



# Practice Papers for GCSE AQA German

## Writing: Foundation

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# Teacher's Introduction

## Purpose and structure:

These AQA GCSE German Practice Papers (Paper 4, Foundation) are designed to help students prepare for the writing section of the examination. This resource contains three fully original complete practice papers for AQA Paper 4: Writing.

The papers mirror the AQA exam style, including the 2024 grammar and vocabulary requirements, and cover all three AQA themes:

1. People and lifestyle
2. Popular culture
3. Communication and the world around us

### Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

Every question type on the AQA writing exam, including the translation question, appears in this set of three practice papers. These question types have been taken from the sample assessment materials prior to the first set of exams in order to fully prepare your students with unseen questions.

Sample answers are provided, alongside marking notes for teachers. Full marking grids can be found on the AQA website.

## How to use this resource:

We recommend setting each paper under exam conditions to give students an idea of what level they are working at. Go over the answers in class to identify strengths and weaknesses and to practise strategies, such as:

- reading the questions carefully to ensure students answer every aspect they ask for;
- applying a mixture of grammatical knowledge of the target language to convey key information through writing exercises.

Students should be encouraged to note down any unfamiliar vocabulary or topics from the questions to prepare for the new exams. The same paper could be used again after a couple of months, when students should aim to get 100%.

The papers can also be used in mock exams or for independent preparation.

Although not in exam layout, non-write-on versions of the practice papers have been included in the resource in order to minimise photocopying and reduce costs. Additionally, questions 5.1 and 5.2 have been combined onto one page, again to avoid wasteful photocopying.

*October 2025*

# Structure of the Paper and Mark Scheme

## 1. The photo description (10 marks)

Students write five sentences in German. This task is marked for AO2 only (understanding and responding to written language in speaking and in writing). For each sentence, students can score 2 marks, the message is clearly communicated; for 1 mark, the message contains immediately comprehensible; and for 0 marks, there is no understandable communication.

### Marking guidance

- Mark each sentence separately.
- Sentences must be about what is in the photo (they cannot refer to what is not in the photo).
- Sentences must be 'possibly' true (e.g. colour can be guessed, as photo is in black and white).
- Numbers can be written as a figure (e.g. 4) or as a word (e.g. four).
- For each tick the sentence must contain an appropriate conjugated verb.
- Verbs and structures can be repeated (e.g. es gibt + different nouns).
- First- or second-person verb forms are accepted.

## 2. The 50-word task (10 marks)

This task has five compulsory bullet points to write about and is descriptive/narrative. It is marked for AO2 (understanding and responding to written language in speaking and in writing) and AO3 (demonstrating understanding and accurate application of the grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification). To score in the top band for AO2, students need to address all five bullet points clearly. To score in the top band for AO3, students must use varied vocabulary and grammar. For AO2, minor errors are tolerated, students should not make any major errors.

### Marking guidance

- You must mark ALL words (word count is approximate).
- All bullet points must be covered (coverage does not have to be equal).
- All aspects of the grade descriptors must be considered (not just the bullet points).
- Information must be relevant and clear.
- There is no tense requirement, but students may choose to use tenses.
- 0 for AO2 = 0 for AO3, but apart from that, the mark for AO2 does not limit AO3.
- Major errors affect communication, minor errors do not.
- Variety = different tenses, pronouns, nouns, verbs.
- Look for variety in language NOT complexity.

## 3. The grammar task (5 marks)

Students complete five short sentences with a missing word. They are given three choices for each sentence. It is marked for AO3 only (demonstrating understanding and accurate application of the grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification). The words written by students must be accurate, and accents (if required) must be included to score 1 mark. The task will cover adjectives and past participles as appropriate to FT grammar list.

## 4. The translation task (10 marks)

Students translate a few sentences (approximately 35 words) into German. The task is marked for AO3 only (demonstrating understanding and accurate application of the grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification). The task is marked as a translation of the original meaning, and knowledge of vocabulary and grammar. For each sentence, students can apply up to 15 ticks to elements which are accurately translated. For a student to be in the 'original meaning' category, a minimum of 13 ticks is required. To score in the top band for 'original meaning', students must have very good knowledge of the vocabulary and grammar. For AO3, minor errors are tolerated, and omissions are tolerated.

