

AM SYLLABUS (2015)

GERMAN

AM 14

SYLLABUS

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German AM14

Paper I (2 hours) + Paper II (2½ hours) + Paper III (3 hours) + Paper IV (10-15mins) ORAL

AIMS

The aims of the syllabus are as follows:

- 1) To help candidates acquire:
 - a) The ability to understand spoken German;
 - b) The ability to read and understand written German;
 - c) The ability to write the language with accuracy;
 - d) The ability to speak and converse in German with fluency;
- 2) To make the candidates aware of the cultural interests and the geographic and sociopolitical background of the countries where German is spoken;
- 3) To instil in candidates an interest for the language and the culture of the German- speaking countries.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The examination will test the candidates' ability to:

- 1) Understand language spoken at normal speed drawn from a variety of authentic contexts;
- 2) Understand authentic texts from a range of registers and on a variety of subjects;
- 3) Communicate effectively in the spoken and written language to exchange information, ideas and opinions on set topics;
- 4) Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of aspects of civilisation and culture of countries where German is spoken.

SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT

The examination shall consist of four papers carrying a total of **300 points**. The total duration of the written parts of the examination is 7 ½ hours. The oral part takes 10-15 minutes for each candidate. All questions are set in German and candidates have to answer in German. No type of book, text book or dictionary is allowed in any examination room.

PAPER I - Composition (2 hours) (total 100 points)

Part I: Essay - 60 points

Candidates will be required to write an essay of **250 to 300 words**. Six titles will be set accordingly: 2 of a descriptive type, 2 of a narrative type and 2 of an argumentative type.

Part II: Communicative writing - 40 points

Candidates will be required to write **150 to 200 words** in the form of a formal/semi formal letter, e-mail, report and article. A choice of **2** out of these **4** types of communicative exercises is to be given in the examination paper.

PAPER II - Comprehension (2 hours 30 minutes) (total 100 points)

Part I: Listening Comprehension - (45 minutes) - 25 points

Candidates will be required to answer **17** questions on texts of contemporary German. There will be **two** texts of not more than hundred words each. Items for the first text would have the multiple choice and true/false question format. In the second text, questions should be of the open-ended type. **10** questions of 1 mark each should be of the True/False format and another **3** questions of 1 mark each should be of the multiple choice format. **4** questions about text 2 should be of an open ended type and should carry **3** marks each.

Each text will be read out in this procedure:

- i. Examiner to read the text at a normal speed and candidates listen;
- ii. Candidates will be allowed 1 minute to read the questions;
- iii. Subsequently the examiner will read again the text at a normal speed;
- iv. Candidates will be allowed 5 minutes to answer the questions.

Part II: Reading Comprehension - (1 hour 45 minutes) - 75 points

A text of **400 – 500 words** will be set. Various kinds of tasks will be set and these will be divided into four different sections:

Section A: Vocabulary and Understanding (15 points)

In this section the following types of exercises may be set:

- replacing words or expressions without changing their meaning;
- replacing given words by opposites.

Section B: Questions on the Text (20 points)

Candidates are to answer a number of questions on the text. The questions are to be answered in complete sentences. An exercise will be set stating whether a statement is true or false.

Section C: Structures (20 points)

In this section the following type of exercises may be set:

- rendering direct speech into indirect speech and vice-versa;
- completing sentences using words given in brackets in 'raw' form;
- changing phrases into clauses and vice-versa.

Section D: Precis (20 points)

In this section the candidates are asked to give the gist of the set passage in their own words in one paragraph of 60-80 words.

PAPER III - Landeskunde and Literature (3 hours) (total 70 points)

Candidates are required to answer 5 questions on *Landeskunde* and 2 questions on *Literature*.

Landeskunde:

Questions **1- 5** on *Landeskunde* with reference to the cultural themes listed (vide list) carrying **8 points each (8 points × 5)**.

The objective of this part of the examination is to test the candidate's ability to show knowledge of aspects of civilization and culture of the German speaking countries. **Themes indicated further down in the list are to be taken from the reference books hereunder indicated:**

Reference books:

- Laviat, K. (1999): "Globetrotter" La Spiga: Mailand. [ISBN 88-468-1106-2]
Matecki, U. (2000): "Dreimal Deutsch" Klett: Stuttgart. [ISBN 3-12-675235-7]
Esteri, U. & Hassler, W. (2003): "Ohne Grenzen" La Spiga: Mailand [ISBN 88-468-2060-6]
Lutscher, R (2008) Landeskunde Deutschland. Von der Wende bis heute. Aktualisierte Fassung
Verlag fuer Deutsch

The candidates will be required to answer 5 questions relating to the following five themes:

Theme 1: In Germany

Candidates are expected to be able to :

- Name countries in Europe where German is the mother language and know in which other areas in Europe German is spoken (deutschsprachige Gebiete und Minderheiten);
- Show knowledge of the status of German as a language (Handelssprache) in Europe;
- Know that different dialects exist: (Bayerisch, Hessisch, Fränkisch, Schwyzerdütsch, Schwäbisch, Alemannisch, Sächsisch, Tirolerisch);
- Show basic knowledge of the new Spelling reform and when it came into effect;
- Name the most important geographical features of Germany (federal states, capitals, towns and cities, rivers (Donau, Main), mountains, forests (Bayerischer Wald) and bordering countries;
- Nationalfeiertag und Flagge.
- Berlin und Umgebung
(Alexanderplatz und der Fernsehturm, *Unter den Linden*, das Brandenburger Tor, die Mauer, Reichstag, Checkpoint Charlie, Museums Insel, *der Ku`Damm*, die Gedächtniskirche.
Berlins multikulturelles Leben – Die *Love Parade*
Potsdam, der Wannsee

