



National
Qualifications
2026

2026 German

Reading

Higher

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

These marking instructions have been prepared by examination teams for use by Qualifications Scotland appointed markers when marking external course assessments.

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General marking principles for Higher German Reading

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

- (a) Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.
- (b) If a candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.
- (c) Award a mark for each answer. Marks are not transferable between questions and the answers for each question must come from the item.
- (d) Marks are available as follows:
 - (i) The first set of questions (worth 18 marks in total) asks candidates to provide answers based on comprehension of information from the text. There are generally 1-3 marks available for each question.
 - (ii) The penultimate question is the overall purpose question, and candidates must identify the overall purpose of the text and draw meaning from their overall understanding of the text. There is a maximum of 2 marks available for reference to the text and detailed comment. Pegged mark descriptors (2/1/0) and associated commentary are available, along with further guidance, in the detailed marking instructions.
 - (iii) The last question is the translation. For this question, candidates must translate the underlined section of the text. The section for translation is divided into five sense units. For each sense unit, award 2, 1 or 0 marks: 2 marks for a full translation, 1 for partial translation, and 0 for an unsuccessful attempt.
- (e) Award marks according to the accuracy and relevance of the candidate's answers. Award marks where the answer is accurate but expressed in their own words.

Marking instructions for each question

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
					Do not accept:
1.			every fourth traveller/one in every four travellers plans to travel/go on holiday alone in the next 6 months	1	person
2.			(help travellers) plan (their own) itineraries/trips/routes/journeys (also accept singular) - offer small group tours (to unknown places) - allow (solo travellers) to meet likeminded/similar people discover/find out about places that are not typical/tourist destinations Any 3 from 4	3	small group trips the same people explore/visit typical holiday aims
3.			- they are (already) pensioners/retired and they have more time/free time - they enjoy their new (found)freedom - Their/the children are grown up/adults/no longer live at home Any 2 from 3	2	free time kids don't live with them
4.	(a)		people looking/searching/longing for/seeking/wanting independence	1	independent people
	(b)		- you are only responsible for yourself - you can choose your destination and accommodation - you can do whatever you want - improve your language skills/knowledge OR have to/get to use the (country's)language Any 3 from 4	3	travel goal

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
					Do not accept:
5.	(a)		- she has (recently) separated from/split/broke up with her partner/boyfriend - to experience the world-famous Fringe Festival	1	divorced/dumped
	(b)		she can (easily) travel/go/begin the journey home	1	easy journey
6.	(a)		(some people find it) difficult to begin/start/have a conversation with strangers/foreigners/talk to strangers/foreigners Note: ignore quantity of people e.g. many or most	1	
	(b)		- ask simple/easy questions - talk/ask about the weather and where people are going (need both for the mark) - ask how you/they are - stay in a youth hostel/in a small hotel, where it is easier to/you can meet/get to know other solo travellers. Any 2 from 4	2	past tense eg have been
7.			book a group trip/holiday/group travel with a travel agent - tell friends and family when and where you are going (before you go) regularly keep in contact - use common sense (if you go out at night) - travel with a registered taxi - share your location on your phone/via technology - upload/post (short) videos and photos (to social media) Any 3 from 7	3	travel group/trip office past tense eg have been

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
8.			Positive • statistics show an increase in solo travel • many new websites dedicated to solo travel • not only for young people, but for anyone including older adults • increases independence of travellers • you can do what you like when you travel alone • you can meet new people when travelling alone • new technology can help to make travelling alone easier • Anja felt lonelier when on holiday with her now ex-partner than she will on her own Negative • you could feel lonely • it can be scary to talk with people you don't know • security concerns for people travelling alone • personal safety could be a worry • some travellers worry about being able to call for help in an emergency if alone	2	Award 2 marks where the candidate provides a clear answer, with justification that shows an accurate reading of the text. Award 1 mark where the candidate provides an answer which may contain some degree of misreading, but which offers evidence of some justification. Award 0 marks where the candidate simply provides information to be found in the text by simply re-stating answers to previous questions.

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
9.			Translate into English: <i>Außerdem kann man auch . . . einen zukünftigen Reisebegleiter zu finden.</i> (lines 20-22)	10	The translation into English is allocated 10 marks. The text for translation is divided into a number of sense units. Each sense unit is worth 2 marks. Award marks according to the quality and accuracy of the translation into English. Award a mark for each sense unit, as follows 2 marks - good The candidate understands and conveys essential information and relevant details, clearly and accurately, with appropriate use of English. 1 mark - satisfactory The candidate understands and conveys essential information clearly and comprehensibly, although some of the details may be translated in an imprecise or inaccurate manner. They convey the key message in spite of inaccuracies and weaknesses in the use of English. 0 marks - unsatisfactory The candidate fails to demonstrate sufficient understanding of the essential idea.

Text	Good - 2	Satisfactory - 1	Unsatisfactory - 0
Unit 1 Außerdem kann man auch neue Leute kennen lernen.	Besides/Furthermore/In addition/Anyway/Aside from that, you/one can also get to know/meet new people.	As well as this/However Omission of also	they a lot of people other people learn learn about
Unit 2 Es gibt immer jemanden in der gleichen Situation	There is always someone/somebody in the same situation	others	will always be There is always a situation
Unit 3 <i>- ob man alleine oder in einer kleinen Gruppe reist.</i>	whether/no matter if/If (you/one/they are) travelling/(travel) alone or in a small group. (if travelling is stated twice, this is still appropriate use of English)	while travelling alone travelling	Omission of verb journey/trip (noun)
Unit 4 <i>Daher ist es wirklich einfach, neue Kontakte zu knüpfen</i>	This makes it/Due to this it is/That is why/Therefore it is really easy to make/form new contacts	From there/that Meet new people Make/form a new contact Omission of new	really important stay in contact create/encounter new contact It is important to simply make new contacts

Text	Good - 2	Satisfactory - 1	Unsatisfactory - 0
Unit 5 <i>und vielleicht einen zukünftigen Reisebegleiter zu finden.</i>	and maybe/perhaps/potentially (you may) find a future travel companion.	Omission of perhaps/maybe Partner Holiday companion	journey/trip companion new omission of future in the future/will find/found

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]