

Comments on candidate performance**General comments**

Number of entries in 2012: 912

Average score was 70.3% and pass rate (A–C) was 92.5

Improvement in Listening marks, from 10 to 11.8/20

Candidate performance in Reading and advice to centres

Average mark in Reading was 21/ 30

- Candidates generally performed well and all texts were very accessible. The first three texts, particularly the third one were very well done but some candidates found the fourth passage challenging.
- Candidates should ensure they mention two things when required. There was a lack of attention to sufficient detail in question 1(c), where candidates often missed out the ‘never/always’, in question 4(h) where the ‘sehr’ was required; in question 4(m) where a large number confused ‘fünften’ for ‘fünfzehnten’ or ‘fünfzigsten’.
- In the fourth text, candidates struggled with the concept of Wednesday morning school from class 5 upwards, and candidates were challenged from questions 4(i) onwards.
- Centres should ensure that candidates are trained to read the questions, give appropriate details, and check their answers.

Candidate performance in Listening and advice to centres

- Candidates’ performance in the Listening paper was good, although passage 3 was challenging.
- Many candidates did know ‘Brötchen’, and ‘Deutsches Rotes Kreuz’ and ... dass die Chancen für Männer in diesem Beruf noch relativ gut sind was challenging. In the final text, dealing with healthy living, candidates were asked what Svenja eats when she is very hungry. The answer was ‘Obst’ (fruit) but many candidates had difficulty with the word.
- Centres should train candidates to listen for details, usually signposted in the questions, and ignore redundant material.

Candidate performance in Writing and advice to centres

- The majority of candidates handled the task well with most scoring 20, 16, 12 Very few were awarded zero.
- Some candidates show a lack of understanding of the requirements of this task. It is really important that candidates address all five compulsory bullet points, before attempting the two optional ones.
- It is important in bullet point 4 that candidates are more explicit about their reasons for applying for the job.
- Centres are also advised to consider the advice given in previous reports to improve candidates’ performance.