## 5. The 90-word task (15 marks)

Students choose between two questions which will be on two different themes. They will be expected to write in three time frames (past, present, future) and students will be expected to write in three time frames (past, present, future) (questions for the Higher paper). It is marked based on two criteria: AO2 (understanding and responding to written language in speaking and in writing) and AO3 (demonstrating understanding and accurate application of the grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification). To score in the top band for AO2, students need to address all three bullet points, communicate clearly, and regularly develop their communication. To score in the top band for AO3, students must use a good range of vocabulary and grammar. Also regularly try to use complex language and structures and successfully use past, present, and future frames. There may be minor errors and a few major errors in complex structures.

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# Self- and Peer-assessment Grid

Use the grids below to self- or peer-assess your written responses. Please note that

## 1. Photo description task:

Have you...	What the mark scheme says	What it means
	communicated relevant information?	write only about what is in the photo
	communicated the information clearly?	keep it simple so everyone can understand it
	used complete sentences or clauses (with a verb)?	include a subject and a verb in every sentence

## 2. 50-word task:

Have you...	What the mark scheme says	What it means
	addressed all five BP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>write at least one sentence for each BP</li> <li>what you have written must be relevant to the BP</li> </ul>
	written clearly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>write in a way that is easy to read</li> <li>use only language you know</li> <li>if you translate it back into English, it should be understandable</li> </ul>
	used a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>check that you are not repeating words</li> <li>you can replace 'ich mag' with 'ich mag ... + adjective', etc.</li> <li>use connectives ('und', 'aber', 'weil', etc.)</li> <li>use 'sehr', 'ganz', 'total', etc.)</li> <li>check your present tense verb forms</li> <li>to use other tenses in this task</li> </ul>
	checked that if you have made errors, they are only minor?	<p>When you have finished, proofread your text for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spelling, capital letters for names and places</li> <li>articles (der, die, das / ein, eine)</li> <li>cases (dative after zu, mit, etc.)</li> <li>adjective endings</li> <li>word order (verb as second element in a sentence)</li> </ul>

## 3. Grammar task:

Not suitable for self-assessment. Check the mark scheme for correct answers

## 4. Translation task:

For the 'rendering of the original meaning' criterion, check the mark scheme for the correct translation which is correctly translated.

Then convert those ticks as follows:

13–15 ticks = 5 marks

10–12 ticks = 4 marks

7–9 ticks = 3 marks

4–6 ticks = 2 marks

1–3 ticks = 1 mark

0 ticks = 0 marks

For the 'knowledge of vocabulary and grammar' criterion, you can check your

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Have you...	What the mark scheme says	What it means for you
	shown very good knowledge of vocabulary?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>translate all or nearly all the words in the sentences accurately</li> </ul>
	translated the message appropriately?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>do not leave any gaps</li> <li>if you translate the message back into English it make sense?</li> </ul>
	used highly accurate grammar?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>check your verbs (present and perfect tense)</li> </ul>
	checked that if you have made errors, they are only minor?	<p>When you have finished, proofread your work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spelling, capital letters for nouns</li> <li>articles (der, die, das / ein, eine, etc.)</li> <li>cases (dative after zu, mit, etc.)</li> <li>adjective endings</li> <li>word order (verb position, time-manner)</li> </ul>

## 5. 90-word task:

Have you...	What the mark scheme says	What it means for you
	addressed all three bullet points with relevant information?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>write at least one sentence per BP</li> <li>what you write must be relevant to the BP</li> <li>use the correct time frame for BP2 and BP3</li> </ul>
	communicated clearly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>write in a way that is easy to understand</li> <li>if you translate it back into English, does it make sense?</li> </ul>
	regularly developed your ideas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>give at least three or four ideas per BP</li> </ul>
	used a good variety of vocabulary?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>avoid repetitions (use each word once only)</li> <li>include different subject pronouns and object pronouns, negatives, etc.</li> </ul>
	regularly tried to use complex structures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use a range of time phrases ('letztes Wochenende', 'nächsten Monat', etc.)</li> <li>use connectives ('und', 'aber', 'also', etc.), ('sehr', 'ganz', 'total', 'ziemlich', etc.) and ('dann', 'zuerst', 'danach', etc.)</li> <li>you could use relative clauses using 'der', 'die', 'das' and subordinate clause using 'dass'</li> <li>use modal verbs</li> </ul>
	used present, past and future time frames mainly successfully?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are your present, past and future verbs correct?</li> <li>are they in the right paragraph, with the right time phrase? (remember, 'letzten/letzte/letztes' = past, 'nächsten/nächste/nächstes' = future)</li> </ul>
	checked that if you have made errors, they are mainly minor (though some major ones may have occurred in complex structures)?	<p>When you have finished, proofread your work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spelling, capital letters for nouns</li> <li>articles (der, die, das / ein, eine, etc.)</li> <li>cases (dative after zu, mit, etc.)</li> <li>adjective endings</li> </ul>

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# ZigZag Practice Exam

## Supporting GCSE AQA German: 2024

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Write-on paper

German  
Writing



### Foundation Tier Practice Paper 3

Name

**Time allowed:** 1 hour 10 minutes

The maximum mark for this paper is **50**.

