

2024 specification
first exams in 2026



Practice Papers for GCSE Edexcel German

Writing: Foundation

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Teacher's Introduction

Purpose:

These Edexcel 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 Edexcel Paper 4: Writing.

The papers mirror the Edexcel exam style, including the updated grammar and vocabulary requirements, and cover all six Edexcel thematic contexts:

1. My personal world
2. Lifestyle and wellbeing
3. My neighbourhood
4. Media and technology
5. Studying and my future
6. Travel and tourism

Remember!

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

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

This resource contains writing tasks in the style of those found in the Edexcel writing exam, such as responding to prompts and describing pictures on the Edexcel topics. Translation tasks are also included, to prepare students fully for the new Edexcel exams.

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 2a and 2b, and questions 3a and 3b, have been combined onto one page, again to avoid wasteful photocopying.

November 2025

Structure of the Paper and Mark Scheme

1. Picture-based task (8 marks)

Students write four short sentences in German to describe a photo. This task is assessed on AO2 (response to stimulus). For each sentence, students can score between 0 and 2 marks. If the information is clearly communicated; for 1 mark, relevant information is partially communicated; for 0 marks, there is no rewardable material. Equal, not extra, credit should be awarded for off-specification vocabulary and grammar.

Marking guidance

- Marks must be awarded separately.
- Sentences must be about what is in the photo (they cannot refer to what is outside the photo).
- Sentences must be true or 'possibly' true (e.g. colour can be guessed, as long as it is a reasonable guess).
- Numbers can be written as a figure (e.g. 4) or as a word (e.g. four).
- For 2 marks 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. Open response task – formal – 40–50 words (14 marks)

There will be a choice of two tasks from different thematic contexts; candidates write a response to ONE. Each task has three compulsory bullet points that have to be addressed. The task is assessed on AO2 (response to stimulus) and AO3 (linguistic knowledge and accuracy). To score in the top band for AO2, students need to address all three bullet points and develop some ideas, and make the response comprehensible. To score in the top band for AO3, students must use some variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures, with some linking words. Errors need to be mostly minor. All work is assessed on the basis of the word count. A penalty for writing more or less than 40–50 words will be applied. Equal, not extra, credit should be awarded for off-specification vocabulary and grammar.

Marking guidance

- You must meet the word count (word count is recommendation only).
- All three 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; a best fit approach).
- Bullet points should be developed.
- 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 the mark for AO3.
- Major errors affect communication; minor errors do not.
- Variety = different adjectives, pronouns, nouns, verbs.
- Look for variety of language NOT complexity (other than conjunctions).

3. Open response task – informal – 80–90 words (18 marks)

This is the *Higher* paper crossover question. There will be a choice of two tasks from different thematic contexts; candidates write a response to ONE. Each task has four compulsory bullet points that have to be addressed. Students are assessed on their ability to express and justify opinions, and to use a combination of past, present and future time frames. The task is assessed on AO2 (response to stimulus) and AO3 (linguistic knowledge and accuracy). To score in the top band for AO2, students need to address all four bullet points and frequently develop ideas, and it will be comprehensible. To score in the top band for AO3, students must use some variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures, with some linking words, and occasional complex language. Time frames should be used appropriately. Language should be generally accurate (an occasional major error, some minor ones). All work is assessed on the basis of the word count. A penalty for writing more or less than 80–90 words will be applied. Equal, not extra, credit should be awarded for off-specification vocabulary and grammar.

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Marking guidance

- You must mark ALL words (word count is recommendation only).
- 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 approach).
- Ideas should be frequently developed.
- Look for successful use of time frames.
- Look for accurate use of complex language and extended sentences.
- 0 for AO2 = 0 for AO3, but even if not, what, the mark for AO2 does not limit the mark for AO3.
- Assess the effect of errors on communication – are they major or minor errors?

4. The translation task (10 marks)

Students translate five sentences (approximately 35 words) into German. The task is assessed on two criteria: AO2 (response to stimulus and accuracy). The task is marked holistically. To score in the top band for AO2, they must use generally accurate vocabulary and grammatical structures. For AO3, they must use generally accurate vocabulary and grammatical structures. Occasional major error are allowed.

