

GERMAN

Paper 3025/01

Translation and Composition

General comments

The very best candidates were able to communicate eloquently with a good range of idiom and structures. Candidates who use simple structures accurately and ensure that all of the communication prompts in the question are addressed can also gain high marks on this paper. There were some weaker candidates who found it difficult in some cases to put together even very simple sentences. All candidates followed the rubric and answered the correct number of questions though some candidates did write too much. Candidates who exceed the 150 word limit do not gain any communication marks for the part of their writing which exceeds 150 words and so penalise themselves. Candidates would be well advised to stay within the 150 word limit, to ensure that all the communication prompts are addressed and to concentrate on the quality rather than the quantity of what they produce.

Some candidates needed to consider more carefully their use of tenses as some responses moved between the present and past tenses in a confused way which did impair communication. Equally if a sentence begins with *als* some sort of past tense should follow. Mistakes such as these could be avoided by checking answers carefully.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

The majority of candidates understood the gist of this story and were able to relate it well. A few candidates misinterpreted some of the finer details of the story but this was not penalised. Many candidates wrote *er war langweilig* when they meant to say *er langweilte sich*. Some candidates invented alternative words for *Briefträger* when there was no need for this item of vocabulary at all.

Question 2

Option **(a)** was the most popular of the three choices available to candidates here. Some candidates used the word *Ausflug* when they should have written *Flugzeug* in describing how they had journeyed to Germany. The final communication prompt *nächste Woche* is a clear indication that the future tense is required but some candidates failed to pick up on this. When writing a letter candidates should try to be consistent about whether they are using the *du* or the *Sie* form of address.

Some candidates were able to tackle option **(b)** about an accident they had witnessed confidently and well though many candidates avoided this conversation question or if they did attempt it did so clumsily.

Many candidates did not gain full marks for communication for option **(c)**. Candidates must read the communication prompts carefully and ensure that they do write something relevant about each prompt.

Question 3

The prescriptive nature of translation is challenging for most candidates. Nevertheless there were a few outstanding attempts at this question. Candidates must stay faithful to the original text although the mark scheme does allow for a range of different translations as long as they are correct. To stretch more able candidates there were some testing areas of vocabulary and structures such as *neither .. nor* (*weder .. noch*), progress (*Fortschritt*) and writer (*Schriftstellerin/Autorin*), but to counterbalance this there were some simpler items of vocabulary which some candidates nevertheless did not know such as her kitchen (*ihre Küche*), I visited (*ich besuchte*) and when she was (*als sie ... war*).

GERMAN

Paper 3025/02

Reading Comprehension

General comments

Candidates performed well on **Section 1** and **Section 2** of this paper. However, many candidates this year had difficulty with **Section 3**, the cloze test. This is a task that candidates can find challenging and which differentiates between them.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Questions 1-5

Very many candidates scored 4 or 5 out of 5 marks here. There was no marked pattern of any wrong answer being particularly favoured by candidates.

Questions 6-10

Many candidates scored full or nearly full marks on this matching exercise. Again, there was no marked pattern of any wrong answer being particularly favoured by candidates.

Questions 11-16

Candidates scored well on this true/false exercise about an exchange visit with the school. Here too, there was no marked pattern of any wrong answer being particularly favoured by candidates.

Section 2

Questions 16-25

A few candidates missed the correct point in **Question 16** and chose instead to refer to the fact that *Ferien können schwierig sein*. Occasionally in **Question 18** Herr Braun was said to like spending whole days on the beach. In **Question 22** the whole family was sometimes sent to spend time at the *Jugendklub*. The other questions in this section were generally well answered.

Questions 26-36

Candidates' wrong answers were more widely spread over these questions but it was very pleasing to see so many still scoring 11, 12 and even 13 out of 13 here.

Section 3

As is usual in this examination it was the cloze test which acted as the main discriminator. In Section 2 some tolerance is exercised and minor errors which neither impede nor invalidate answers are ignored. In the cloze test, however, answers need to match the rubric (*nur ein Wort*), and to be words which will not cease to be separable in the given sentence and which are given their correct spelling and endings. In many instances the context given by the text before or after a missing word will limit the range of acceptable answers and candidates are reminded to take this into account when choosing their response.