

# German

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## How to approach the Written Examination

### Section II: Writing in German

#### Examination specifications

##### Purpose

*Section II* relates to *Objective 1* and is designed primarily to assess your ability to present and support a point of view about the prescribed issues through the production of an original text in German.

Objective	Outcomes
<b>The student will:</b>  <b>1</b> present and discuss opinions, ideas and points of view in German	<b>The student:</b>  <b>1.1</b> discusses attitudes, opinions and ideas in German  <b>1.2</b> formulates and justifies a written or spoken argument in German

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##### Specifications

This section will be worth **15 marks**.

You will be required to give an evaluative response, by presenting and explaining or justifying a point of view. Students will select **ONE** of two questions. Each question will specify an audience and/or a purpose and/or a context. The questions will be related to the **prescribed issues**.

You will be expected to write a short essay, article, script of a talk, formal letter or report of approximately 300 words in German.

The tasks will be phrased in English and German for a response in German. Since 2010 both tasks require the same text type.

Remember, you may use monolingual and/or bilingual print dictionaries in the Written Examination.

##### Criteria for judging performance

In your answer you will be assessed on how well you:

- present and explain or justify a point of view
- write text appropriate to context and/or purpose and/or audience
- structure and sequence information, opinions and ideas
- demonstrate control of a range of language structures and vocabulary in German.

A high level response will present and develop a sophisticated, coherent argument, discussion or explanation, and be written effectively and perceptively for a specific audience, purpose and context. The response will demonstrate breadth and depth in the treatment of relevant ideas. It will be written with a high level of grammatical accuracy and breadth and sophistication of vocabulary and sentence structure.

**Note:** The BOSTES has developed German Standards Packages (2001 and 2002), which contain detailed information on the level of achievement for each performance band, including **examples of student responses**. While these are not the current prescribed issues, hearing and reviewing actual student responses is an excellent way to understand how the marking criteria are put into practice. This will demonstrate the standard expected. The packages are available at <http://arc.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/go/hsc/std-packs/> .

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## Before the examination

You should familiarise yourself with the prescribed issues. Reading widely on various aspects of the prescribed issues will assist you to increase your range of vocabulary and develop the skills required to present your views. There are many items of interest in current magazines and newspapers which relate to the prescribed issues. The internet will also provide access to a wide range of up-to-date information and vocabulary.

You are required to produce an original text in German of approximately 300 words. Your response will present and explain or justify a point of view and should begin with an introduction, followed by the body of the text, where the argument is developed, and end with a logical conclusion.

In preparing for the examination, you should attempt as many practice questions as possible, covering a wide range of topics. This will increase your confidence and enable you to cope with any question in the examination. Thorough preparation is the key to success and there is much you can do to ensure you are able to deal with any question.

Creating your own list of vocabulary and expressions will help give your writing structure and flow. A good command of grammatical structures will underpin a good response, ensuring your ideas are well communicated. Some expressions you may find useful have been provided at the end of this document. Further examples can be found in a number of dictionaries.

You should aim to think in German to ensure your writing is as authentic as possible. A translation from English may be disjointed in German and is unlikely to create a very positive impression. On the other hand, the variety of language and expressions you use will reflect the breadth and depth of your knowledge and indicate your facility with the language.

It is important to be guided by your teacher's comments and advice when your practice essays are marked.

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## **During the examination**

You should:

- read the two questions carefully and then choose the question which allows you the most scope
- avoid any temptation to take the question and re-model it into another question you prefer. You must address the question as printed on the paper
- reflect on the topic you have chosen. Make a plan, even if sketchy, to ensure you keep your answer focused and relevant to the question
- remain 'cool' and unflustered if faced with a topic you have not anticipated. Remember that the questions will be based on the issues you have studied and that, with calm thought, a clear head and planning, you will be able to respond to any question
- keep your arguments logical and to the point. Do not be tempted to write more complicated German than your skills allow. This will not promote good communication and is likely to create a poor impression
- know your capabilities. Do not include large slabs of pre-learned, complicated German which do not address the question or fit with your own level of language. If you do this, your answer is likely to be disjointed and difficult to understand
- keep your answer relevant. An answer which directly addresses the question will be more impressive
- stay calm and don't change the plan of approach you have practised throughout the year. Thorough preparation is the key to success and will hold you in good stead on the day
- allow sufficient time to review what you have written. Read over your work and check your spelling, language and structures. Reflect critically on what you have written and ask yourself if it makes sense. This is an important part of the writing process and enables errors to be corrected and additions to be made.

