

German

[Home](#)>[German](#)>[Extension Course](#)>[Advice](#)> Advice - Extension

How to approach the Oral Examination

Monologue

- Course prescriptions (2014 - 2018)
- General information
- Examination specifications
- Criteria for judging performance
- Before the examination
- During the examination

Course prescriptions

There are *new* course prescriptions for German Extension for 2014 - 2018.

The new prescribed issues for 2014 - 2018 are:

- How we communicate with others
- Impact of the past on the present
- Relationships.

The new prescribed text is:

- *Am Ende kommen Touristen* (And Along Come Tourists, 2007)

There are 12 extracts prescribed for study.

Full details of the German Course Prescriptions 2014-2018 are on the BOSTES website. http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_hsc/german-extension.html

top of page 

General information

The oral examinations take place in July, August and September each year. All languages oral examinations (except for Modern Hebrew) are held on a Saturday. Specific information about your examination will be made available to you approximately three weeks before the examination date. The Languages Oral Online Examination Scheduling Function allows your teacher to schedule the time and venue for your HSC Language oral examinations. Once you have been scheduled, your teacher will be able to print a copy of your confirmation sheet

from Schools Online. You should also download your confirmation sheet and relevant venue location maps through Schools Online.

It is important that you check the [Higher School Certificate Languages Oral Examination Timetable](#) at the BOSTES website. The oral examination relates to Objective 1 in the German Extension Stage 6 Syllabus. It is designed to assess your knowledge and skill in using spoken German to present and support a point of view.

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

©BOSTES, German Extension Stage 6 Syllabus, updated July 2008

top of page 

Examination specifications

The oral examination is worth 10 marks.

You will choose one question from a choice of two questions. You are required to present a spoken monologue of approximately three minutes, related to the prescribed issues. The prescribed issues are listed above.

The questions will be written in both English and German, for a response in German.

The examination is approximately 10 minutes long, which includes 7 minutes' preparation time.

Ensure that you write your Centre Number and Student Number on the examination paper, as you will be required to hand it in at the conclusion of the oral examination.

During the preparation time, you may make brief notes in the spaces provided on the examination paper. You may refer to these notes during the examination but you must not read directly from them.

The use of dictionaries is not permitted during the oral examination.

top of page 

Criteria for judging performance

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

- present and support a point of view
- communicate in spoken German
- structure and sequence information, opinions and ideas within the time allocation
- demonstrate control of a range of language structures and vocabulary in German.

Responses which create a positive impression demonstrate a good understanding of the issues and present a sophisticated, coherent argument to support a point of view. These responses will:

- remain relevant to the question at all times
- reflect a depth of understanding of the issue/s involved
- be delivered with confidence, correct pronunciation and intonation, and a high level of grammatical accuracy.

A student who has well-developed speaking skills will:

- demonstrate a degree of authenticity, formulating ideas in German, rather than translating directly from English
- demonstrate breadth and sophistication in the use of vocabulary, expressions and sentence structures.

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/>

top of page ▲

Before the examination

It is important to familiarise yourself with the prescribed issues published by the BOSTES, listed above.

The oral examination is related to the prescribed issues and NOT directly to the prescribed texts. (Your knowledge of the prescribed texts will be assessed in the Written Examination, *Section I: Response to prescribed text*. It is therefore unnecessary to refer to incidents or characters from the prescribed text in the oral examination.)

The issues which have been set for study are broad and can be explored from a number of different perspectives (which are not prescribed), allowing you a degree of flexibility in the sub-topics you wish to pursue. While the prescribed issues are mandatory, the dot points listed in the German Extension Higher School Certificate 2014-2018 Course Prescriptions▶

document are not. They are suggestions only and are included to give a sense of the scope of the prescribed issues.

Reading widely in German on the issues will introduce you to a range of material and ideas and help you build a bank of appropriate vocabulary and expressions, which are likely to have application across a number of sub-topics.

Consider, for example, the issue *How we communicate with others*. You might read articles on:

- intergenerational dialogue
- language as a tool
- how young people communicate
- the impact of technology on communication
- the changing nature of communication.

In collecting a range of vocabulary and expressions, you might find examples which are common to a number of sub-topics and may be adapted and included in a range of responses.