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Self- and Peer-assessment Grid

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

1. Photo description task:

Have you...	What the mark scheme says	What I have done
	communicated relevant information?	write only about what
	communicated the information clearly?	keep it simple so even
	used complete sentences or clauses (with a verb)?	include a subject and

2. 40–50-word task:

Have you...	What the mark scheme says	What I have done
	addressed all three bullet points?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> write at least one what you have written the BP
	developed all three bullet points?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> give additional information point (location, opinion)
	written comprehensible message?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> write in a way that use only language if you translate it make sense?
	used a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> check that you are you can replace 'finden' with 'verben' or 'ich finde' use connectives (and, but, so) intensifiers ('sehr', 'viel') check your present tense requirement to use
	checked if you have made errors, and that they are only minor?	<p>When you have finished your work carefully.</p> <p>Check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> spelling, capital letters articles (der, die, das) cases (dative after 'mir', 'dir') adjective endings word order (verb in 2nd position)

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5. Translation task:

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

Have you...	What the mark scheme says	What it means
	translated every element of the message?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • do not leave any gaps • if you translate the message, it must make sense? • tick off each word as you translate it to avoid missing part of the message
	used generally accurate grammar?	<p>When you have finished, proofread your work.</p> <p>Check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • verb forms (correct for present tense) • word order (verb as second element) • spelling, capital letters for nouns • articles (der, die, das / ein, eine) • cases (dative after zu, mit) • adjective endings

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ZigZag Practice Exam

Supporting GCSE Edexcel German: 2024

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Write-on paper

German
Writing



Foundation Tier Practice Paper 3

Name

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

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

Information:

- Answer all questions in the spaces provided.
- You should answer all of question 1 and question 4.
- You should answer **option a** or **option b** for questions 2 and 3.
- Answer all questions in German and use full sentences.
- You may use a dictionary.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets.
- Clearly cross out everything that should not be marked as part of your answer.

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1. Write four short sentences in **German** to describe the photo.

(a)

.....

(b)

.....

(c)

.....

(d)

.....

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Answer **either** Question 2(a) **or** Question 2(b)
Only answer **one** of these questions.

2. (a) Write about transport in your area for a newspaper article.

Your answer must be in **German** and should be approximately **40–50 words**.

You **must** include the following points:

- how you travel around your area
- your opinion of transport in your town
- where you would like to live in the future

[14 marks]

2. (b) Write about transport in your area for a newspaper article.

Your answer must be in **German** and should be approximately **40–50 words**.

You **must** include the following points:

- how you travel around your area
- your opinion of transport in your town
- where you would like to live in the future

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Answer **either** Question 3(a) **or** Question 3(b)
Only answer **one** of these questions.

3. (a) Write to someone you know about your school life.

Your answer must be in German and should be approximately **80–90 words**.

You **must** include the following points:

- what you wear to school
- opinion of school rules
- what you did at school yesterday
- your school plans for next year

[18 marks]

3. (b) Write to someone you know about your holidays.

Your answer must be in German and should be approximately **80–90 words**.

You **must** include the following points:

- how you spent your holiday
- your opinion of the holiday
- a past wish
- your ideas for the future

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

(a) I have a very big family.

.....

.....

(b) We get on very well with each other.

.....

.....

(c) Unfortunately, my grandparents and I have little contact.

.....

.....

(d) There should be no discrimination at home.

.....

.....

(e) I would like to have more freedom in the future.

.....

.....

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ZigZag Practice Exam

Supporting GCSE Edexcel German: 2024

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Non-write-on paper

German
Writing



Foundation Tier Practice Paper 3

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

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

Information:

- Answer all questions in your exercise book.
- You should answer all of question 1 and question 4.
- You should answer **option a or option b** for question 2 and 3.
- Answer all questions in German and use full sentence forms.
- You must not use a dictionary.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets.
- Clearly cross out any writing that should not be marked as part of your answer.

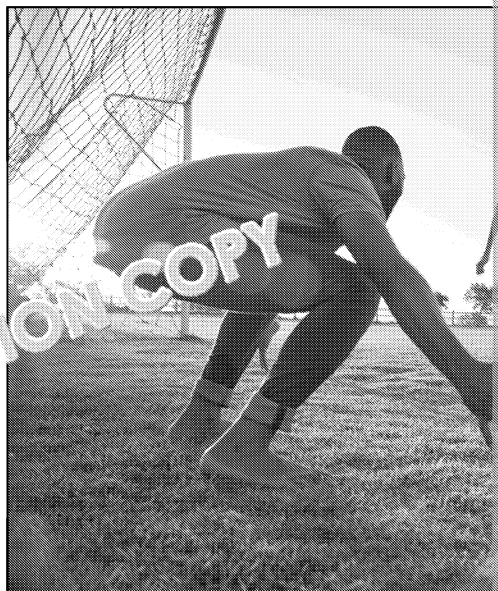


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1. Write four short sentences in **German** to describe the photo.

