

# EXAMINERS' REPORT

## AM GERMAN

FIRST SESSION 2018



L-Università  
ta' Malta

**MATSEC  
Examinations Board**

University of Malta  
Msida MSD 2080, Malta

Tel: +356 2340 2814/5/6  
matsec@um.edu.mt

[www.um.edu.mt/matsec](http://www.um.edu.mt/matsec)

## Part 1

Thirty-five (35) candidates registered for the Advanced German examination. The examination consists of three papers (I-III) and an oral component. One candidate was absent for all examinations. The table below outlines the candidates' results:

GRADE	A	B	C	D	E	F	ABS	Total
<b>NUMBER OF CANDIDATES</b>	9	4	13	5	2	1	1	35
<b>% OF TOTAL</b>	25.71	11.43	37.14	14.29	5.71	2.86	2.86	100

All scripts were seen by two markers.

Almost 75% of the candidates achieved a grade between A and C, implying that the majority of the candidates have a good command of German at this level, with more than a quarter having a very good command of the subject. Compared to the candidates' performance in the previous year, there is a decrease in the achievement of B grades and an increase in C grades.

## Part 2

The following is an assessment of the candidates' overall performance in the different sections of the written examination:

Paper I consists of two parts, Essay and Communicative Writing. This paper requires skills in free writing.

For the Essay, candidates can choose from six different questions. All of the questions set were chosen by at least two candidates. The question chosen by most candidates was question 5, an argumentative question closely related to everyday life and the situation of being a student.

With respect to Communicative Writing, candidates can choose from two questions. Of the two questions set (article and e-mail), the e-mail was chosen by most candidates, but a considerable number of candidates also opted for the article.

In this paper, common issues were a lack of suitable vocabulary and linguistic structures. Whilst writing practice is, of course, important in improving these skills, it could also be helpful if candidates read more texts in German in preparation for the exam. A number of candidates had more difficulties in writing the essay than in the communicative writing part.

Paper II also consists of two parts, Listening Comprehension and Reading Comprehension.

Part I: Listening Comprehension was tackled well to very well by a majority of the candidates, all candidates reached more than 50% of the credits in this part. As in previous years, Section A of the Reading Comprehension (Vocabulary and Understanding), proved difficult for many candidates. To prepare for this section, paraphrasing German texts has to be practiced so that the candidates gain experience in replacing phrases with other phrases or synonyms and the essential skill of rewriting a text in one's own words is practiced. This is also important for the final section of the paper (D: Précis), which asks for a summary of the set text. Section A tests the knowledge of specific vocabulary and grammatical structures whereas Section D requires more general reading and writing skills. In Section B: Questions on the Text, the large majority of candidates did very well. Therefore, the candidates demonstrated adequate to good or very good reading skills. Most candidates also did very well in Section C: Structures which tests a

number of grammatical structures; it always contains questions on direct and indirect speech, especially the latter caused difficulties for a number of candidates. The summary of the text in Section D was tackled well to very well by the majority of the candidates, but some demonstrated difficulties in summarising all the central aspects of the text.

Paper III is designed to test knowledge on *Landeskunde*, i.e. culture of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, and knowledge on literature. In part I, questions are set on geographical aspects of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, feasts and traditions in Germany, modern history of Germany and German-speaking personalities. In part II questions on the literature texts listed in the syllabus are set.

Some candidates were able to improve their over-all marks by doing well in this paper. This can be seen as a chance for those who may have less advanced language skills yet but have an interest in the subject of German. Most candidates' performance was fairly consistent throughout the whole paper, which indicates that with good preparation, all of the questions were manageable, whereas with a lack of preparation, candidates struggle throughout. The basic knowledge of terms, central events and personalities of German-speaking countries tested in the first part of this paper is an important component of being able to communicate effectively with German speakers as well as a prerequisite for understanding German-language texts, such as current reports in the media, which often assume some basic knowledge of history and the German regions etc. Candidates can choose from two questions for each topic; all of the questions set were chosen in this part.

In the literature section, most candidates wrote about the novel "Ich fühl mich so fifty-fifty" by Karin König, followed by "Maya und Domenico" by Susanne Wittpennig. "Drei Männer im Schnee" by Erich Kästner was chosen by a small number of candidates, too, while "Fast ein bisschen Frühling" by Alex Capus was not chosen by any of the candidates. All candidates were able to demonstrate some knowledge of the chosen novel; however, the level of discussion varied. This part of the paper encourages candidates to read a book-length text in German and to reflect on its basic plot and central issues. The topics of the literary texts are close to everyday life and general concerns. Many candidates did well in this section.

Chairperson  
Examination Panel 2018