



## AP<sup>®</sup> German Language 2002 Scoring Commentary

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## Composition

### Sample C06 - Score 9

The candidate shows outstanding control of German in virtually every aspect of the language: grammatical forms, syntax, idiomatic usage, and vocabulary. The reader sees few significant errors here and none that detract from the general impression of broad command and obvious fluency. A few examples will demonstrate that, while not perfect, the candidate's composition is clearly superior. "Obwohl ich das ganze Leben in einer Großstadt gewohnt habe, möchte ich doch lieber auf dem Land wohnen. Auf dem Land würde es bessere Luft, schönere Blicke, und auch mehr gesunde Sachen zu tun geben. . . . Ich meine, dass wenn ich Millionär wäre, würde ich nur den ganzen Tag solche Sport machen. . . . Es würde beim Abendessen immer gegrilltes Schweinefleisch geben, und beim Frühstück immer Schinken oder Eier statt Musli jeden Tag. . . . Aber wenn ich auf dem Land wohnen würde, würde ich natürlich etwas von der Stadt vermissen." The candidate clearly "demonstrates superiority" in command of German. The paper received a score of 9.

### Sample C21 - Score 5

This paper is basically competent though less impressive with structures or range in idiomatic usage and vocabulary. Examples: "Jeder Strasse ist hell und Spass" and "Es ist zu kaum für mich." Control of syntax is the paper's strong point: "Wenn ich genug Geld hätte, würde ich eine Motorrad kaufen." However, breakdown occurs in this area as well: "Für meine ganze Leben mit eine Mann und Kindern, wohnen wir in der Stadt" and "Ich glaube das meine Onkel zu Manhattan sollen kommen." Readers felt that the composition demonstrated acceptable rather than good use of German because they had "recurring questions about sustained control of the language." The paper received a score of 5.

### Sample C04 - Score 2

The composition starts quite well but the reader soon realizes that the candidate has simply manipulated the prompt. In the first paragraph the candidate manages a few comprehensible (sometimes even acceptable) sentences like: "In der Großstadt ich kann meiner freunden besuchen. Oder Ich kann ins Kino gehen." However, the sample goes rapidly downhill after that, soon straining the reader's ability to comprehend: "In meiner Freizeit ich will eine Park spielen oder speilt im einer Band." "Trotzdem der Großstadt oft haben viel aktivites. Als es hat viel Karnivals und Volkrung aktivites . . . . Der ist kein Zeit für der langsam Leute. In der Großstadt das Menschen macht schnell gehen. . . . Überwohl ich will der Großstadt mit es aktivites leben uber der Land jeden Tag." There may be some reason to think that this paper suggests a weak performance and that the candidate has "less than adequate language skills . . . with "the lack of occasional redeeming features" (a score of 3). However, in the final analysis it was decided that the paper is a demonstration of "incompetence in the language with little or no sense of syntax and few vocabulary resources." The paper received a score of 2.

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**Directed Response**

**Student Sample T-19 (High)**

**Question 1 – Score 4**

This meaningful response “Ich will ein T-Shirt bekommen von dir, weil ich...haben muss”, has a good range of vocabulary and structures. The attempt to clarify who was buying what for whom does not detract and earns the candidate a score of 4.

**Question 2 – Score 5**

The impressive range of vocabulary and structures, “meiner Meinung nach...Es ist der Mühe wert...”, suggest excellence. The candidate has less ease of expression but continues speaking well, so that the response is natural and meaningful. The candidate receives a 5.

**Question 3 – Score 5**

“Weil ich wusste, dass ich mit Bus fahren könnte.”, makes this a natural and meaningful response, suggesting excellence. The range of structures and vocabulary moves between good and impressive. The candidate receives a 5.

**Question 4 – Score 5**

The impressive first sentence, “Hätte ich..., würde ich...” is maintained, though the candidate’s complicated structures may well be correct. The range of vocabulary and ease of expression earn the candidate a 5.

