

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2011 Assessment Report

German Level 3

- 90564 Listen to and understand complex spoken German in less familiar contexts**
- 90567 Read and understand written German, containing complex language, in less familiar contexts**
- 90568 Write text in German, using complex language, on a less familiar topic**

COMMENTARY

Although the questions were more open ended than in past years, candidates coped extremely well across the three skills when answering the questions and working through their writing task.

The cohort seemed to include a higher proportion of native speakers than usual, which led to very good grades across the board, as native speakers and high-achieving second-language learners achieved well in all three standards. Some candidates, predominantly native speakers, chose to answer questions in German, but many did not achieve good results because their responses did not address the requirements of the questions and were shallow and lacking in detail.

STANDARD REPORTS

90564 Listen to and understand complex spoken German in less familiar contexts

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- showed a general understanding of the texts
- answered the questions as asked – that is they didn't just write what they heard
- attempted to answer most questions.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- did not answer entire questions or left gaps
- showed little or no understanding of what they had heard
- made up answers with the fragments they heard.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- answered all questions fully
- showed a sound and accurate understanding of the texts
- gave some details in most questions.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- gave very detailed answers based on what they heard
- showed very accurate thinking and understanding of most or all of what they heard
- took notes in the Listening Notes boxes in English or German.

90567 Read and understand written German, containing complex language, in less familiar contexts

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- answered all questions
- extracted some of the most clear and obvious points and guessed and/or made up other information
- translated large chunks of the text, sometimes even in the opinion questions
- paraphrased what was in the text and simply stated their own interests
- translated the correct part of the text to generate an answer, but often retained the original German word order.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- did not attempt some of the questions, especially those towards the end of the paper
- provided very brief responses with very little detail
- gave incorrect or confused information
- responded to the opinion questions by writing about their likes and dislikes rather than relating this to the texts.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- answered questions well but missed the high level detail
- wrote coherent and comprehensible responses.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- compared texts well
- wrote opinions that related them to the text
- wrote with confidence and flair
- wrote in excellent German where they chose to answer in German.

90568 Write text in German, using complex language, on a less familiar topic

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- wrote intelligible texts on the topic
- used at least some language (vocabulary and structures) at level 8 of the curriculum

- adapted memorised text to the topic
- made planning notes in English.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- did not write on the topic, or wrote memorised texts that were not on the topic
- included few, if any, level 8 vocabulary or structures
- attempted level 6 and 7 structures, often unsuccessfully
- wrote texts that were incomprehensible
- showed little, if any, evidence of planning or checking their texts.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- wrote texts on the topic that showed some development
- used a range of level 8 structures and vocabulary (often formulaic expressions)
- showed evidence of planning, often in German
- made some errors, but the texts were comprehensible and usually flowed well.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- developed their ideas into text that flowed naturally and was readily comprehensible
- covered most aspects of the topic, often with considerable flair
- used a variety of level 8 structures and vocabulary (and a clear mastery of level 7 language)
- showed significant planning, usually in German.

OTHER COMMENTS

Candidates chose a good range of topics for the writing standard, because they were relevant and candidates had the language to write about them.