

Comments on candidate performance**General comments****Candidate performance in Reading and advice to centres**

- In Reading a number of candidates found the paper challenging and some candidates did not cope well with some basic vocabulary, such as Hausaufgaben, für den nächsten Tag, sortieren, 1 bis 1,5 Stunden and Schulfächer, and some candidates had difficulties with the fourth text.
- In Question 3d (i), too many candidates ticked two boxes, rather than the one required.
- Candidates should be reminded to read the questions carefully, as they lost marks for failing to give two pieces of information when required to do so.
- The detailed Marking Instructions for the examination are available on the SQA website and should be shared with candidates.

Candidate performance in Listening and advice to centres

- Candidates performed well in listening, as paper was straightforward. Many questions were extremely well done.
- However, it is concerning that words, such as ‘Burg’, ‘Wochenende’, ‘pünktlich’, ‘lange schlafen’ and ‘müde’ were not recognised by candidates.
- Candidates should be prepared to answer questions as fully as possible, including all information surrounding the main idea.
- Centres should continue their good preparation in Listening by focusing more rigorously on listening skills in the classroom and on the drilling of basic vocabulary learning.
- Candidates should be reminded to read the questions carefully, as they lost marks for failing to give two pieces of information when required to do so.

Candidate performance in Writing and advice to centres

- In writing, there were some very good quality examples.
- Some candidates did not write three sentences for each section, resulting in a deduction of 2 marks. Centres are strongly advised to make it clear to candidates, that, when this happens in three sections out of the four, the candidate has to be awarded 0.
- Although many candidates had been well prepared for the writing task, there were a significant number of candidates gaining 6 and 9. Centres are advised to work with candidates and to produce 12 sentences using nine or ten different verbs, rather than repeating verbs. E.g. Ich spiele Fußball. Ich spiele Federball. Ich spiele Basketball in der Schule’.
- If candidates aspire to 15, they must be made aware that they need to write accurately, with an element of complexity and sophistication. The addition of a learned subordinate clause (eg *Ich habe einen Bruder, der Mark heißt* or *Ich wohne in einem Stadtteil, der X heißt*) or inversion plus some TMP (eg *Am Wochenende gehe ich manchmal mit dem Hund im Wald spazieren*) would raise their writing to this level.