

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

Number of entries in 2012: 127

Candidate performance in Reading/Translation and advice to centres

- The inferential question (Question 7) was generally tackled well, although some candidates provided minimal responses, and some did not attempt to answer the question at all.
- The translation was reasonably well done, although some candidates produced gist translations that do not meet the criteria. There is a tendency to omit words such as articles, and poor use of the dictionary is a matter for concern.
- Candidates should be trained to focus on detail and accuracy.

Candidate performance in Listening/Discursive Writing and advice to centres

- In Paper 2 Part B, there was a tendency for a number of candidates to base answers on own experiences rather than on the specifics of the dialogue.
- In Discursive Writing, a significant number of candidates show very little familiarity with even the most basic rules of German grammar, and write in a style that shows heavy linguistic interference from English sometimes making their writing unintelligible.
- There are still many instances of candidates reproducing a prepared answer.
- Candidates should pay heed to the basics of German grammar and German idiom, and should not view this as an extended exercise in translation from English to German.

Candidate performance in Speaking and advice to centres

- In the Speaking Test, candidates readily engaging in genuine conversation and an exchange of ideas. However, some candidates rely excessively on pre-learned material and do not demonstrate the degree of linguistic flexibility and adaptability that is required at this level.
- Candidates should be encouraged to understand that, ideally, this test should be a real conversation. They should be prepared to engage flexibly in dialogue and not to depend on rote-learned material.

Candidate performance in the Folio

- Many candidates are being disadvantaged by the choice and formulation of the titles for the Folio pieces.
- Some titles invite narrative or descriptive responses, and many bibliographies amount to no more than a citation of the primary text.
- Candidates should be encouraged to engage with critical literature to stimulate a more sophisticated appreciation of literary texts.
- The use of 'Jugendliteratur' as primary texts should be carefully considered since they tend not to be complex enough.