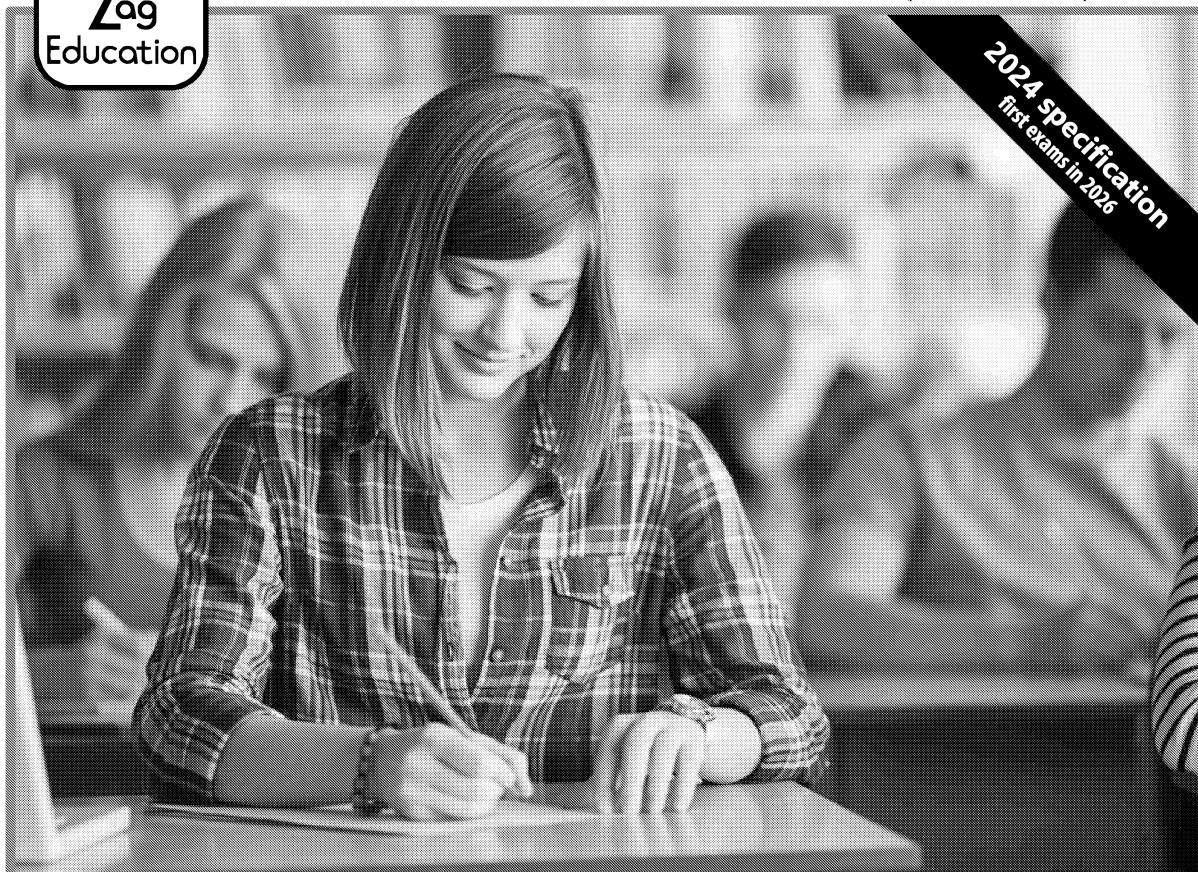


2024 specification
first exams in 2026



Practice Papers for GCSE Edexcel German

Writing: Higher

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Teacher's Introduction

Purpose and structure:

These Edexcel GCSE German Practice Papers (Paper 4, Higher) 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 themes:

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 all the writing task question types featured in the 2024 specification Edexcel writing exam.

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 1a and 1b, and questions 2a and 2b, have been combined onto one page, again to avoid wasteful photocopying.

