

GERMAN

<p>Paper 8683/02 Reading and Writing</p>
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Key message

In **Question 5**, candidates should be reminded to keep their summary brief and precise without going into too much detail in order not to exceed the word limit.

General comments

In this paper, candidates read two texts with a common theme (problems and possible solutions/alternatives to private car ownership). They then answered vocabulary questions for **Question 1** and grammar questions for **Question 2**. In **Questions 3** and **4**, candidates answered comprehension questions about the two texts. In **Question 5**, candidates were asked to summarise the two texts with reference to the problems and possible solutions/alternatives to private car ownership and then to briefly give their own opinion.

The majority of candidates coped well with the demands of this paper and showed a good understanding of the two texts as demonstrated by the answers to **Questions 3–5**. Some candidates wrote confidently using their own words but others restricted themselves to copying large chunks of the original text without attempting to rephrase ideas and opinions. This could not be credited. **Questions 1** and **2** also presented a challenge for candidates who did not have a sufficient command of vocabulary and grammar for this level.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

- (a) Most candidates coped well with this question.
- (b) The majority of candidates answered this question correctly.
- (c) Many candidates coped well with this question.
- (d) Most candidates coped well with this question.
- (e) Nearly all candidates answered this question correctly.

Question 2

- (a) Many candidates had problems with this question and were unable to rewrite the sentence using the correct word order.
- (b) Candidates coped well with this question.
- (c) This question was usually answered correctly and candidates used the verb *entwickeln* correctly.
- (d) A significant number of candidates struggled to use the correct case.
- (e) Many candidates did not know the correct dative for *das* and answered incorrectly.

Question 3

In **Questions 3** and **4**, to show clear evidence of understanding, it is expected that candidates will rephrase the text to express their answers in their own words.

- (a) This question was answered correctly by many candidates. Some candidates did not provide enough detail to gain full credit.
- (b) The majority of candidates answered this question correctly.
- (c) This question was answered correctly by some candidates. Some candidates mentioned the fact that at the moment, all traffic has to cross the city centre.
- (d) The majority of candidates gained full marks for this question. They provided an explanation for the term *Parkplatzsuchverkehr*, and then made reference to a possible solution.
- (e) This question was answered correctly by the majority of candidates. Most candidates scored at least 3 marks, giving the advantages of roundabouts over traffic lights.
- (f) The majority of candidates gained at least one mark for this question. They provided reasons why the people of Stuttgart prefer using the car. Some candidates did not make reference to the problems of having to wait for a long time when using public transport as the different means of transport are not well coordinated.

Question 4

- (a) This question was answered correctly by many candidates. Some candidates did not provide enough detail to gain full credit.
- (b) Many candidates scored at least two marks for this question, but some failed to mention the fact that cycling is considered completely normal and is uncomplicated in Copenhagen.
- (c) This question was answered correctly by many candidates.
- (d) Many candidates struggled with this question and misunderstood the information in the text. According to the text, the car is no longer at the centre of society and more and more young people do not feel the need to own a car.
- (e) Some candidates struggled with this question and did not refer to the relevant information in the text when attempting an answer.
- (f) Many candidates scored full marks here, but some candidates failed to give the third reason, namely that your mobile phone offers you a variety of possibilities with regards to mobility.

Question 5

Most candidates coped well with this task and were able to identify various problems and possible solutions/alternatives to private car ownership. Candidates should be reminded to adhere to the word limit as any points made after the 150-word cut-off will not be credited. The aim of this question is to produce a concise summary and candidates should be discouraged from rephrasing points from the text. Instead they should summarise points briefly and succinctly.

In **Question 5(b)**, the majority of candidates were able to give a well-founded opinion on the topic. Many candidates supported their opinion with valid reasons, often drawing on their own experience.

GERMAN

Paper 8683/03
Essay

Key messages

In order to perform well in this paper, candidates should:

- select the title which they feel most confident about;
- write a response that is clearly relevant, supported with examples, coherently structured and well informed;
- use German which is accurate and of a suitably advanced nature, as well as demonstrating a good use of idiom and appropriate topic-related vocabulary;
- use sentence patterns which show some evidence of complexity, in a style which is easy to follow.

General comments

Most candidates chose the titles on the topics of *Menschliche Beziehungen*, *Arbeit und Freizeit* and *Umweltverschmutzung*. Generally candidates were aware of the need to have an outline plan before starting to write and organise their ideas. However, some allowed themselves to be side-tracked from the title, often into a general discussion of advantages versus disadvantages and came to a conclusion that had very little relevance to the title. This happened with environmental essays where candidates seemed to feel it necessary to end their essay by proposing solutions to the problems. The strongest candidates presented their ideas in a coherent fashion and backed up their opinions with well-chosen evidence.

Many candidates produced essays demonstrating an impressive topic-specific vocabulary and ambitious structures. The language mostly read reasonably well, although spelling and handwriting were sometimes weaker areas. Some candidates wrote clearly and succinctly. Candidates of all abilities are advised to leave some time at the end of the examination to check for avoidable language errors: agreement of subject and verb, consistency of gender, word order, for example.

Common errors included:

- lack of punctuation;
- phonetic spelling;
- singular subjects with plural verbs and vice versa;
- genders and agreements;
- confusion between *man*, *Mann* and *das*, *dass*.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Manche Leute finden es leichter, eine Beziehung mit einem Haustier zu haben als mit einem anderen Menschen. Finden Sie das positiv?

This title was quite popular with candidates. Many seemed to be speaking from personal experience of owning pets which they found had a positive effect on their lives. Many wrote their essays exclusively about the relationship between dogs and humans, so they missed an opportunity to define pets and the motivation behind keeping other types of animal. Most explored the psychology, even superficially.

Question 2

Steuerbetrug ist kein richtiges Verbrechen und sollte nicht mit Gefängnis bestraft werden. Sehen Sie das auch so?

Few candidates chose this title but there were insightful, logically argued essays.

Question 3

Ist es besser, viel Freizeit und wenig Geld zu haben, als viel Geld zu verdienen, aber kaum Zeit zu haben, um es auszugeben? Begründen Sie Ihre Antwort.

This was the most popular title. Many candidates predictably gave no clear preference or they wanted to have a well-paid job which also gave them a great deal of free time. Mostly the arguments for and against were the obvious ones such as having adequate free time for the family and for one's own wellbeing, whilst acknowledging the need for money.

Question 4

Wenn jede Regierung von einer Frau geführt würde, wäre die Welt viel friedlicher. Was halten Sie von dieser Aussage?

No candidates chose this title.

Question 5

Die gefährlichste Art der Umweltverschmutzung für die Menschen ist die Verschmutzung der Luft. Teilen Sie diese Meinung?

Despite air pollution being high on the news agenda in recent times, some candidates did not seem to be well informed or did not have the vocabulary to describe it. However, this was not a great impediment because it was entirely relevant to describe different sorts of pollution and their effects and come to a conclusion. Some did not address the *für die Menschen* element of the question. Most candidates demonstrated a sound grasp of the topic specific vocabulary needed to tackle an essay on the environment.