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FOREWORD

This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned.**

GERMAN

GCE Ordinary Level

<p>Paper 3025/01 Translation and Composition</p>
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General comments

Candidates are required to answer two of the three questions on this paper. **Question 1** is a Bildergeschichte, in which candidates are given the outline of a story to relate. **Question 2** gives the candidate a choice of three open ended scenarios to write about, and **Question 3** (the translation), is totally prescriptive in terms of content and language. The majority of candidates chose **Question 1** and **Question 3**. Almost without exception, candidates choosing **Question 3** performed worse on this question - and often significantly worse - than on the other question they attempted. Candidates must consider whether they are playing to their strengths when they choose the translation and whether they would be better off choosing a more open-ended question, in which they could manipulate structures and language with which they are already familiar.

Whilst some candidates were exceptionally well prepared for this paper, there were also candidates who appeared to have had little experience of writing German - these candidates must have had quite an uncomfortable time whilst sitting this paper. All candidates would benefit from checking their work more carefully. Often, candidates used an item of vocabulary or a structure correctly, and then would use the same item of vocabulary or structure incorrectly a few lines later - there is little excuse for this.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Candidates grasped the gist of the Bildergeschichte well, and most were able to communicate the story successfully. A few candidates exceeded 150 words. When this happens, candidates can be disadvantaged if they have not already achieved full marks for communication. Many candidates struggled to render the idea of the bike crashing into the car and the idea of the boy being taken to hospital.

Question 2

Option (a) was a popular choice, although the majority of candidates appeared to be unaware of the standard construction *Geburtstag haben*. Candidates attempting to answer this type of question would be advised to avoid the tendency towards lists, as this greatly limits the range of structures they can include. Thus 'I was given', followed by a list of ten presents, is to be avoided.

Fewer candidates attempted option (b) and those who did, struggled to develop any kind of extended discussion.

Many candidates chose option (c) and the majority managed to describe the journey successfully. A few candidates described a holiday with little reference to the journey. In this question many candidates seemed confused as to when they should use *als* and *wenn*.

Question 3

Candidates attempting this question needed to be able to handle a wide range of vocabulary and so on with accuracy. Many candidates struggled to do this. The following caused problems for many candidates.

- no-one was to be seen
- a double room
- lift
- as he carried his wife's heavy case up the stairs
- dusty
- the cook.

Paper 3025/02
Reading Comprehension

General comments

Many candidates had been well prepared for all or most of the test and scored either well or very well in the three parts of the First Section.

This very promising start generally continued with success into the first part of the Second Section. The second part of the Second Section was for many candidates the first place where they lost a serious number of marks. It may be that candidates will need more specific training in this type of exercise. Opting for a *Ja* when the answer is a *Nein* is equivalent to losing 2 marks. The vast majority of candidates read the rubric carefully here and kept clear of the easy option of merely adding a *nicht*, and thus avoided losing marks.

It was very pleasing to see that many candidates did well or even very well in the Third Section, the cloze-type test. Many candidates scored at least half-marks. Fewer candidates than in previous years seemed to have run out of time at this point in the paper and some had enough time to scribble in their thoughts as they worked out tense or adjectival agreement, a bit like "showing their workings" in a Maths exam.

Comments on specific questions***Erster Teil******Erste Aufgabe***

Most candidates attained a high score here, with only **Questions 3** and **5** being sometimes answered wrongly. In **Question 5** many opted for C, perhaps unaware of the rain that falls on German lawns bringing grass that needs mowing before guests arrive.

Zweite Aufgabe

Most candidates found this well within their capabilities and few errors were made.

Dritte Aufgabe

Most candidates found the letter easy and answered accurately. A few candidates failed to recognise the synonyms in **Questions 11** and **13** (Meer – See, Fähre – Schiff).

A high proportion of candidates scored more than 11 in this section.

Zweiter Teil

Erste Aufgabe

Almost all candidates found the text and the questions within their grasp and were able to score highly. A few candidates lost marks in **Question 17** by changing or omitting time prepositions and suggesting that Sandra had wanted to be in the Police for 15 years. A few candidates also understood *Unterkunft* in **Question 19** to be Sandra's training.

Zweite Aufgabe

Only the best candidates were able to answer all the questions correctly, but most candidates managed a few. **Question 25** saw many candidates being too drawn by the *Niemand sagt ein Wort* and missing the *Höllengelärm*. In **Question 27** credit was, of course given both to the candidates who think that the pages of an exercise book are paper and to those who see a distinction between working in their exercise books and working on paper, all being given 1 mark. A number of candidates appeared to just give in and ticked *Ja* for **Questions 28, 29, 30** and **31**. It is likely that some professional guidance from teachers will obviate this error in the future.

Marks of 16 to 20 were frequent in this section.

Dritte Teil

This cloze-type test at the end of the paper requires good reading skills and a sound grounding in grammar. Many candidates did themselves justice here and managed at least half of the 20 marks available. Almost all candidates had time to write in twenty answers, and many had time to ensure that their answers were appropriate and grammatically correct. The most frequent error was to miss the easy *ist* in **Questions 35** and **48**. Most candidates got the gist of the story and were able to go some of the way to completing it.