

IM SYLLABUS (2014)

GERMAN

IM 14

SYLLABUS

**German IM 14
Syllabus**

(Available in September)
Written Paper (2 hours 30 minutes)
Oral (20 minutes) Listening Comprehension (30 minutes)

AIMS

The aims of the course leading to German Intermediate are:

- 1) To offer candidates who have successfully completed the SEC syllabus the opportunity of studying German at a higher level.
- 2) To help candidates acquire a higher level than SEC in the following receptive and productive language skills:
 - (a) The ability to understand the spoken language.
 - (b) The ability to read and understand the written language,
 - (c) The ability to write the language,
 - (d) The ability to speak and converse in the language;
- 3) To make the candidates aware of relevant aspects of the culture and civilization of the Germany, with a focus on modern practical topics, which are essential for an understanding of the countries and their people.

The syllabus assumes knowledge of the subject at SEC LEVEL. It is recommended that candidates following this syllabus should have obtained at least a Grade 5.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The examination will test the candidate's ability to:

- 1) Take part in a conversation about a general subject, thereby communicating effectively in standard spoken German;
- 2) Express himself / herself effectively in written German to convey information, ideas and opinions about a topic, which may be of the narrative, descriptive and argumentative nature;
- 3) Show the understanding of a non-literary authentic text written in standard German and react to it appropriately in writing;
- 4) Demonstrate basic knowledge of modern practical aspects of the civilisation and culture of Germany.
- 5) Demonstrate appropriate listening skills to prove understanding of modern German.

SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT

The German examination at Intermediate Level will consist of:

- A) An **ORAL PART** of 20 minutes' duration which will carry 20% of the global mark,
- B) A **LISTENING COMPREHENSION** of 30 minutes' duration which shall carry 15% of the global mark.
- C) A **WRITTEN PAPER** of 2 hours 30 minutes duration, which will carry **65 %** of the global mark.

All questions and answers will be in German.

No type of book, text book or dictionary is allowed in any examination room.

A) The ORAL PART - 20 points

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

Part 1 (3 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 11 (7 minutes) (8 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 111 (10 minutes) (8 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 the paper and the preparation material must be handed to the examiner at the end of the session.

B) LISTENING COMPREHENSION – 15 points

Candidates will be required to answer **13** 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. **6** 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 1½ mark 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.

(Listening Comprehensions are to be held on during another session and not as part of the written paper.)

C) The WRITTEN PART - total of 65 points

The written part of the examination consists of one paper. This includes:

- **Free composition** (200 words) – 15 points

Candidates will be able to choose from **3 titles** in the free composition task. These titles will be either of an argumentative, descriptive or a narrative nature, that is, 1 argumentative, 1 descriptive and 1 narrative.

- **Formal / Semi-formal letter** (100 words) – 15 points

Candidates are to be prepared in formal and semi formal letter writing. There will be only 1 question testing 1 format. No choice will be given.

(ii) Reading comprehension – 25 points

The comprehension will consist of a passage of modern, everyday German of about **275 to 350** words. Understanding will be assessed via a set of open-ended questions and another set of true/false answers. These questions will be intended mainly to examine the candidate's ability to understand the contents of the passage and to react to them in writing. Additionally a paragraph from the comprehension text will be reserved as a cloze-text exercise assessing grammatical knowledge through an integrative, multiple-choice test, and an open-ended exercise approach. The reading-comprehension would therefore contain:

- one question and answer exercise carrying 10 points;
- one true/false exercise carrying 5 points;
- one grammatical exercise carrying 10 points

(iii) Landeskunde – 10 points

The 10 points allocated to this Landeskunde section should be awarded in the following manner: **5 questions of 1 point** each shall have the format of a multiple choice exercise. Another **5 questions of 1 point** each shall require a short answer by the candidates. **Topics 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

Section : General Information

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: (Bayrisch, Hessisch, Fränkisch, Schwyzerdütsch, Fränkisch, 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 (states, capitals, towns and cities, rivers (Donau, Main), mountains, forests (Bayrischer Wald) and bordering countries;
- 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.

- Nationalfeiertag und Flagge.

Section : History

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.

Section : Feasts and traditions in Germany

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

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

Section: Present Day

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

Section: Places of interest

Candidates are expected to show general knowledge of the following well known places of interest , activities, products, curiosities and specialities:

- Berlin und Umgebung (**Alexanderplatz und das Fernsehturm**, **Unter den Linden**, das **Brandenburger Tor**, **die Mauer**, **Reichstag**, Checkpoint Charlie, **Museumsinsel**, **der Ku`Damm**, **die Gedächtniskirche**.)
- Potsdam.