and 69% respectively.

Question 10

This question required non-verbal responses with students having to identify as correct either one or both of the given statements in each sub-question. 30% answered correctly for 10.1, 47% for 10.2, 55% for 10.3, 38% for 10.4 and 69% for 10.5 which were again encouraging results.

Question 11

This was a literary item with non-verbal communication responses required. The questions were amongst the most challenging on the paper with precise reading of the text required. Considering the targeted level of demand students performed well on the item overall with 86% answering 11.1 correctly, 37% - 11.2, 44% - 11.3 and 66% - 11.4.

Question 12

This was an overlap item (and so aimed at the most able candidates at this tier) and required verbal responses. 12.1 was, therefore, well answered with a success rate of 51% while 12.2 enjoyed a success rate of 32%. 12.3 proved challenging to most students with just 8% answering correctly. 12.4 had a 25% success rate. On 12.1, the main issues were over-lifting from the text or lifting the incorrect section. On 12.3, many students missed the *wo* element of the question and answered *Gärtnerin*. Only a handful of students understood *im Freien*. On 12.4, many students responded with *Firma* which was not precise enough for the mark. *Besitzen* proved challenging to many students.

Section C

Question 13

It was pleasing to note that at over 3.8, the mean mark for the translation this year was significantly higher than in previous sessions at around 4%. As might be expected, very few students (0.17%) scored full marks – 9/9 for this exercise. However, 58% of students gained 4 marks or more for the question rising to 74% scoring 3 marks of more. Many students rendered *Tischtennis* and *jeden Samstag* correctly, although some translated as 'tennis' and missed out *jeden*. Quite a high number of students missed out *gern* and many were unfamiliar with *Dorf*. *Dort* was missed by most students however the last three marking points were often rendered correctly.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the Results Statistics page of the AQA Website.