- (a) [2 marks]
(b) [2 marks]
(c) [2 marks]
(d) [2 marks]



Answer **either** Question 2(a) **or** Question 2(b). Only answer **one** of

2. (a) Write about transport in your area for a newspaper article.

Your answer must be in **German** and should be approximately **40–50 words**.

You **must** include the following points:

- how you travel around your area
- your opinion of transport in your town
- where you would like to live in the future

[14 marks]



2. (b) Write about transport in your area for a newspaper article.

Your answer must be in **German** and should be approximately **40–50 words**.

You **must** include the following points:

- when you travel around your area
- your opinion of transport in your town
- what you would like to do in the future

Answer **either** Question 3(a) **or** Question 3(b). Only answer **one** of

3. (a) Write to someone you know about your school life.

Your answer must be in **German** and should be approximately **80–90 words**.

You **must** include the following points:

- what you wear to school
- your opinion of school rules
- what you did at school yesterday
- your school plans for next year

[14 marks]

3. (b) Write to someone you know about your school life.

Your answer must be in **German** and should be approximately **80–90 words**.

You **must** include the following points:

- how you travel around your area
- your opinion of transport in your town
- a past winter holiday
- your ideas for the future

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

- (a) I have a very big family.
(b) We get on very well with each other.
(c) Unfortunately, my grandparents and I have little contact.
(d) There should be no discrimination at home.
(e) I would like to have more freedom in the future.



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Preview of Questions Ends Here

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Indicative Content

Practice Paper 1

1. (a) Es ist im Kino.
(b) Es gibt sechs Personen.
(c) Sie sehen einen Film.
(d) Eine Frau trinkt Cola.
2. (a) Ich verstehe mich sehr gut mit meiner Schwester. Sie heißt Mia und ist zu Hause. Sie ist immer freundlich und nett ist. Wir sehen zusammen. Nächste Woche gehen wir in die Stadt, denn ich habe Geburtstag. Ich möchte...
2. (b) Ich bin wirklich gesund. Ich spiele oft Tennis und gehe jeden Tag spazieren. Ich schwimme nicht gern. Das Wasser gefällt mir nicht. Meiner Meinung nach in der Zukunft möchte ich mehr Obst und Gemüse essen, weil es gut für die Gesundheit ist.
3. (a) Ich bin sehr fleißig, also arbeite ich immer hart. Ich möchte mein Geld verdienen und nett und freundlich. Meiner Meinung nach ist ein interessanter Job wichtig. Ich habe schon Berufserfahrung. Letztes Jahr habe ich zweimal pro Woche in der Firma gearbeitet. Die Arbeit war interessant und die Kunden* waren meistens nett. Ich habe viel verdient, also war diese Stelle für mich nicht perfekt. In der Zukunft möchte ich in einer Firma in Großbritannien sein. Das ist mein Traum.
* Kunden – customers
3. (b) Ich wohne in einer kleinen Stadt in Deutschland. Die Stadt ist mittelgroß und hat einen schönen See und viele Parks. Mein Haus ist klein, aber es hat einen großen Baum. Ich finde mein Haus nett für meine kleine Familie, weil wir nicht weit von der Stadt entfernt sind. Am Wochenende bin ich oft mit meinem Freund ins Kino gegangen. Das hat viel Spaß gemacht. Ich möchte in der Zukunft im Ausland wohnen. Ich liebe andere Kulturen und Sprachen.

Message	Example
I often travel by train.	Ich reise oft mit dem Zug.
The journey is fast and easy.	Die Fahrt ist schnell und leicht.
We stay in a hotel in the city.	Wir wohnen in einem Hotel in der Stadt.
I always eat in a local restaurant.	Ich esse immer in einem lokalen Restaurant.
Last year I visited an interesting museum with my friend.	Letztes Jahr habe ich ein interessantes Museum mit meinem Freund besucht.

Mark	A02	Mark	
5–6	Message translated; an occasional unclear/incomplete message.	4	Generally accurate translation with occasional minor errors.
3–4	Some messages translated; some unclear/incomplete messages.	3	Sometimes accurate translation with some errors.
1–2	Limited messages translated; frequent unclear/incomplete messages.	2	Limited accurate translation with major and minor errors.
0	No messages translated.	1	Very minimal translation throughout.

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Preview of Answers Ends Here

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