

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2012 Assessment Report

German Level 3

- 905640 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

This was the final year for examinations to assess these achievement standards.

The candidates showed a good range of responses and many were able to give the relevant information for the questions asked. It is important that candidates read the questions carefully so they can select the appropriate information from the texts that addresses the requirements of the questions, as opposed to translating entire passages. Overall the results portrayed a very able cohort of high-level language learners.

STANDARD REPORTS

905640 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:

- answered parts of the question with detail missing or incorrect (e.g. percentage numbers)
- showed understanding of the main concepts
- sometimes included extra detail not required by the question
- demonstrated a sound knowledge of Level 3 vocabulary.

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 use the listening notes boxes
- did not answer the questions, and instead translated irrelevant parts of the text
- seemed to guess answers
- lacked sufficient knowledge of the recommended vocabulary e.g. Firma was frequently interpreted as “Films”; percentage numbers were inaccurately recorded or omitted altogether; Zivildienst was interpreted as “civil service”.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- gave relevant information required by the questions, including details such as percentages
- demonstrated a sound knowledge of the recommended vocabulary for Level 3, which enabled them to focus on the relevant information heard and record it accurately and succinctly
- included only relevant or correct details in their answers
- used the listening notes boxes.

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:

- used the listening boxes and planned their answers
- wrote comprehensive but concise answers
- demonstrated understanding of the main concepts and thorough understanding of the details of most texts
- accurately recorded percentage numbers and showed an understanding of the more complex grammatical structures in the texts.

OTHER COMMENTS

The questions and texts gave the candidates good opportunities to demonstrate understanding, they coped well with the type of questions, e.g. giving opinions and supporting choices with information from the text.

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 ideas
- 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
- 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 and related them to the text
- wrote with confidence and flair.

OTHER COMMENTS

Candidates who attempted the reading paper achieved well, although some misread questions e.g. confusing similarities rather than similarity, and support their answers with information from the text rather than giving their personal opinion.

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:

- covered the topic, including some development of each of the aspects listed in the guidelines
- structured their information to include an introduction, development and conclusion
- wrote relevant material in reasonably accurate German including some of the Level 8 vocabulary and structures.
- wrote at least 175 words
- occasionally 're-crafted' prepared writing to fit the topic, e.g. writing on the Olympics as "A Special Occasion" or a film study written to fit the "Special Occasion" topic.

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:

- failed to reach the suggested word limit
- failed to follow the task outlines sufficiently, if at all.
- demonstrated an insufficient level of accuracy for this level
- did not include sufficient variety of language and structures from the Levels 7 and 8 guidelines
- showed little, if any, evidence of planning in the space provided.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- followed the task and developed their ideas
- planned and structured their writing logically in accordance with the task, including content and structures/vocabulary
- wrote comprehensive and cohesive texts

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:

- followed the task outline and wrote texts that flowed easily and in which they developed relevant points of view, supported by specific detail
- planned and structured their texts, often including lists of relevant structures on the planning pages which they incorporated in their passage.
- demonstrated flexibility in their adapting prior knowledge and a range of language to fully address all aspects of the question.

OTHER COMMENTS

The paper offered a variety of topics and candidates handled them well. There were some beautiful texts, mostly on the more imaginative topics like the 'A special occasion' or the narrative. Lower achieving candidates had difficulties producing complex and comprehensible language to support expressing their ideas and opinions.