Feasts and traditions in Germany

- Advent and Christmas in Germany (Weihnachtsmärkte, typical celebrations and traditions: *der Heilige Abend*, *Heilige drei Könige*, food, presents, Tannenbaum, *Stille Nacht*), Silvester;
- Carnival in different regions, (in Köln and Düsseldorf [rheinische Fastnacht] and Freiburg [alemannische Fastnacht]), Rosenmontag, Weiberfastnacht, Faschingsdienstag, Aschermittwoch, Oktoberfest;

Theme 2: Modern History of Germany

Candidates are expected to be able to have a general knowledge of the following:

- How the NS-state originated (Wirtschaftskrise, Hindenburg, NSDAP);
- Know the meaning of Antisemitismus and Nationalsozialismus and the effect they had on Europe leading to the 2nd World War (beginning and end and its effects);
- Post-war Germany (Occupation, division, currency reform - Deutsche Mark, Berlin Blockade, DDR / BRD, Berliner Mauer);
- Wirtschaftswunder;
- The German Democratic Republic: DDR (Arbeiter- und Bauernstaat, das Kollektiv, Kommunismus);
- The Student revolts of 1967-1969 and their effect on German society (Ostpolitik and Willy Brandt);
- The term WENDE, the fall of the Berlin Wall, birth of a unified Germany, Tag der deutschen Einheit.

Theme 3: Austria and Switzerland

- In Austria
Wien, Stephansdom, Prater, Schloss Schönbrunn, Franz Sacher and the Sacher Torte, Wiener Schnitzel, die Hofburg, Opernball, Vienna Boys Choir, Heuriger, Donau-Insel und die Donauinselfest.
- In Switzerland
Fürstensitz Vaduz, Schloss Vaduz, Steuerparadies, das Rote Kreuz, das Landeskennezeichen CH: Swiss products: die Uhrenindustrie, Swiss food products: Chocolate and cheese, das Bankensystem, die Rütliwiese, die Lawinenhunde, Zollunion, das Prinzip der bewaffneten Neutralität, Sitz internationaler Organisationen e.g. UNO-Sitz, das Wahlrecht für Frauen, die Alpen

Theme 4: Germany Today

Candidates are expected to have some general knowledge of present day life and problems:

- Youth problems : Ausbildung (Kindergarten up to 18 years of age), Arbeitslosigkeit,
- Ausländer in Deutschland (Gastarbeiter) Zuwanderer, Integration
- Media main DACH broadcasters; radio and TV channels and types. E.G.: Deutsche Welle, ARD, ZDF; das dritte Programm (Regional), 3Sat, RTL, SAT1 (private) ORF.
Print : Publishers (Bertelsmann) the Frankfurt international bookfair
Press: know names of well known types of newspapers and magazines (e.g. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung *FAZ*, *Die Zeit*, *Der Spiegel*, *Bild*, *Bravo*, *Freundin*. Dpa

Theme 5: German Speaking Personalities.

- show knowledge of the following famous German speaking personalities, characters or others having connections with Germany, and what they are well known for:

Johann W. von Goethe, Friedrich Schiller, Gutenberg, Martin Luther, Anne Frank, die Geschwister Scholl, Otto von Bismarck, Wilhelm Tell, Wolfgang A.Mozart, Albert Einstein, Friedrich Dürrenmatt, Gustav Klimt, Johanna Spyri (Heidi), Sigmund Freud, Bertholt Brecht.

Literature:

Question 6 and 7 carry **15 points each** (30 points in all)

Candidates are to choose and study one text from the list below. Then candidates would be required to answer **TWO** questions from two set questions on each text between 150 to 170 words. Questions relating to the texts themselves can be asked, including interpretation and characterization.

The following are the literary texts to be studied for the Literature section. :

- Erich Kästner: *Drei Männer im Schnee*.
- Karin König: *Ich fühl mich so fifty-fifty*. (DTV. ISBN 3-423780220-7)
- Alex Capus: *Fast ein bißchen Frühling* (DTV. ISBN 3-42313167-5)
- Susanne Wittpennig : *Maya und Domenico* (Taschenbuch. ISBN 3-7655-3797-4)

PAPER IV - ORAL Examination (10-15 minutes per candidate)

The ORAL PART - 30 points

The oral part of the examination will be preceded by a 15 minute preparation time and will be carried out as follows:

Part I (2 minutes) (4 points)

Each candidate will be allowed three minutes to introduce himself/herself solely with regard to his/her experiences with the German language and culture.

Part II (3 minutes) (13 points)

The candidate will be taking part in a free conversation on a title chosen from a set list of three. All set titles should relate to experiences and events normally encountered in ordinary everyday life. (vide list of generic titles):

- School and Career
- Relationships
- Health, wellness and sports
- Culture (music, literature and entertainment)
- The environment

Part III (10 minutes) (13 Points)

The candidate will have to prove a proper understanding of a written text not exceeding 200 words by summarising the main issues raised in the text, discussing any other issues arising from it and expressing an **OWN** opinion or viewpoint arising therefrom.

During the preparation time each candidate will be provided with paper and writing material, which s/he will be allowed to take with him/her to the examination room. Both examination paper and the preparation material must be handed to the examiner at the end of the session.