

FIRST LANGUAGE GERMAN

8168
Paper 1

GENERAL COMMENTS

It was the first year this paper was written for the new syllabus. There were only two candidates entered for First Language German AS in 2021. Cambridge conducted a very thorough standardisation marking session, stretching over two days. As there were only two candidates that wrote this specific paper, the teachers marking German First Language AS participated in the English First Language AS standardisation marking session as well. This was to some extent helpful as the German teachers did not have a lot of scripts as compared to many English scripts to look into. It was however very useful with regard to the use of the new marking schemes. Both candidates have fairly done well in this paper. They wrote insightful and complete responses for both sections. The two candidates did not struggle with the general time limits of the paper. This was really encouraging as many learners lost marks for incomplete or too short responses.

Both candidates were competent with their SPAG (spelling and grammar). SPAG is an important aspect of AS level as this shows basic competencies of the candidates. This definitely needs more attention in the AS level class.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Section A

In this paper **Aufgabe 1** is compulsory. This question consists of **two parts**, (a) and (b). The podcast that was required to be written, was done very well by one candidate, but that specific candidate then was not as successful in the (b) part of the question, which requires a reflective commentary with regard to the candidates own answer in (a). The second candidate managed a better (b) answer. This trend has also been observed in English First Language. Candidates are not equally successful in (a) and (b), but can deliver answers which differ in quality for Aufgabe 1.

Question 1 (a)

- Question analysis need to be emphasized for 1(a). It is advisable to spend some more time on the analysis of questions and the style requested by the format as well as the targeted audience.

Question 1 (b)

- Candidates should analyze the techniques which were supposed to be focusing on why and how the techniques were used. Technical language should also be used with care (often not accurately identified and analyzed) in this question.

Section B – Question 2, 3 and 4

Teil B offers the candidates three options. One topic has to be answered. Both candidates chose Frage 4, where a letter to the press had to be written about a healthy lifestyle. The form proved no difficulty to the two candidates, as well as the time frame of two hours, for twice 600 to 900 words altogether for Aufgabe 1 and then one Frage of Teil B. Candidates seemed to be well prepared for this time frame as well as writing the correct length of texts. Paragraphs were observed. The use of vocabulary, more complex sentences and the structuring of the arguments was achieved better by the one candidate than the other. Learners have to be encouraged to “stick to the topic”, although the new syllabus allows for a wide range of arguments. It was pleasing to see that both candidates did their planning.

POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS

- Assist the candidates to find the focus of their pieces by doing question analyses.
- Candidate should adhere to the word count of the requested pieces. A margin of 10% either way is allowed in the first section and in the second section, the response has to remain within the margins set by the questions.
- Candidate need to distinguish between an expository and a narrative essay.
- It might be a good idea to have the learners practice more to establish their speed of analyzing and responding to this paper.
- Practice with learners to use sophisticated expressions to be able to write aesthetically appealing essays.
- Grammar deserves attention in AS – more focus required on malapropisms, punctuation errors, sentence constructions, commonly confused words

We congratulate the two AS level teachers of the two candidates on a job well done!