GCE Examiners' Report

German

GCE AS and A Level

Summer 2026

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Introduction

Our Principal Examiners' report provides valuable feedback on the recent assessment series. It has been written by our Principal Examiners and Principal Moderators after the completion of marking and moderation, and details how candidates have performed in each unit.

This report opens with a summary of candidates' performance, including the assessment objectives/skills/topics/themes being tested, and highlights the characteristics of successful performance and where performance could be improved. It then looks in detail at each unit, pinpointing aspects that proved challenging to some candidates and suggesting some reasons as to why that might be.[1]

The information found in this report provides valuable insight for practitioners to support their teaching and learning activity. We would also encourage practitioners to share this document – in its entirety or in part – with their learners to help with exam preparation, to understand how to avoid pitfalls and to add to their revision toolbox.

Further support

Document	Description	Link
Professional Learning / CPD	WJEC offers an extensive programme of online and face-to-face Professional Learning events. Access interactive feedback, review example candidate responses, gain practical ideas for the classroom and put questions to our dedicated team by registering for one of our events here.	https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/professional-learning/
Past papers	Access the bank of past papers for this qualification, including the most recent assessments. Please note that we do not make past papers available on the public website until 12 months after the examination.	Portal by WJEC or on the WJEC subject page
Grade boundary information	Grade boundaries are the minimum number of marks needed to achieve each grade. For unitised specifications grade boundaries are expressed on a Uniform Mark Scale (UMS). UMS grade boundaries remain the same every year as the range of UMS mark percentages allocated to a particular grade does not change. UMS grade boundaries are published at overall subject and unit level. For linear specifications, a single grade is awarded for the subject, rather than for each unit that contributes towards the overall grade. Grade boundaries are published on results day.	For unitised specifications click here: Results, Grade Boundaries and PRS (wjec.co.uk)

[1] ***Please note that where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.***

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Exam Results Analysis	WJEC provides information to examination centres via the WJEC Portal. This is restricted to centre staff only. Access is granted to centre staff by the Examinations Officer at the centre.	Portal by WJEC
Classroom Resources	Access our extensive range of FREE classroom resources, including blended learning materials, exam walk-throughs and knowledge organisers to support teaching and learning.	https://resources.wjec.co.uk/
Bank of Professional Learning materials	Access our bank of Professional Learning materials from previous events from our secure website and additional pre-recorded materials available in the public domain.	Portal by WJEC or on the WJEC subject page.
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Executive Summary

At AS, Principal Examiners note that candidates performed well in Unit 1, especially in the film or music cards. Most candidates communicated confidently and naturally, with many interactions reflecting thorough preparation. In future series, candidates should ensure they prepare equally for all of the topics and ensure that discussions remain clearly focused on German-speaking culture throughout the assessment.

For Unit 2, Candidates generally performed well on comprehension and translation tasks, although some struggled with more complex linguistic structures and idiomatic expressions. In Q6 stronger responses showed a wide range of vocabulary, accurate grammatical structures, and well-developed ideas supported by relevant examples and analytical thoughts. For AO4,the most successful candidates addressed all aspects of the task while maintaining clarity and coherence. Centres are encouraged to continue developing students' ability to justify opinions with detailed supporting evidence**.**

Across both units, candidates would benefit from greater accuracy in the application of grammatical features, particularly cases, verb forms and word order.

At A Level candidates demonstrated good knowledge during the productive units (3 and 5) and there was clear evidence of thorough preparation for the IRP. Presentations were clearly structured, but candidates would benefit from drawing on a range of sources including authentic German language materials to further support and enrich their research. Some candidates would benefit from further practice in pronunciation to improve the clarity and fluency of their presentations. Regular exposure to authentic spoken German and the use of pronunciation resources could support further development.

For Unit 5, Most essays were structured well, with a clear introduction referring to the chosen essay question, a main body divided into a critical evaluation of separate aspects, and a conclusion that often linked back to the essay question. Manipulation of language to achieve these aims varied greatly, though, and as at AS, a recommendation to centres would be to place emphasis on practising the correct verb conjugations in standard essay introductions and conclusions, along with correct German syntax and punctuation.

In the receptive skills paper, Unit 4, candidates performed well overall, with the listening and reading comprehension tasks demonstrating a secure understanding of both familiar and more demanding material. Candidates would benefit from reading the rubric carefully, particularly for true/false questions requiring a correction as seen in Question 6. Some candidates identified an incorrect statement but did not provide the required correction, preventing them from gaining marks. The translation into German was generally well attempted. Where unfamiliar vocabulary was encountered, many candidates conveyed meaning successfully through appropriate synonyms or paraphrase. Candidates would benefit from further practice of specific grammatical features, particularly pronominal adverbs and relative pronouns, to improve the accuracy of translation. Continued practice of numbers, including dates and larger numerical expressions, would support performance in listening and translation tasks.

Candidates and centres should be commended for their good preparation and performance in this year’s assessments.

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Supporting you

Useful contacts and links

Our friendly subject team is on hand to support you between 8.30am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.
Tel: 029 2240 4297
Email: languages@wjec.co.uk
Qualification webpage: https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/german-asa-level/ -tab_keydocuments

See other useful contacts here: Useful Contacts | WJEC

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Access our popular, free online CPD/PL courses to receive exam feedback and put questions to our subject team, and attend one of our face-to-face events, focused on enhancing teaching and learning, providing practical classroom ideas and developing understanding of marking and assessment.

Please find details for all our courses here: https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/professional-learning/

WJEC Qualifications

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