



Pearson
Edexcel

Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In German (9GN0) Paper 01

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications are awarded by Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at www.edexcel.com or www.btec.co.uk. Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at www.edexcel.com/contactus.

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: www.pearson.com/uk

Summer 2024

Publications Code 9GN0_01_2406_ER

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd 2024

Pearson Education Limited. Registered company number 872828
with its registered office at 80 Strand, London, WC2R 0RL, United Kingdom

Introduction

This unit is designed to assess candidates' reading and listening comprehension and translation skills, using a variety of authentic resources. Candidates are required to understand and convey their understanding accurately and have further opportunity to demonstrate their ability to translate accurately from German into English.

The content for the unit is drawn from four themes: *Gesellschaftliche Entwicklung in Deutschland*, *Politische und künstliche Kultur im deutschen Sprachraum*, *Immigration und die deutsche multikulturelle Gesellschaft* and *Die Wiedervereinigung Deutschlands*. Please refer to the specification for further information.

All questions on this paper are marked according to a points-based mark scheme, which is updated at the standardisation meeting to take account of the full range of candidate responses. Certain marking principles are applied by examiners, which teachers need to take into account when preparing candidates for this examination. The most important of these is **the order of elements rule**.

Examiners assess responses in the order of elements given by the candidate and consider no more elements than the number of marks available. Thus, in a 2-mark question, only the first two elements can be credited. However, repeating or paraphrasing the question or a preamble to an acceptable response do not count as elements in the response.

Section A assesses candidates' listening skills. Candidates listen to four extracts which last around 6 – 7 minutes and are recorded onto CD (or are available for Centre download as an mp3 file). Tasks involve a multiple-choice test, answering questions in the target language on a variety of extracts of varied length, and summarising in German the main points of a passage. The total mark for this section is 30.

Section B is also out of 30 marks and assesses candidates' reading skills. There are five authentic texts in German, with various degrees of difficulty. One of them is a literary text. Task types include multiple-choice task, choosing four correct statements out of nine and answering questions in the target language.

Section C is out of 20 marks and comprises a translation from German into English.

The overall time allocation for this paper is 2 hours. Candidates are recommended to start with the listening material and to complete this within 50 minutes. 50 minutes is recommended for Section B and 20 minutes for Section C, although candidates are free to vary this, if they wish. However, it is important to leave sufficient time for the translation because this is worth 25% of the whole paper.

Overall, there were some outstanding performances by candidates, who demonstrated a wide knowledge of vocabulary and an ability to answer questions

manipulating language accurately at this level. Many candidates coped well with this paper, in particular in Section A Listening.

Question 2

Q02 carries five marks and requires candidates to produce written responses in German to questions set in German.

'Lifting' is allowed, although this can lead to transcription errors. However, candidates need to remember that any such 'lifts' must be targeted – indiscriminate transcription of what they have heard is not a guarantee of a mark.

Quality of language is not assessed, and full sentences are not required, but candidates must communicate their answers unequivocally and should be aware that full and detailed information is needed. Some allowances are made with regards to spelling: however, if a mis-spelt word becomes ambiguous or an English spelling is used, a mark is withheld.

The transcript was about a volunteer helping refugees arriving at Berlin main station.

Overall, the task was accessible to most candidates and a wide spread of marks was achieved. Some candidates coped well with a large number achieving 4 or 5 marks. However, some marks were lost when specific information from the text was missing, and answers were too general.

Q02(a) This question wanted candidates to express that the different coloured vest help with communication and although many candidates understood the idea of the vests representing the language spoken, not all were able to communicate this in a way which answered the question.

Q02(b) Candidates could obtain 2 marks and most gained at least 1 mark. Most candidates expressed that Janosch helped them to find food and hygiene products. Many were also able to express that he leads them to the ticket counter but the spelling of Schalter as shelter led to 0 marks at times.

Q02(c) Most candidates gained one mark here and were able to state that there was housing available from the refugee crisis in 2016.

Q02(d) This question was also answered well by most candidates but some omitted 'in neuen Krisen' and did not score.

Question 3

Q03 required candidates to respond in German to questions set in German and carried 9 marks. The recording featured an interview about the situation and future of the German car industry. This task discriminated well and a wide spread of scores was achieved.

Q03(a) This was generally well answered, and most candidates stated two of the three possible contributions to answer from like good salary and working conditions as well as providing many jobs.

Q03(b) This section required candidates to state that the car industry has been protected by the government and many candidates successfully expressed this idea.

Q03(c) Candidates had to state that companies would struggle to compete globally otherwise and many candidates were able to score this mark. However, the spelling of *konkurrieren* proved difficult to some candidates and some misunderstood *konkurrieren* as meaning conquer and therefore when using their own words moved away from the meaning of the statement and did not score.

