

Syllabus to complement B2 certificate

Landeskunde and Literature (2 hours) (total 100 marks)

The examination consists of one paper carrying a total of 100 marks. The total duration of the examination is 2 hours. All questions are set in German and candidates have to answer in German. Candidates are required to answer **four** questions on *Landeskunde* and **two** questions on Literature. No type of book, text book or dictionary is allowed in the examination room.

Part I: *Landeskunde*:

For this section candidates should have a general knowledge of the geographical features of Germany, its history as well as typical lifestyles, customs and traditions as further outlined below.

Candidates will be required to answer four questions related to the four cultural themes listed below. A choice of two questions on each section is given and candidates have to answer **ONE** question from each section. Each question carries 12 marks. (12 marks x 4).

Candidates are expected to write 60-75 words.

The four categories are:

1. Deutschland: Sprache, Land und Leute (Germany: the country, the language, the people)
2. Moderne Geschichte (1918-1990) (Modern History of Germany)
3. Deutschland Aktuell (Germany Today)
4. Persönlichkeiten der deutschen Sprache und Literatur (German language and literary personalities)

These categories are further categorised into sub-sections, as indicated here:

Thema 1: Deutschland: Sprache, Land und Leute

When answering one of two questions set on this theme, candidates are expected to be able to write 60-75 words about:

- The fact that German is spoken as first language in the 'D-A-Ch-Li' countries and as a minority language in other regions of Europe (*deutschsprachige Gebiete*) like Luxembourg, Belgium, France (*Elsass*), Italy (*Südtirol*), Czech Republic and Poland.

- The status of the German language vis-a vis other world languages and its importance as a trade language (*Handelssprache*) in Europe; i.e. German, in contrast e.g. to Mandarin Chinese and English, is not a world language but it is still a significant trade language in Europe.
- The fact that different dialects are spoken in Germany and the main regions in which they are spoken;
- Traditional food and drink in Germany;
- The most important geographical features of Germany namely geographical position and the nine neighbouring countries; area, population, main rivers, islands, mountains, forests and shipping canals, the different types of landscapes, the names of the sixteen *Bundesländer* and their capital cities
- The general climate;
- National flag, day and anthem;
- German traditions associated with main feasts such as Advent, Christmas, Easter and carnival.

Thema 2: Moderne Geschichte (1918-1990)

When answering one of two questions set on this theme, candidates are expected to be able to write 60-75 words about:

- The Third Reich: The rise of National Socialism in the context of the aftermath of the First World War and the significant economic and political crises which contributed to the rise of the NSDAP and its democratic election; the National Socialist ideology, anti-Semitism and the Holocaust; the end of the 'Third Reich'
- The causes and major events of the Second World War, the Allied victory
- Post-war Germany: the division of Germany, the establishment of the two states, DDR and BRD, the building of the Berlin Wall and its consequences
- The reunification of Germany

Thema 3: Deutschland Aktuell

When answering one of two questions set on any one of the following sub-sections of this theme, candidates are expected to be able to write 60-75 words about:

- The success of German teams and athletes in important sports events namely in football, Formula 1 and tennis.
- Germany's main industry and trade such as products made in Germany and exported worldwide.
- The German educational system – from kindergarten till the age of 18. Candidates should be able to distinguish between the different types of schools.
- The German educational system after the age of 18, i.e. tertiary education, vocational training, job training (e.g: Universität, Fachhochschule, Ausbildung, Praktikum).

Thema 4: Persönlichkeiten der deutschen Sprache und Literatur

When answering one of two questions set on this theme, candidates are expected to be able to write 60-75 words about the contribution of the following personalities towards the development of German language and/or their contribution to German-language literature:

- **Martin Luther** as initiator of the reformation movement in Germany and his first translation of the bible into a German language which could be read and understood by everybody, irrespective of educational background.
- The two most important representatives of classical German literature, **Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Friedrich Schiller**; mention some of their most important works, such as 'Faust 1 and 2', and 'Die Leiden des jungen Werther's' 'Die Räuber', 'Kabale und Liebe', 'Wilhelm Tell'.
- The **brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm**: their famous collection of German fairy tales, 'Kinder- und Hausmärchen'; their valid contribution towards the development of the German language as academics, philologists, cultural researchers and lexicographers
- **ONE** of the following **authors of 20th Century German-language literature**: Thomas Mann, Heinrich Mann, Alfred Döblin, Franz Kafka, Vicki Baum, Irmgard Keun, Bertolt Brecht, Anna Seghers, Heinrich Böll, Christa Wolf.

Marking criteria

A total of 12 marks shall be allocated for content, coherence, language use and for correctness. Maximum points shall be awarded if the candidate demonstrates a well-planned and structured, clear and logical exposition of the essential information pertinent to the question. Marks shall be deducted for the omission of significant points or for gross errors or incorrect information. Marks shall only be deducted for mistakes of grammar and/or orthography if these hinder the understanding and coherence of the written text. The marks shall be allocated as follows:

Comprehension of task at hand/ pertinence of facts presented	6
Coherence: clear and logical text	3
Grammatical and orthographical correctness	3

Part II: Literature (52 marks):

The two questions carry 26 marks each (52 marks in all)

The literature section aims at testing candidates' knowledge of ONE selected text chosen from a set of three. Candidates are required to answer TWO questions set on this text in not less than 150 words. The questions asked shall be related to the text itself and may include interpretation of the story and characterisation of the main protagonists.

The following are the literary texts set for this section; questions will be set on each of them so candidates only need to prepare ONE of them:

- Susanne Wittpennig: Maya und Domenico (Book 1)
- Uwe Timm: Die Entdeckung der Currywurst
- Wolfgang Herrndorf: Tschick

Marking criteria

For this section, candidates can obtain a maximum of 26 points per question. Marks for grammatical and spelling mistakes will only be deducted if they impede the understanding.

The marks shall be allocated as follows:

Comprehension of task at hand & pertinence of points presented	12
Coherence: organisation of text/ logical sequence	6
Language Use (vocabulary and expression)	4
Grammatical and orthographical correctness	4