

# GERMAN

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<p><b>Paper 8683/32</b> <b>Essay</b></p>
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## Key messages

Candidates should

- select a title that they feel most confident about answering
- write a response that is clearly relevant, well informed, supported with examples and coherently structured
- use accurate German at an advanced level, demonstrating a good use of idiom and appropriate topic-specific vocabulary
- use sentence structures that evidence complexity but that are still easy to follow.

## General comments

Most essays were coherently argued. They were well structured with a suitable introduction and conclusion and had the appropriate length. The strongest essays showed maturity and insight, and opinions were supported with well-chosen evidence.

Many candidates had an excellent command of German, and achieved language marks in the Very Good category. Most showed an impressive range of vocabulary, both general and topic specific. Their language was almost always fluent, idiomatic and read well. Occasionally, it lacked precision, however.

Common errors included:

- lack of punctuation
- lack of capitalisation of nouns
- incorrect, phonetic spelling.

## Comments on specific questions

### Question 1

*‘Um in meinem Freundeskreis gut integriert zu sein, muss ich immer den neusten Trends folgen.’ Johanna, 15 Jahre alt. Was halten Sie von Johannas Standpunkt?*

Some candidates answering this question agreed and pointed out that young people in particular were under pressure to follow trends in order to be accepted within their peer groups. Others argued, very convincingly, that trends were ephemeral, and that true friendship should not depend on the clothes, possessions or behaviours of an individual.

### Question 2

*Wenn die Weltbevölkerung weiter wächst, wird es in der Zukunft unmöglich sein, alle Menschen ausreichend zu ernähren. Stimmen Sie dieser Aussage zu?*

Many of those who chose this question were of the opinion that scientific progress, such as growing meat in a laboratory or making farming methods more efficient, would help to feed an ever-growing world population.

### Question 3

*Wer sollte Ihrer Meinung nach heutzutage das meiste Geld verdienen? Begründen Sie Ihre Antwort.*

Candidates who selected the topic usually argued that jobs that contributed to and helped society, for example doctors or teachers, should be the best paid.

### Question 4

*„Ich brauche nicht mehr aus dem Haus zu gehen: Ich kann von zu Hause aus arbeiten, einkaufen und mich unterhalten.“ David, 28 Jahre alt. Ist dies Ihrer Meinung nach eine positive Entwicklung?*

Candidates were usually very well informed about the technology that made this development possible but also pointed out the disadvantages of this kind of thinking and the accompanying lifestyle, such as increasing social isolation and mental health issues. Candidates also referred to their own experiences during the Covid pandemic.

### Question 5

*Die ältere Generation hat unseren Planeten kaputt gemacht. Die Jugend muss ihn retten. Stimmen Sie dieser Aussage zu?*

Candidates who chose this question fell into two categories. The first group generally agreed with the statement pointing out where the older generation had gone wrong, and then setting out what the young generation could do to save the planet. The second group did not agree and decided that it would be best if young and old worked together in order to turn around the current situation.