Q03(d) In this question, candidates were required to express the idea that building electric cars needs less workers (Elektroautos kosten Arbeitsplätze) but many candidates struggle to score this mark and simply stated that the expansion of infrastructure is slow.

Q03(e) This was a two-mark question and many candidates scored one mark stating "Sie fokussieren sich auf Software". In order to score the second mark, it needed to be made clear what the car manufacturers do better and many did not manipulate the information in the text to answer the question.

Q03(f) Again candidates were able to score two marks and this was generally well answered. The spelling of 'Werkstatt' proved difficult but as long as the spelling was unambiguous the mark was awarded. Some candidates lost out on a mark by simply stating 'Autoproduktion' without referring to 'teil'.

Question 4 (a)

Q04(a) This question required candidates to respond in German to questions set in German and carried 6 marks. The recording featured a report about the success of wind energy plants in Germany and in Q04(b) the advantages and disadvantages of focusing on this renewable energy in the future was discussed. Candidates demonstrated that they were familiar with this topic and the tasks were approached well.

Q04(a)(i) Most candidates performed well and expressed the idea of replacing coal powered energy successfully, although a number simply answered '*zusätzlichen Strom liefern*' and did not score.

Q04(a)(ii) Most student expressed the idea that protests hinder the building process effectively and scored this mark

Q04(a)(iii) Two marks could be gained by explaining that the building company had approached the community before the building started and the opportunity of financial gain for the community. Some candidates lost out on marks by not expressing the idea of time ('vorher') correctly or by omitting 'finanziell' and thus not specifying the gain the community made.

Q04(a)(iv) This question required the candidate to respond that the turbines were quieter, and the noise level were reduced. Not all candidates were able to express this successfully. A few candidates just restated that they are less 'störend' without specifying in which way and the spelling of "Geräuschreduktion" proved challenging to some candidates although a lenient approach was taken. Some students used paraphrases such as '*nicht so laut*' or '*ruhiger*' etc. and were awarded the mark.

Q04(a)(v) This question discriminated well, with many candidates transcribing what they had heard so *mit an Bord* was rendered to *mit Anbaut* and therefore did not convey the message. Some candidates used the idea of replacing old wind farms with new ones and did not score.

Question 4(b)

This question required candidates to summarise three main points from the dialogue, making sure to address all of the bullet points.

Candidates who tried to transcribe the whole dialogue were penalising themselves because only the first point made for each bullet point would be credited using the order of elements rule. This is applied discretely. Candidates should ensure to pinpoint the bullet points.

This year, many candidates approached this task successfully and performed well across both tasks, although some lost marks by not relating their answer clearly to the bullet point and using subject pronouns without specifying the subject.

Q04(b)(i)

Most candidates performed well and received 2 marks on average, summarising the first two points succinctly.

Many were able to express that the wind energy cannot produce enough electricity, but some candidates lost out on the mark by not making a specific reference to 'Windkraft' as the bullet point was *Stromproduktion*.

For bullet point two, most candidates could express that he was against this building projects or that they were often rejected. Stating that these building projects are harmful to nature was also an acceptable answer.

For bullet point three however, many candidates lost out on a mark as they related their answer to tourism in general, but the bullet point referred to tourists. The idea that tourist would stay away needed to be specifically expressed and only a few candidates scored this mark. It highlights the importance on reading the bullet points carefully.

Q04(b)(ii)

This part differentiated well, and some marks were not scored as vital details were omitted.

The first bullet point was generally summarised well, and most candidates expressed that the expansion of wind energy was too slow clearly.

For the second bullet point a comparison was required to score the mark. As the bullet point stated 'Lärm', it was essential to mention wind energy and car traffic in the comparison. Unfortunately, some answers lacked these details.

The third point was the least successful, with many answers not mentioning that the profit made from wind energy can be used to improve the infrastructure.

Most candidates realised that they needed to be succinct in their answers because a summary requires this, but candidates need to ensure that their answers link to the bullet point sufficiently. On a positive, this year not many candidates wrote very long answers and were more to the point, and many candidates pinpointed their bullet points clearly.

Question 6

Q06 required candidates to select four statements in German, from a list of nine.

If candidates crossed more than four statements one mark was withheld for each cross in excess of four. Thus, six crosses, including four correct ones, gained a total mark of two.

This text was a blog about the traditional St. Martin's celebration in November across Germany. This task proved accessible to all candidates this year. Many candidates were able to cross at least three correct sentences and some candidates received full marks.

Question 7

Q07 required candidates to respond in German to questions set in German and carried 6marks.

