

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2014 Assessment Report

German Level 1

- 90883 Demonstrate understanding of a variety of spoken German texts on areas of most immediate relevance**
- 90886 Demonstrate understanding of a variety of German texts on areas of most immediate relevance**

COMMENTARY

AS90886

Candidates coped generally well with the paper, with most understanding what was asked of them and referring to the text in their responses. Some were less specific about detail than they might have been, or failed to understand some parts of the text.

AS 90883

The topic of Questions 1 and 2 (the environment) is a topic that would have been unfamiliar to the majority of candidates. Consequently previous personal knowledge was relied on when answering questions. Candidates often went off on tangent instead of supporting their answers by details from the text.

Question Three was a familiar topic and generally well done.

Listening notes boxes were used to good effect, especially by more able candidates. There were very many details in all three listening passages, so candidates who were able to take notes rapidly fared the best.

STANDARD REPORTS

90883 Demonstrate understanding of a variety of spoken German texts on areas of most immediate relevance

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- showed understanding of some basic information
- were able to give some details of the simpler parts
- made a reasoned but not detailed comparison
- made limited use of the Listening Box.

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 commonly:

- were unfamiliar with the vocabulary
- did not understand the gist of the conversations
- based their answer for the comparison on personal knowledge rather than linking it to the text
- did not attempt most parts of the question.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- showed a clear understanding of the text and were able to give a more detailed response
- were able to make a detailed comparison and justify their opinion to some extent
- clearly identified the most relevant vocabulary and developed a logical answer related to the text
- full advice given supported by details from the text.

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 commonly:

- took detailed notes in the Listening boxes
- demonstrated a superior knowledge of appropriate vocabulary
- showed a clear understanding of details of the passage and were consequently able to construct full, logical answers, justifying their opinion based on those details
- integrated references into their responses.

OTHER COMMENTS

Generally speaking candidates coped well with the paper. The vast majority of candidates managed an Achieved or higher grade. The topic was unfamiliar to many but the vocabulary within the topic was kept to an appropriate level. The quality of the CD was also excellent.

90886 Demonstrate understanding of a variety of German texts on areas of most immediate relevance

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- understood the gist of the texts despite some lexical errors, e.g. notes for "Noten"
- attempted both parts of the questions, even if their responses to Part (b) were brief were able to give some detail.

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 commonly:

- were unfamiliar with basic vocabulary
- displayed only limited understanding of the texts or understanding of isolated lexical items, e.g. he likes the guitar
- made errors with very simple details, e.g. has cycling three times a week
- did not proof-read or question unlikely mistranslations, e.g. "school lasts 15 hours"
- responded to (b) only briefly, if not at all, and with little relevant detail from the text.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- showed a clearer understanding of the texts overall
- were able to make sense of more demanding phrases within context, e.g. " im Alter von 10 bis 100"
- had more discerning recognition of vocabulary, e.g. 'nice colleagues'
- wrote longer responses to part (b) supported with more relevant detail from the 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 commonly:

- demonstrated consistently detailed understanding of the texts
- were able to correctly render passages of text which required care, e.g, "Vor den Ferien schreiben wir viele Klassenarbeiten." "Jeder von uns muss einmal den Lehrer spielen."
- responded in part (b) in depth, giving answers justified with full detail from the texts
- wrote fluent, thoughtful and well organised responses, especially in part (b).

OTHER COMMENTS

This paper was a fair and straightforward assessment and it was rewarding to see that the vast majority of candidates managed an Achieved or higher grade.