

AM SYLLABUS (2011)

GERMAN

AM 14

SYLLABUS

**German AM 14
Syllabus**

(Available in September)

Paper I (2 hours) + Paper II (2½ hours) +
Paper III (3 hours) + Paper IV (10-15 mins) ORAL

AIMS

The aims of the syllabus are as follows:

- 1) To help candidates acquire
 - a) The ability to understand spoken German;
 - b) The ability to read and understand written German;
 - c) The ability to write the language with accuracy;
 - d) The ability to speak and converse in German with fluency;
- 2) To make the candidates aware of the cultural interests and the geographic and socio-political background of the countries where German is spoken;
- 3) To instil in candidates an interest for the language and the culture of the German-speaking countries.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The examination will test the candidates' ability to:

- 1) Understand language spoken at normal speed drawn from a variety of authentic contexts;
- 2) Understand authentic texts from a range of registers and on a variety of subjects;
- 3) Communicate effectively in the spoken and written language to exchange information, ideas and opinions on set topics;
- 4) Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of aspects of civilisation and culture of countries where German is spoken.

SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT

The examination shall consist of four papers carrying a total of **300 points**. The total duration of the written parts of the examination is 7 ½ hours. The oral part takes 10-15 minutes for each candidate. All questions are set in German and candidates have to answer in German.

No type of book, text book or dictionary is allowed in any examination room.

PAPER I - Composition (2 hours) (total 100 points)

Part I: Essay - 60 points

Candidates will be required to write an essay of approximately **250 words**. Six subjects will be set, from which the candidate will choose one. The subjects may be of a descriptive, narrative, argumentative or expository nature or a combination of several of these.

Part II: Guided Writing - 40 points

Candidates will be required to carry out a writing task of approximately **150 words** based on one piece of stimulus material of about **400 words**. Two questions will be set asking the candidates to express their own opinion on the given text / and / or related topics.

The objective of this paper is to test the candidate's ability to write correct German and to respond correctly to defined situations thereby expressing his / her opinion.

PAPER II - Comprehension (2 hours 30 minutes) (total 100 points)

Part I: Listening Comprehension - (45 minutes) - 25 points

Candidates will be required to answer up to 25 questions on texts of contemporary German. These texts are to consist of

- a) 3 short items of not more than **80 words each**
- b) 2 longer texts of not more than **250 words each**
Each of the latter texts is to be divided up into at least two sections.

Before each text is read out, candidates will be allowed two minutes to read through the questions. Each section of German text will be read out twice. Time will be allowed after the first reading and the second reading for the candidates to read the relevant questions, make notes and / or answer the questions.

The set texts will be taken from news flashes, public announcements, advertisements, reports, articles, reviews and current affairs.

The objective of this part of the paper is to test the candidates' understanding of authentic contemporary spoken German and their ability to express their understanding by answering specific questions about what they have heard. Candidates are not required to answer in complete sentences, but their answers must be grammatically correct.

Part II: Reading Comprehension - (1 hour 45 minutes) - 75 points

A text of **400 – 500 words** will be set. Various kinds of tasks will be set and these will be divided into four different sections:

Section A: Vocabulary and Understanding

In this section the following types of exercises may be set:

- replacing words or expressions without changing their meaning;
- replacing given words by opposites;
- finding words of the same families.

Section B: Questions on the Text

Candidates are to answer a number of questions on the text. The questions are to be answered in complete sentences.

An exercise may be set stating whether a statement is true or false.

Section C: Structures

In this section the following type of exercises may be set:

- rendering direct speech into indirect speech and vice-versa;
- completing sentences using words given in brackets in 'raw' form;
- changing phrases into clauses and vice-versa;
- similar exercises.

Section D: Precis

In this section the candidates are asked to give the gist of the set passage in one paragraph of 60-80 words.

PAPER III - Landeskunde und Literatur (3 hours) (total 70 points)

Questions 1 – 5 on *Landeskunde* carry **10 points each**.

Question 6 on *Literature* carries **20 points**.

The objective of this part of the examination is to test the candidate's ability to show knowledge of aspects of civilization and culture of the German speaking countries.

The candidates will be required to answer six questions about various aspects of the subject, i.e. five on *Landeskunde* and one on a work of *Literature*. The questions will relate to the six topic areas that will have been studied during the course – see list of **Topics 1-6** below.

The answers to the questions on *Landeskunde* should be of a total length of about **50 – 75 words each**. The answer to the question on *literature* should be of about **150 words**.

Topics 1 - 5 - Landeskunde :

There will be a choice of two questions on each topic, i.e. a total of ten questions. From these the candidate will choose and answer one question on each topic, i.e. five answers in all. Each question will be based on one theme or it may be divided into parts referring to different aspects of the theme.

Please refer to the list of topics below.

The text book which is to be used to prepare for PAPER III (written and oral examinations) is: DREIMAL DEUTSCH von Uta Matecki unter Mitarbeit von Stefan Adler, published by Ernst Klett International GmbH, Stuttgart, ISBN Number 3 12 675235.

The following are the topics for the written part of the examination *Landeskunde*:

Chapters (underlined) and Pages of DREIMAL DEUTSCH:

- 1) Auf den ersten Blick: Pages 6 - 11
The candidates are expected to be familiar with and to name the geographic features of Germany, Austria and Switzerland shown on the map on page 7, including neighbours, cities, mountains, waterways, lakes, coastline and islands, forests and *Ballungszentren*.
- 2) In Deutschland: Pages 60 - 73
- 3) In Österreich UND in der Schweiz: Pages 74 – 85, and Pages 86 - 93 respectively.
- 4) Moderne Geschichte: Pages 36 - 47
- 5) Kunst und Wissenschaft UND Deutschland aktuell: Pages 48 – 53, and Pages 54 – 59 respectively.

Topic 6 - Literature:

The following are the literary texts to be studied for the Literature section: There will be two questions on each work of literature. The candidates will choose and answer only ONE question on ONE book. Questions relating to the texts themselves can be asked, including interpretation and characterization.

- Karin König: Ich fühl mich so fifty-fifty. (DTV. ISBN34237802207)
- Barbara Noack: Jennys Geschichte (Lubbe ISBN 3404259157)
- Bernhard Schlink: Der Vorleser (Diogenes ISBN 3257229534)

PAPER IV - ORAL Examination (10-15 minutes per candidate)

Total of 30 points

This part of the examination will consist of a conversation between the candidate and the examiner.

The conversation will be based on the section *Das alltägliche Leben* from DREIMAL DEUTSCH, pages 12-35. This part of the examination is aimed at testing the candidate's knowledge of daily life in German speaking countries, but also his / her ability to express views, reactions and opinions about them in German.

The conversation may be allowed to develop naturally and the examiner may include a comparison with the candidate's own daily life or customs of his / her country.

15 points are allotted for content and **15 marks** for proficiency in the spoken language.

It must be underlined that the candidates should not be allowed to recite any text learned by heart.