Quality of language was not being assessed here, therefore under the terms of the mark scheme misspellings and grammatical errors were tolerated as long as the answer was comprehensible and unambiguous. Full sentences were not required but sufficient detail must be included in the response to answer the question completely.

As in all previous series', targeted 'lifts' were accepted when possible. Targeted 'lifts' meant that candidates did not have to answer using their own language and may rely on the language in the text when this was appropriate. Candidates should also pay attention to the need for the lifted material to answer the question as set. They should be aware that it may not be possible to lift answers from the text for all questions and language manipulation is required..

However, candidates should avoid lifting whole sections out of the German text in the hope that the answer might somehow be found in the 4 or 5 lines copied. This, of course, no longer constituted a targeted lift and no marks could be gained in this instance.

Text 7 talked about the children's new programme LOGO and its popularity and many candidates were able to access this text and questions successfully.

Q07(a) This was a two-mark question and many candidates gained both marks by stating that normal news programs have complex themes and that children cannot distance themselves from what they see.

Q07(b) This question proved accessible to many candidates and many successfully expressed that parents reacted positively to such a program. However, a few candidates copied incorrect sections from the text e.g. *die Eltern waren zur Freude* and a mark was withheld.

Q07(c) Again this question was generally well answered, and most candidates expressed the idea that these themes are close to the target audience successfully.

Q07(d) This question proved accessible to many candidates and they predominately stated that they created an Instagram account for the program and a few candidates mentioned online articles to comment on, which also was an acceptable answer.

Q07(e) Although a majority of candidates gained this mark expressing that it might not be reasonable to inform children about every topic, some candidates expressed the wrong idea and answered that some people thought it was sensible to inform children about everything, thus did not score. A number of candidates misunderstood 'sinnvoll' as being a negative adjective and could not give a clear answer.

Question 8

Text 8 was about women in the job market in the GDR and their rights in society. Candidates seem to be well prepared for the topic and were able to score generally well. A widespread of scores was achieved overall.

Q08(a) The majority of candidates were able to express that women could particularly combine well their job and homelife and gained this mark. A few candidates omitted *Familie und Beruf* and simply wrote *vereinbaren* which did not score.

Q08(b) Most candidates achieved a mark as they answered that women could get a job without the consent of the husband, but a number of candidates focused on the idea of equal rights generally and did lose a mark.

Q08(c) Two marks could be gained for stating the measures that married woman with two children could get a housework day and were paid in case of their children's illness. Some candidates did not provide sufficient details on the *Hausarbeitstag* and a few candidates got confused with answers b) and c) and scored no marks.

Q08(d) A high level of success was achieved here and almost all candidates expressed successfully that women worked for economic reasons to help with the shortage of workers at that time.

Q08(e) Many candidates were able to express that almost every women in cities had childcare available. Only a few candidates answered too general '*vom Staat organisierte Betreuung der Kinder*' rather than specific to the situation in cities and lost out on a mark.

Q08(f) Candidates could obtain 2 marks and most gained these by successfully explaining that women usually worked in the service sector that was lower paid and

not a single woman made it in the *Politbüro*. Some candidates expressed successfully that women were exhausted due to the 'Doppelbelastung' of work and household, which was also an acceptable answer.

Question 9

Text 9 features the literature text, this year taken from *Keine besonderen Vorkommnisse? Zeitzeugen berichten über den Mauerfall* and carried a total of 8 marks. Although some candidates found the text more difficult, there were also many examples of good responses. Some candidates achieved high marks and the task produced a wide spread of marks overall.

This type of text will feature again in future years and therefore merits careful attention. Candidates are encouraged to read a variety of authentic text types to prepare successfully for the reading section.

Q09(a) This question was generally well answered with most candidates choosing the idea that there was no indication of what was about to happen. Some stated the meeting was normal.

Q09(b) Two marks could be gained in the next question and most candidates quoting telephoning and going to the crossing points which scored these. Some candidates focusing on feelings or stating that he thought something extraordinary must have happened and also scored the marks.

Q09(c) This question proved more taxing for a number of candidates who simply lifted from the text that it was a similar picture to Bornholmer without explaining what was happening and no mark was awarded.

Q09(d) This question was very accessible, and most candidates managed to express that the GDR was planning better access across the borders.

Q09(e) A good number of candidates managed to express the idea of planning ahead for visitors who like to stay in the West. Some candidates lost out on this mark as they did not mention that the visitors like to stay in the west and several candidates just answered that he spoke to the mayor without any further details which did not score a mark.

