EXAMINERS' REPORT

IM GERMAN

FIRST SESSION 2018

L-Università ta' Malta

General Information

Results

The results achieved by the candidates are as indicated hereafter:

GRADE	A	B	C	D	E	F	ABS	Total
NUMBER OF CANDIDATES	11	8	11	3	3	2	1	39
% OF TOTAL	28.21	20.51	28.21	7.69	7.69	5.13	2.56	100

All scripts were seen by two markers.

A significant increase in the number of candidates was noted this year with nearly double the amount of persons sitting for the German Intermediate examination in May 2018 (May 2017: 20 candidates). The distribution and range of marks result from a rather diverse performance by the candidates. A rather poor performance could be noted especially in the grammar section (*Sprachbausteine*) and the writing tasks.

The following is an overview on the performance in the different sections of the written examination:

Listening Comprehension

As in previous years, candidates did not show great difficulties with the questions on text 1 of the listening comprehension section; most candidates performed well in the right/wrong questions. In contrast to previous years, this time also the questions which required the candidates to answer in full sentences about text 2 were often answered satisfactorily.

Essay/Letter Writing

The performance in the section on essay and communicative writing showed difficulties in the production of texts. The majority of the candidates tackled the narrative type of essay, therefore "Der erste Tag in meiner neuen Schule". Common language mistakes could be identified in relation to the sentence structure, but also in relation to the past tense and the declension of the adjective. The communicative writing task was often not being tackled satisfactorily, with a good number of candidates not using the appropriate way to address the recipient or to end the letter; some candidates have also used the familiar form. Candidates should be given more specific training on how to write a semi-formal letter. Furthermore, it was evident that many candidates did not know the meaning of the word 'Veranstaltungen' – the majority of the candidates wrote about 'Sehenswürdigkeiten', attractions of Berlin instead.

Reading Comprehension/Sprachbausteine

In the reading comprehension tasks, most candidates answered the questions to the satisfaction of the examiners, had no problems in understanding the questions and in answering them fully. In the grammar section, however, that is the task *Sprachbausteine*, the overall performance of candidates showed a concerning lack of knowledge of basic grammatical rules and structures; this resulted in many basic mistakes, which should not appear at this language level.

Landeskunde/German Culture

Unfortunately, as in previous years, the candidates did not show evidence of a firm general knowledge on German culture required for the section on Landeskunde/German culture,

although the syllabus gives quite a clear indication on the possible areas and topics covered in the examination. It was clear that the candidates were not fully prepared for questions about the different stages and facts of Germany history and culture. This was evident in the multiple choice questions as well as the open questions. The question related to German forests, for example, was correctly tackled by the minority of candidates. Most candidates could mention only one forest, which was often also misspelt. A number of candidates did not understand the word "Wälder" and gave either names of authors or composers in their answers.

Further general remarks

a) Candidates should make sure to reply in full sentences where required. They should include the number of the question answered.
b) In the section on communicative writing, candidates should be reminded to sign with the name indicated in the respective section.

Chairperson
Examination Panel 2018