#### Information:

- Answer all questions in the spaces provided.
- In **Section A**, you should answer all the questions.
- In **Section B** you should answer **either question 5.1 or question 5.2**. Do not answer both questions.
- Answer questions in German.
- You must not use a dictionary.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets.
- You can write your first draft in the answer book. Clearly cross out everything that should not be marked as part of your answer.

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## Section A

1. You see this photo on Instagram.



What is in the photo?

Write **five** sentences in **German**.

1.1



1.2

1.3

1.4

1.5



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2. Your Swiss friend is coming to a festival with you. Write a short description of

Your answer must be in **German** and should be approximately **50 words**.

You must write at least one thing about each bullet point.

Mention:

- when the festival is
- the location
- the food
- the cost
- the activities



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3. Complete the following sentences in **German** using your grammar knowledge.

Choose the correct **German** word from the three options given. The correct word goes in the space. Use the example to help you.

**Example**

Ich .....gehe .... in die Stadt.

gehe	gehen	ge
------	-------	----

3.1 ..... Dorf ist in den Bergen.

Die	Das	Der
-----	-----	-----

3.2 Sie ..... lange Haare.

ist	hat	hast
-----	-----	------

3.3 Ich trage eine ..... Hose.

blaue	blau	blauen
-------	------	--------

3.4 Ich verstehe ..... mit meinem Vater.

mir	sich	mich
-----	------	------

3.5 ..... das Wetter warm.

war	waren	ist
-----	-------	-----

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4. Translate the following sentences **into German**.

New Year's Eve is my favourite celebration.

.....

.....

The journey to Greece takes three hours.

.....

.....

Last weekend I went to a concert.

.....

.....

I am not allowed to smoke because it is unhealthy.

.....

.....

I would like more freedom in the future.

.....

.....

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## Section B

Answer **either** Question 5.1 **or** Question 5.2.  
Only answer **one** of these questions.

### EITHER

- 5.1** Your Swiss friend has asked you about your healthy lifestyle. Write a response.

Write your answer in German. It should be approximately 90 words.

You must write at least one detail for each bullet point.

Describe:

- how you keep fit
- something you did in the past that was unhealthy
- your plans for being healthy in the future

[15 marks]

### OR

- 5.2** Your Austrian friend has asked you about your holidays. Write a response.

Write your answer in German. It should be approximately 90 words.

You must write at least one detail for each bullet point.

Describe:

- how you normally spend your holidays
- a past winter holiday
- your ideal holiday

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# ZigZag Practice Exam

## Supporting GCSE AQA German: 2024

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**Non-write-on paper**

**German  
Writing**



### Foundation Tier Practice Paper 3

**Time allowed:** 1 hour 10 minutes

The maximum mark for this paper is **50**.

**Information:**

- In **Section A**, you should answer all the questions.
- In **Section B** you should answer **either question 5.1 or question 5.2**. Do not answer both questions.
- Answer all questions in German.
- You must not use a dictionary.
- The marks for each question are given in brackets.
- You can write your answer in the answer book. Clearly cross out everything that would not be marked as part of your answer.



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## Section A

1. You see this photo on Instagram.



What is in the photo?

Write **five** sentences in German.

- 1.1 [2 marks]  
1.2 [2 marks]  
1.3 [2 marks]  
1.4 [2 marks]  
1.5 [2 marks]

2. Your Swiss friend is coming to a festival with you. Write a short description of it.

Your answer must be in **German** and should be approximately **50 words**.

You must write at least one thing about each bullet point.

Mention:

- when the festival is
- the location
- the food
- the cost
- the activities

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3. Complete the following sentences in **German** using your grammar knowledge. Choose the correct **German** word from the three options given. Use the example.

**Example**

Ich .....gehe .... in die Stadt.

gehe	gehen	geht
------	-------	------

- 3.1 ..... Dorf ist in den Bergen.