November 2025

Structure of the Paper and Mark Scheme

The Edexcel Higher writing paper comprises three tasks:

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

This is the *Foundation* paper crossover question. There will be a choice of two contexts; candidates write a response to ONE. Each task has four compulsory questions to be addressed. Students are assessed on their ability to express and justify opinion (a combination of past, present and future time frames). The task is assessed on AO2 (communication) and AO3 (linguistic knowledge and accuracy). To score in the top band for AO2, students must use some variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures, extended sentences and occasional complex language. Time frames should be generally accurate (an occasional major error, some minor ones). AO3 is marked (no penalty for writing more or less than 80–90 words). Equal, not exact, word counts. Students who use off-specification vocabulary and grammar.

2. Open response – formal – 130–150 words (22 marks)

Students choose between two questions on two different thematic contexts. One asking for present tense information; one asking about pros and cons; one asking about the future tense. It is marked based on two criteria: AO2 (communication) and AO3 (linguistic knowledge and accuracy). To score in the top band for AO2, students must use bullet points, with consistent development of ideas. For the top band in AO3, students must use a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures with frequent complex language. Students must be consistently successful in their use of time frames. There may be some minor errors.

3. The translation task (10 marks)

Students translate a paragraph containing five sentences into German. The sentences are of varying difficulty; for example, later sentences may have modal verbs, more than one clause and complex constructions and tenses. The task is assessed on two criteria: AO2 (response) and AO3 (linguistic knowledge and accuracy). The task is marked holistically. To score in the top band for AO2, students must transfer the meaning of the original text with only an occasional unclear/incomplete translation. To score in the top band for AO3, they must use generally accurate vocabulary and grammatical structures. Errors and an occasional major error are allowed.

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Self- and Peer-assessment Gr

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

1. 80–90-word task:

Have you...	What the mark scheme says	What it means
	addressed all four bullet points?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> write at least one sentence per what you have written must be use the correct time frame for
	developed all four bullet points?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> give lots of additional information (location, people, time, activity, examples)
	written comprehensible language?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> write in a way that is easy to understand use only language you know if you translate it back into English
	used some variety of vocabulary?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> avoid repetitions (use each word only once) you can replace 'ich mag' by 'ich finde + adjective', etc. include different subject pronouns, negatives, etc.
	used some variety of grammatical structures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use connectives ('und', 'aber', 'sogar', 'ganz', 'total', etc.) use a range of time phrases ('letzte Monat', etc.) use connectives ('und', 'aber', 'sogar', 'ganz', 'total', 'ziemlich', etc.) and 'danach', etc.) you could use relative clauses or subordinate clause using 'dass' use modal verbs
	used past, present and future time frames successfully?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> are your present, past and future are they in the right paragraph, (remember, 'letzten/letzte/letzten' 'nächsten/nächste/nächstes' =
	checked if you have made errors, that they are only minor?	<p>When you have finished, proofread</p> <p>Check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> spelling, capital letters for nouns articles (der, die, das / ein, eine) cases (dative after zu, mit, etc.) adjective endings word order (verb as second idea) verb tenses

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2. 130–150-word task:

Have you...	What the mark scheme says	What it means
	addressed all four bullet points?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write at least one sentence per bullet point • what you have written must be relevant to the task • use the correct time frame for the task
	regularly developed your ideas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • always give at least three or four points • this can be achieved by giving one point, comparing what life is now vs what it was like, and then giving an advantage and a disadvantage
	organised clearly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan your paragraphs • write in a way that is easy to understand • narrate a story as you would in English, in chronological order • if you translate it back into English, it should be clear
	used a wide variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoid repetitions (use each word only once) • use different opinion phrases ('ich finde', 'ich glaube', 'ich denke', etc.) • include different subject pronouns
	used extended sentences and complex language frequently and successfully?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use more interesting vocabulary • use more complex sentence structures • use more complex grammar • use more complex vocabulary • use more complex grammar • use more complex vocabulary
	used present, past and future time frames regularly and successfully?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have you referred to past, present and future? • have you referred to your child's life in the past, using the past tense? • did you say what would happen in the future, using modal verbs in the conditional?
	checked that your language is accurate?	<p>When you have finished, proofread your work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • verb forms match pronouns • verb tense formation – past participles, infinitives (future and conditional) • verb word order (second, or at the end) • spelling and capital letters for nouns • articles (der, die, das / ein, eine) • adjective endings • umlauts

