

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2012 Assessment Report

German Level 2

91123 Demonstrate understanding of a variety of spoken German texts on familiar matters

91126 Demonstrate understanding of a variety of written and/or visual German text(s) on familiar matters

COMMENTARY

2012 was the first examination of the new external standards, and the first year in which candidates could choose to answer in English, German, and/or Te Reo Maori. Candidates who chose to answer in German had to reword the text in some way in order to demonstrate “understanding” as straight transcription does not constitute evidence of understanding. For all candidates, regardless of the language of response, direct translation of texts/pieces of text does not demonstrate ‘clear’ (Merit) or ‘thorough’ (Excellence) understanding; the standard requires candidates at those levels to ‘select relevant’ information and ‘communicate it unambiguously’. Some translated the text or pieces of it verbatim in the listening notes box, and then wrote their personalised response in the space provided; for many who chose to do this it was a successful strategy.

Candidates who achieved at the highest level were able to expand on information, ideas and opinions from the texts with supporting detail, and showed understanding of the implied meanings or conclusions, where relevant, within the text.

It was evident that some candidates proofread responses, and corrected, clarified, added to and (in some cases) rewrote them so that they addressed all the requirements of the question with relevant detail, and communicated this clearly and unambiguously.

STANDARD REPORTS

91123 Demonstrate understanding of a variety of spoken German texts on familiar matters

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- showed general understanding of the gist of the passage
- showed recognition of a significant number of individual lexical items
- could successfully identify key phrases
- made some successful attempts at combining information from several parts of the passage
- supported their answers with some valid information, but may have included a lot of material that was of no relevance and did not contribute to clarity
- had fairly good mastery of the Level 1 Appendix and a basic but sufficient mastery of the Level 2 Appendix.

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:

- showed limited or no understanding of the gist of the passage
- showed recognition only of a limited number of individual lexical items usually at lower curriculum levels
- made false assumptions about meaning based on English
- had insufficient mastery of both the Level 1 and Level 2 Appendices

- in Question One they focused on the story line of the book rather than the topic of the advertisement.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- showed clarity of understanding of the message of the passage, that is they went beyond the literal wording of the texts
- were able to draw conclusions or grasp the bigger picture of the passage
- showed they had grasped the author's intent
- showed some ability to draw inferences from the passage and make connections
- provided a good quantity of relevant detail
- occasionally contradicted themselves or provided excessive / unhelpful / contradictory information
- wrote clear, well organised responses that communicated unambiguously
- had mastery of the Level 2 Appendix.

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:

- consistently went beyond the surface meaning of the passage to draw inferences
- were able to place the information in the text in a wider context
- showed an understanding of the overall message as well as of a high level of detail
- clearly understood the author's intent
- were able to draw conclusions or grasp the big picture of the passage
- were able to draw and support conclusions with valid information/implications drawn from the texts
- wrote responses that expanded validly on information and ideas in the texts, and did not contain irrelevant material.

OTHER COMMENTS

The most successful candidates utilised the listening notes boxes extensively, often with headings linked to the questions, relevant notes underneath the headings, and partly or fully drafted responses, which they presumably transferred to the space provided on completion of the playing of the CD.

Question One:

To demonstrate understanding, the item advertised had to be correctly identified. The first advertisement was straightforward, and most candidates identified the URL correctly. The third advertisement also generated good responses containing a range of relevant detail, although surprisingly few managed to identify the special food character of the family restaurant.

The second advertisement was more of a challenge; successful candidates focused correctly on where the plot came from i.e. what the advertisement was about, and were not distracted by the story line of the book. They were also able to use their knowledge of the Level 1 Appendix for cues such as *Seiten*, *Lese-*, *Urlaub*, *spannend*.

Question Two:

The higher achieving candidates not only provided detailed answers, but also made connections between positive and negative influences.

Question Three:

The key phrase for comprehension of the song was '*ich liebe dich*'. Merit and Excellence candidates went beyond the actual wording of the texts and comprehended the essence of the total message.

Question Four:

The key phrase for comprehension of the rap, '*auf Wiedersehen*' was correctly identified by most candidates. Some wrote answers that negated proof of 'general comprehension' e.g. 'he is upset and hurt by her but she still calls him all the time'; such candidates could be awarded no higher than Merit.

91126 Demonstrate understanding of a variety of written and/or visual German text(s) on familiar matters

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- showed general understanding of the gist of the passage,
- showed recognition of a significant number of individual lexical items, often in isolation
- made some successful attempts at combining information from several parts of the passage
- relied on replicating all information (at times as a literal translation of the passage) without selecting relevant material
- showed evidence of having read the questions carefully, and answered in their own wording what was asked
- had fairly good mastery of the Level 1 Appendix and a just sufficient mastery of the Level 2 Appendix.

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:

- showed limited or no understanding of the gist of the passage
- showed recognition only of a limited number of individual lexical items, often pre-Level 2
- made false assumptions about meaning based on English
- made guesses as to meaning based on their background knowledge of the topic, but without reference to the passage
- wrote responses that were diffuse or unfocused, and had no connection to the original text
- had limited knowledge of the Level 1 Appendix and poor mastery of the Level 2 Appendix.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- showed clarity of understanding of the message of the passage
- were able to draw conclusions or grasp the big picture of the passage
- showed they had grasped the author's intent
- correctly identified and conveyed the meaning of the German, and supported that with relevant detail
- showed some ability to draw inferences from the passage
- were able to reword answers clearly to demonstrate that they had fully processed the meaning of the passage
- had good mastery of the both the Level 1 and Level 2 Appendices.

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:

- consistently went beyond the surface meaning of the passage to draw inferences
- were able to place the information in the passage in a wider context
- showed an grasp of the overall message as well as of a high level of detail
- used language precisely to demonstrate meaning
- wrote answers that were fluent, accurate and unambiguous
- clearly understood the author's intent and were able to or grasp the big picture of the passage
- drew sensible conclusions, validly supported with explicit or implicit information from the text
- had excellent mastery of the both the Level 1 and Level 2 Appendices.

OTHER COMMENTS

Successful candidates identified the meaning of the German and conveyed it accurately with relevant detail. The highest-achieving candidates were able to answer fluently and accurately, and make the required inferences thus demonstrating 'clear/thorough understanding'.

Achievement level responses were often diffuse and lacking focus e.g. in Question Four where the task was to deduce from the text **why** the world is watching the happenings in Germany, such candidates used the information about the new law from the text directly/verbatim as the reason for the worldwide interest without making connection to the innovations in the village of Feldheim.

Question Five was different in style from the other four. The more able candidates wrote an ending that was consistent with and true to the original text, and hence showed clear/thorough understanding of the text. Those who provided a complete ending that was unified and showed that the storyline had been understood were awarded Achievement; those who treated the question as an opportunity for creative writing, perhaps involving space travel and out-of-body experiences, but omitted any connection to the original text, failed to demonstrate understanding of that text, and did not achieve.