Q09(f) This question discriminated well. While some candidates gave very clear answers and gained both marks, some answers were unclear. Many candidates gained at least one point for saying the GDR police officer recognised the police

chief even though he was not in uniform but fewer clearly expressed that the two policemen from East and West were working together and marks were lost. Some candidates simply lifted information about the historical background from the text like *Die Berliner Polizei war seit 1948 gespalten. Es gab seit dem Mauerbau keinerlei Kontakt.* which did not answer the question.

Question 10

The translation forms an important part of the whole paper, being worth 20 marks out of a total of 80.

It is therefore crucial that candidates allow themselves sufficient time to complete the task properly. A minimum of 20 minutes is recommended.

The passage is sub-divided into 20 sections, each worth one mark. In order to gain the mark candidates must translate the main nouns, verbs and adjectives correctly, although minor omissions are tolerated if they do not affect the essential meaning of the section.

Translation is considered to be successful if an English speaker would understand the translation without having understood the text in the original language. Misspelling is tolerated as long as it does not lead to ambiguity.

This question produced the full range of marks. A minority appeared to have difficulty with the text as a whole but still accessing easy elements in it. Most candidates were able to translate many parts of the text and rendered it into acceptable English.

There were also some excellent renderings, with very good English. It was often the case that it was clear that the candidate had understood the German but had not been able to express it properly in English. This was either because they adhered too closely to the German or alternatively paraphrased instead of translating. There is a fine line between adapting the original to make it sound more English and completely rewriting the origin.

Sentence 1 (marks 1-2) The first sentence was divided into two elements and with many candidates translating both correctly. *Richtung* however caused problems at times and some candidates lost out on a mark here when rendering it to direction.

Sentence 2 (marks 3-5) The second sentence consisted of three parts with many candidates scoring the first element (3) although a few had some difficulty expressing *egal ob* in English and unfortunately some candidates did not include the word German in front of 'punk', which was an easy mark lost. 4 and 5 proved tricky for

some candidates, especially *Modebranche* and *auf ihrer Art und Weise* was often translated wrongly and no mark was scored

Sentence 3 (marks 6-7)

The third sentence compromised two marks and discriminated well. Many candidates understood *Botschaft* to mean 'message' in this context although some candidates translated it as 'embassy' which did not really communicate here. Some candidate struggled with element 7 and only a few candidates successfully translated this part.

Sentence 4 (marks 8-11)

The fourth sentence was divided into 4 parts. The translation of *bis heute* posed a challenge for some candidates and the word *leidenschaftlich* was unknown to a few candidates, but many translated this part well. The second part was in general translated successfully and many candidates expressed that they imitate their idol correctly. For mark 10, many candidates did struggle to translate this correctly omitting one or the other of *weiterhin* or *zweifellos*. Most candidates managed to express the meaning of 11 in an acceptable manner.

Sentence 5 (12-13)

This sentence only compromised two elements (marks 12 and 13) and also discriminated well. Some candidates struggled to render this part in good English, even if they obviously understood the German. A surprising number omitted to translate *jedoch* in element 12 which forfeited the mark. In 13, the translation of *eindeutig* and *erkennen* prevented the candidates to gain the mark

Sentence 6 (14-15)

The sixth sentence was also divided into two elements and many candidates did score element 14 with only a few missing out on the mark due to translating *Anbieter* as 'offerers'. In element 15, many candidates lost out on a mark as they struggled to render 'Jahrzehnte' into correct English using the singular or 'the last 10 years'.

Sentence 7 (16-20)

The seventh and final sentence comprised five elements and most candidate successfully translated this sentence. The first element (16) was accessible to all candidates and also most candidates scored the mark for 17, only a few struggling to translate *modisch* and thus losing out on a mark.

The third element (18) in this last sentence was also generally well translated and the majority of the candidates scored this mark as well as the mark for 19 although a few candidates omitted 'often'. Only a few candidates did not successfully translate the

last element by not translating *Stil* correctly. The last sentence certainly helped candidates to score.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance in this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Candidates should check how many marks are available for each question and ensure they give the corresponding number of details.
- Candidates should read all questions carefully, paying particular attention to question words and key words in order to ensure comprehension.
- When lifting material from the texts, candidates should be aware of the need to manipulate language in order to answer the specific question asked. Lifting large sections of the text should be avoided.
- Candidates should be aware that Q04b is a summary exercise and that it is therefore unnecessary to transcribe the whole dialogue. Bullet points should be pinpointed clearly, and there must be a clear link between the bullet point and the summary stating the subject (avoid e.g. it).
- Candidates must ensure that their translation reads naturally in English. It is often not possible to translate word-for-word from the original German text.
- Candidates should ensure that they have translated every word and have picked the precise meaning of the word. Giving two options for translating a word should be avoided.
- Candidates should ensure that their handwriting is legible.