Die	Das	Der
-----	-----	-----

- 3.2 ..... lange Haare.

ist	hat	hast
-----	-----	------

- 3.3 Ich trage eine ..... Hose.

blaue	blau	blauen
-------	------	--------

- 3.4 Ich verstehe ..... gut mit meinem Vater.

mir	sich	mich
-----	------	------

- 3.5 Gestern ..... das Wetter warm.

war	waren	ist
-----	-------	-----

4. Translate the following sentences **into German**.

New Year's Eve is my favourite celebration.  
The journey to Greece takes three hours.  
Last weekend I went to the cinema.  
I am not a smoker because it is unhealthy.  
I would like more freedom in the future.

**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 5.1 **or** Question 5.2. Only answer **one** of them.

**EITHER**

- 5.1 Your Swiss friend has asked you about your healthy lifestyle. Write a response.

Write your answer in **German**. It should be approximately **90 words**.

You must write at least one detail for each bullet point.

Describe:

- how you keep fit
- something you did in the past that was unhealthy
- your plans for being healthy in the future

**[15 marks]**

**OR**

- 5.2 Your Austrian friend has asked you about your holidays. Write a response.

Write your answer in **German**. It should be approximately **90 words**.

You must write at least one detail for each bullet point.

Describe:

- how you normally spend your time
- a past winter holiday
- your ideal holiday

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# Indicative Content

## Practice Paper 1

### 1. Photo description (10 marks)

Example answer:

- 1.1 Es ist im Kino.
- 1.2 Es gibt vier Jugendliche.
- 1.3 Sie sind glücklich.
- 1.4 Ein Mädchen trinkt Cola.
- 1.5 Sie sehen einen Film.

### 2. 50-word task (10 marks)

Example answer: In meiner Familie gibt es meine Eltern, meine Geschwister und mich. Ich bin 15 Jahre alt, ich bin sehr groß und er hat kurze schwarze Haare und blaue Augen. Er ist immer sehr nett zu mir. Ich verstehe mich sehr gut mit ihm. Er spielt gern Videospiele. Das ist auch mein Lieblingsspiel.

### 3. Grammar task (5 marks)

Question	Answer	Mark
3.1	meine	1
3.2	tragen	1
3.3	ist	1
3.4	großen	1
3.5	gegessen	1

### 4. Translation (10 marks)

Rendering meaning (5 marks)

**A tick is awarded for each element that is communicated, despite minor inaccuracies.**

	Original language	Credited language (word order marked in 'Knowledge of vocab and grammar')
1	There is	Es gibt
2	a park	einen Park
3	in the town	in der Stadt
4	I would like	ich möchte
5	to buy	kaufen
6	a car	ein Auto
7	recycling is important	Recycling ist wichtig
8	for the environment	für die Umwelt
9	I don't like drinking	Ich trinke nicht gern
10	cola	Cola
11	because	weil / denn
12	it is unhealthy	es ist ungesund
13	Yesterday	Gestern
14	I listened to	ich habe .... gehört
15	loud music	laute Musik

*Es gibt einen Park in der Stadt.*

*Ich möchte ein Auto kaufen.*

*Recycling ist wichtig für die Umwelt.*

*Ich trinke nicht gern Cola, weil es ungesund ist.*

*Gestern habe ich laute Musik gehört.*

5.1 Example answer: Ich möchte sehr gern für deine Firma arbeiten. Sie ist Schöneberg. Ich bin sehr fleißig, also arbeite ich immer sehr hart. Ich möchte mein Geld wirklich verdienen. Ich bin sehr nett und freundlich. Meiner Mentor ist es wichtig, hilfsbereit zu sein. Obwohl ich keine Berufserfahrung habe, arbeite ich zweimal pro Woche in einem Supermarkt gearbeitet und die Kunden sehr nett. Ich habe jedoch nicht viel Geld verdient. In der Zukunft möchte ich in deiner Firma sein. Das ist mein Traum. (101 words)

5.2 Example answer: Technologie interessiert mich wirklich. Ich benutze mein Handy zu Hause und in der Schule. Ich benutze soziale Medien als Quelle für Nachrichten. Die Videos helfen mir, die Welt zu verstehen. Gestern habe ich mit Freunden Videospiele online gespielt. Es hat viel Spaß gemacht. Mein Computer auch für meine Matheaufgaben benutzt. Das Internet ist sehr nützlich. Ich möchte einen neuen Laptop kaufen, wenn ich auf die Uni gehe. Es ist wichtig, dass mein Laptop weiterlernen, wenn mein Laptop langsam läuft. (93 words)

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