# GCSE

# **GERMAN**

8668/RH Paper 2 Reading Higher Tier
Report on the Examination

8668/RH
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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 a 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 36.22 out of a possible 60 marks, which is just over two marks higher than in 2022. It was pleasing to note that 30 students gained full marks on the paper (0.18% of students) and a further 91 students scored 59/60 (0.74% of students cumulatively).

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**

**Question 1**

This was an overlap question and so targeted the lowest levels of demand at this, the Higher tier. It was a verbal response question and was reasonably well answered by students with 68% scoring the mark for part 1.1. 16% were familiar with *beliebt* and *erfolgreich* and scored 2 marks on 1.2, with a further 25% gaining one mark here. On 1.3, there was a success rate of 80% and on 1.4, the success rate was 41%.

**Question 2**

This was also a verbal response item and another overlap question so again was amongst the least demanding questions on the paper . The question was reasonably well answered with 61% scoring the mark for 2.1, showing good recognition of *Silvester.* Students at this tier were more successful than those on Foundation tier - 41% gained the mark for 2.2, with a good number including the idea of *die frühen Morgenstunden.*

**Question 3**

This was a non-verbal response literary item, and it is pleasing to note how well the questions were answered. In previous series literary texts have proved tricky for students and the environment is a topic with some difficult vocabulary so success rates of  67% for 3.1, 40% for 3.2, 64% for 3.3 and 86% for 3.4 were most encouraging.

**Question 4**

This non-verbal communication item was one of the longer texts on the paper and was extremely well answered. Success at this type of question requires close reading and full understanding of the whole text so success rates of 71% on 4.1, 67% on 4.2, 77% on 4.3, 75% on 4.4 and 67% on 4.5 were very pleasing.

**Question 5**

This question required verbal responses. 72% answered correctly for 5.1 and 67% for 5.2. On 5.3, 15% gained two marks, 32% one mark and on 5.4, 14% gained two marks and 32% one mark. The success rate for 5.5 was 44%.
On 5.1, most students were familiar with *Schauspieler,* on 5.2, *Obdachlosen* was well known, although answers often lacked the detail of *zwei.* 5.3 proved challenging and few students knew (or worked out) *Außenseiter.* More students gained a mark for the second point, but not all were able to differentiate between 'alone' (nobody around) and being alone in the world. On 5.4, many students attempted to translate 'looked over his head' or 'beneath them'. Students fared better on the second marking point and *niemand* was fairly well known on 5.5, the negative *sollte man sich nicht schämen?* meant that many students believed they shouldn't be ashamed.

**Question 6**

This was a non-verbal communication task and was quite well answered considering it was one of the more challenging texts. 66% gained the mark for 6.1, 59% for 6.2, 67% for 6.3 and 45% for 6.4.

**Question 7**

In this question, gaining two marks proved a challenge for most on part 7.3, with only 5% achieving this. However, 68% were able to gain one mark. 87% gained the mark for 7.1 while 32% gained two marks. A further 45% gained one mark for 7.2. 7.4 recorded a 57% success rate. This whole question was aimed at the highest attaining students so the vocabulary and grammar was, inevitably, an issue for a number of students.

On 7.1 *Drogenberatungsstelle* was liberally interpreted for marking purposes, although some students did lose marks for renderings such as 'drug dealer's or 'were in rehab together'. On 7.2, the main issue was that some students were unclear of *gemietet* and also many offered 'houses' as an incorrect answer when *Wohnung* was in the text. Some students did not spot the future tense marker around 'getting married'. The first marking point on 7.3 proved more accessible to students than the second mark,with few students able to decipher that the couple had spent their first holiday together here.

**Section B**

**Question 8**

Question 8 was an overlap, non-verbal communication literary item, which pleasingly enjoyed a good success rate: 96% 8.1, 52% 8.2, 81% 8.3 and 82% 8.4 as would be expected from a question aimed at the lowest grades on this tier. It was successful in its intention of providing a comfortable start to the target language section for almost all students.

**Question 9**

This was an overlap item with verbal responses required. Unsurprisingly the question was well answered by students with a 90% success rate for 9.1 and a 72% success rate for 9.4. On 9.3, many students recognised *im Freien* and some were able to provide *draußen* as an answer. *Besitzen* was reasonably well known or at least recognised as being key to the answer needed.

**Question 10**

This was a non-verbal communication item. Since the introduction of this type of question (T,F,NT) students have become increasingly adept at identifying the correct answers and this question proved to be no exception. The question as a whole enjoyed a good success rate: 10.1 - 50%, 10.2 - 56%, 10.3 - 64%, 10.4 - 71% and 10.5 - 68%. This was particularly impressive as the text itself was quite challenging.

**Question 11**

This final question in the target language section was also a non-verbal communication item. Considered to be slightly less demanding than the previous question it nevertheless required a thorough understanding of the whole text in order for the marks to be achieved.  The question was generally well answered with a success rate of 55% for 11.1, 62% for 11.2, 65% for 11.3, 81% for 11.4 and 82% for 11.5.

**Section C**

**Question 12**

It is pleasing to note that at 5.44 out of a possible 9 marks, the mean mark for this item (the translation into English) was significantly higher than in all previous sessions of the specification. Indeed, 8.5% of students gained the full 9 marks and with 37% achieving 7 marks or more. Some students failed to translate *älterer* and *seit* caused problems for many. At times poor English expression eg 'we get on good'*,* meant that the message was not conveyed clearly or without some ambiguity. *Ziemlich* was not always included by students and *ein paar* and *zusammen* caused issues for some. Some students rendered *möchte* as 'want' but despite all of this, there is evidence of an encouraging improvement in students' translation skills.

**Mark Ranges and Award of Grades**

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