**Question 5 – Score 5**

The apology makes this a natural and meaningful response, “Es tut mir leid...ich war krank geworden.” And the impressive structures, “Auch hat meine Mutter einen Autounfall gehabt.” earn the candidate a 5.

**Question 6 – Score 5**

The vocabulary is impressive, “Das schone Wetterperiode dauert an...war sehr schön für mich und meine Freunde.”, as are the structures. The candidate has a natural response, said with ease, and earns a 5.

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**Directed Response (cont'd.)**

**Student Sample T-21 (Mid)**

**Question 1 – Score 3**

An acceptable response, indicating the need for a birthday present, “. . . mein Muttis Geburtstag- und ich brauche eine Geschenk fuer sich. . .” The vocabulary and structures do not reach enough into the good range, and so the candidate receives a 3.

**Question 2 – Score 2**

An apology, “Tut mir leid, ich war . . . gehen ” . . . weil es mein Grossvaters Geburtstag war”, with the reason for it, indicates a sample not readily comprehensible as a response. The lack of control of the basic structures keeps the candidate in the weak range and the response receives a 2.

**Question 3 – Score 3**

An adequate response, which has a lesser range of vocabulary and complicated structures. “. . . und sagt, ich kann nicht in dein, in ihre Auto gehen. ” gives the reason for coming with the bus. Some strain and stumbling occur. The candidate receives a 3.

**Question 4 – Score 3**

“Was wuerdest du. . . machen” is denied as a possibility with, “Das ist nicht mein Problem. Ich immer hatte Geld mit mich . . .,” making this an adequate response. The use of immer, “Es ist gut, dass er Geld hat immer” further allows this response to stay in the acceptable range. The strain and lesser range of vocabulary and structures earn the candidate a 3.

**Question 5 – Score 3**

The apology and reason for the absence make this an acceptable response. The vocabulary moves into the good range, “. . . war sehr krank. . . Bauchweh. . . Kopfweh.”, but the lesser range of complex structures earn the response a 3.

**Question 6 – Score 3**

“Ah, das Picknick war. . . nett.” is an attempt to respond to “Erzähl mal.”, along with “Ich esse sehr viel und ich bringe Cola. . .”, enough to make this an acceptable response. The comment about the food having been good, “. . . das war sehr gut.”, keeps it in the adequate range. The lesser range of vocabulary and structures earn the candidate a 3.

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**Directed Response (cont'd.)**

**Student Sample T-12 (Low)**

**Question 1 – Score 2**

The response is a refusal to come along, “Nein, danke, ich kann nicht gehen.”. The rest of the language sample indicates why, “Ich muss mein Hausaufgabe fertig machen.”, which clearly makes this not readily comprehensible as a response. The candidate receives a 2.

**Question 2 – Score 2**

By responding to what had been done, “Gestern bin ich ins Kino gegangen..., wir haben...gesehen, ...war sehr gut.” and not what is planned for tonight, the candidate has failed to communicate and receives a 2.

**Question 3 – Score 3**

This is a meaningful response, “Heute mein Freund ist krank..., sie muss zum Arzt gehen,... meine Mutter kann mich nicht fahren.”, which includes more complex structures yet lesser range of vocabulary. The strain and stumbling kept this response in the 3, albeit a high 3.

**Question 4 – Score 3**

The language control is in the acceptable range, “Hoffentlich würde ich mit meine Freunde, weil meine Freunde die Geld haben.”, which makes the response adequate. The strain and stumbling and the lesser range of vocabulary earn the candidate a 3.

**Question 5 – Score 3**

Q5. “Leider, ich war sehr krank” gives the reason why the celebration was not attended. Considerable strain and stumbling is evident but the lesser range of vocabulary keep this sample in the 3 range.

**Question 6 – Score 2**

This response to “Wie war ...euer Picknick? Erzähl mal.”, is not a clear communication; “Ja, ich weiss nicht über dein Picknick...ich war ins Stadt gehen...” The rest of the sample is also not readily comprehensible as a response and so the candidate receives a 2.