The following are **examples** only:

- *Es gibt Menschen, die behaupten, dass...*
- *Kaum zu glauben, aber wahr!*
- *Vorurteile können zu ... führen*
- *Vorurteile gegenüber ... (+ dative)*
- *Wir sollten versuchen, Vorurteile abzubauen*
- *Zum Thema Ignoranz kann ich nur sagen, dass...*
- *In jeder Schulklasse gibt es einen oder mehrere so genannte Außenseiter*
- *Diese Menschen fühlen sich oft einsam und ausgeschlossen.*

When considering your response you should remember that it is not the particular viewpoint you take which is important, but rather your ability to build a relevant and well-balanced argument and to support it logically and coherently.

You should begin with an introduction and, after providing a well-supported argument, draw your monologue to a close with a logical conclusion. You should aim to address the topic in general terms and avoid an over-dependence on personal anecdotes or lists of items. If you provide an introduction, followed by three or four main ideas, developed with supporting evidence, and finally a conclusion, you should be able to speak for approximately three minutes, as specified by the syllabus.

Remember, it is important to support the point of view you present in your response. The following advice may be helpful:

- Read widely, keep your own bank of useful vocabulary and expressions, and practise regularly to develop your ideas
- Be familiar with a few expressions which help you link your arguments and give your monologue structure. These need not be long or complex, but will help your response to flow logically

- Learn a variety of ways of expressing an opinion and avoid obvious repetition of the same structures. Remember it is the quality of your argument which is the most important factor, and over-reliance on rote-learned phrases, which are not particularly relevant, should be avoided
- Practise monologues and record yourself at home so that you are used to giving your opinion. If possible, practise monologues with other students to assist in the development of ideas and viewpoints
- Expose yourself to as much German as possible. Access the various forms of media available which relate to the prescribed issues, bearing in mind that some of these resources may be aimed at background speakers of German. However, they may assist you in gathering information and opinions to support your point(s) of view. Some sources may include:
 - HSC Online
 - German magazines, e.g. *Juma*
 - Audio material and DVDs available from the *Goethe-Institut*
 - German news/current affairs websites.
- Other sources of a more general nature can provide further opportunities for you to hear spoken German. These include SBS radio and television in many areas of NSW.

Wide reading in German is recommended to establish the habit of thinking in German. Your teacher could possibly suggest some other resources available to you.

top of page ▲

During the examination

Remember to relax. If you take a moment to think and plan your approach, without rushing to provide a response, you will be able to adapt what you know to answer a range of questions.

You will have 7 minutes preparation time.

In deciding which question to answer, you should choose the question which allows you to use different arguments, vocabulary and structures.

You are allowed to make brief notes as memory prompts in the spaces provided on the examination paper. You may choose to do this in a variety of ways. For example:

- numbering the points in the order in which you will make them
- drawing up columns for different aspects of your argument
- using different coloured inks to indicate the “pros and cons”
- drawing a mind-map.

Remember that the examiners will have access to your notes, although these notes are not marked. You are not permitted to write out your monologue in whole sentences and then simply read this out. The brief notes you write are to be used as a guide or as a prompt only, to assist you in presenting your argument. When selecting a question, you should make sure you understand exactly what the question requires. Consider the following:

Es hat viele Vorteile, in einer multikulturellen Gesellschaft zu leben.

This question does not ask for a general discussion of the multicultural nature of Australian society. It asks you to present and support an opinion on the advantages (or disadvantages, should you choose to take the opposite point of view) of living in a multicultural society. The monologue questions are given in both German and English to avoid any possibility of misinterpretation. The relevance of your response is very important, and responses which are vague and do not target the question are easily identifiable.

When answering the question, you should begin with an introduction, followed by a well-supported and balanced argument. In expressing a point of view, you may decide to acknowledge the other side of the argument. (e.g. *Manche Leute meinen, dass...*) Although not mandatory, this approach may assist in keeping your argument well-balanced.

You should speak for approximately three minutes. After two minutes and thirty seconds the examiner will ring a warning bell. The examiner will ring a final bell at three minutes, at which time you must bring your response to a conclusion.

A relevant conclusion is important and will complete your response. Although it may be relatively brief, a good conclusion will tie together the threads of the argument and re-affirm your viewpoint. It might even end with a question, e.g. *Aber wer weiß, was die Zukunft bringt?* Note: A good conclusion will not simply re-state the question printed on the examination paper.

Other students may discuss their own responses with you after the examination. You should not be alarmed if they have taken a different approach in answering a question. The nature of the monologue question invites a variety of opinions and approaches. All justified interpretations, which are relevant to the question, are acceptable.