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## **Some expressions you may find useful**

**Introductory remarks:**

e.g.

- *Einleitend möchte ich sagen, dass...*
- *Zu Anfang möchte ich...*
- *Zuerst möchte ich erklären, was ich unter ... verstehe*
- *Es ist allgemein bekannt, dass...*
- *Beinahe täglich...*
- *Manche sagen ... während andere...*

- *Es gibt Beispiele für...*
- *Es wird häufig gesagt, dass...*
- *Es wird oft behauptet, dass...*

### **Presenting an opinion:**

e.g.

- *Ich bin überzeugt, dass...*
- *Meiner Meinung/Ansicht nach...*
- *Mir scheint es, dass...*
- *Von meinem Standpunkt aus...*
- *Ich meine, ...*
- *Ich nehme (stark) an, dass...*
- *Ich kann mir (gut) vorstellen, dass...*
- *So wie ich die Sache sehe, ...*
- *Ich bin mir sicher, dass...*
- *Heute werden wir immer wieder mit dem Problem konfrontiert...*

### **Developing an argument:**

e.g.

- *Vielleicht könnt ihr euch vorstellen...*
- *Wir müssen uns darüber klar werden, dass...*
- *Sowohl ... als auch...*
- *Einerseits ... andererseits...*
- *In diesem Zusammenhang...*
- *Entweder ... oder...*
- *Was hier am interessantesten ist, ...*
- *Es wird behauptet, dass...*
- *Es handelt sich um...*
- *Es steht zu vermuten, dass...*
- *Es steht fest, dass...*
- *Sicher ist es aber, dass...*
- *Es scheint wohl, dass...*
- *Bis zu einem gewissen Punkt...*
- *Im Großen und Ganzen...*
- *Das soll nicht heißen, dass...*
- *Es ist schwer einzusehen, ...*
- *Das ist völlig grundlos.*
- *Im Vergleich mit/zu...*
- *Heutzutage...*
- *In unserer Zeit...*
- *In letzter Zeit...*
- *Es ist gar nicht lange her...*
- *Wie bereits erwähnt...*
- *Mir ist auch klar, dass...*
- *Außerdem finde ich...*
- *Aus diesem Grund/Aus diesen Gründen...*

- *Es ist zweifelhaft...*
- *...im falschen/richtigen Licht sehen*
- *Im Allgemeinen...*
- *Klar, es gibt immer Vor- und Nachteile bei gewissen Dingen*
- *Vor allen Dingen...*
- *Auf der einen/anderen Seite sind...*
- *Wir müssen uns bemühen (+Infinitiv mit zu)*
- *Es ist schwer zu sagen, ob...*
- *Wäre es wirklich so schlimm, wenn...?*
- *Das kann man nicht unterschätzen*
- *Die Folgen sind nicht positiv/leider negativ*
- *Man muss sich fragen, ob...*
- *Es gibt nicht den geringsten Zweifel, dass...*
- *Mir ist auch klar, dass...*
- *Tatsache ist, dass...*
- *Man kann mit Sicherheit sagen, dass...*
- *Das Problem besteht darin, dass...*
- *Es ist zweifelhaft, ob...*
- *Es ist unmöglich, dass...*
- *Auf gar keinen Fall...*
- *Zurück zu dem Thema, ...*

### **Drawing a conclusion:**

e.g.

- *Alles in allem...*
- *Jedenfalls...*
- *Zweifellos...*
- *Schließlich...*
- *Es ist offensichtlich...*
- *Zum Schluss möchte ich sagen...*
- *Abschließend möchte ich...*
- *Zusammenfassend kann man sagen, dass...*