3. Translation task:

Have you...	What the mark scheme says	What it means
	translated the message appropriately?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • do not leave any gaps • if you translate the message back into English, it should make sense?
	used accurate grammar and vocab?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • check your verb forms (correct tense) • check your verb position
	made only minor errors?	<p>When you have finished, proofread your work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spelling and capital letters for nouns • articles (der, die, das / ein, eine) • adjective endings

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ZigZag Practice Exam

Supporting GCSE Edexcel German: 2024

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Write-on paper

German
Writing



Higher Tier Practice Paper 3

Name

Time allowed: 1 hour 20 minutes

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

Information:

- Answer all questions in the spaces provided.
- You should answer **option a or option b** for questions 1 and 2.
- You should answer all of questions 3 to 10.
- 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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Answer **either** Question 1(a) **or** Question 1(b)
Only answer **one** of these questions.

1. (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]

1. (b) Write to someone you know about your winter holiday.

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 winter holiday you enjoyed
- your ideas for next year's holiday

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

2. (a) Write a blog about environmental issues.

Your answer must be in **German** and should
be approximately **130–150 words**.

You **must** include the following points:

- what environmental issues there are in your area
- the pros and cons of car travel
- what you have done recently to help the environment
- where you would like to live in the future

[22 marks]

2. (b) Write a blog about your free time.

Your answer must be in **German** and should
be approximately **130–150 words**.

You **must** include the following points:

- when and where you spend your free time
- the pros and cons of your hobby
- what you have done recently to help the environment
- how you would like to spend your free time in the future

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3. Translate the paragraph into **German**.

My family is really important to me. I can always chat with my mum and dad. When we have arguments, we try to solve the problem. Last week I experienced discrimination. Instead of going out tomorrow, I will spend time with my parents.



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Non-write-on paper

**German
Writing**



Higher Tier Practice Paper 3

Time allowed: 1 hour 20 minutes

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

Information:

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



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Answer **either** Question 1(a) **or** Question 1(b)
Only answer **one** of these questions.

1. (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

[18 marks]

1. (b) Write to someone you know about your winter holiday.

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

You **must** include the following points:

- how you spent your time
- your opinion of the holiday
- a past winter holiday you enjoyed
- your ideas for next year

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

2. (a) Write a blog about environmental issues.

Your answer must be in **German** and should be approximately **130–150 words**.

You **must** include the following points:

- what environmental issues there are in your area
- the pros and cons of car travel
- what you have done recently to help the environment
- where you would like to live in the future

[22 marks]

2. (b) Write a blog about your family.

Your answer must be in **German** and should be approximately **130–150 words**.

You **must** include the following points:

- when and where you were born
- the pros and cons of living in the city
- what you have done recently to help your family
- how you feel about your family

3. Translate the paragraph into **German**.

My family is really important to me. I can always chat with my mum and dad. When we have arguments, we try to solve the problem. Last week I experienced discrimination. Instead of going out tomorrow, I will spend time with my parents.

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Preview of Questions Ends Here

This is a limited inspection copy. Sample of questions ends here to avoid students previewing questions before they are set. See contents page for details of the rest of the resource.

Indicative Content

Practice Paper 1

1. (a) Ich bin sehr fleißig, also arbeite ich immer hart. Ich möchte mein Geld wirklich
freundlich. Meiner Meinung nach ist ein interessanter Job wichtig. Obwohl ich
Berufserfahrung. Letztes Jahr habe ich zweimal gearbeitet in einem Supermarkt
interessant und die Kunden* waren meine Freunde. Ich habe leider nicht viel Geld
für mich nicht perfekt. In der Zukunft möchte ich Chef von einer großen Firma sein
mein Traum.
* Kunden – customers
1. (b) Ich wohne in einer kleinen Stadt in Deutschland. Die Stadt ist mittelgroß und ist
See und viele Parks. Mein Haus ist klein, aber es hat einen großen Garten mit einem
Haus perfekt für meine kleine Familie, weil wir nicht viel Platz brauchen. Letzte
Freund ins Kino gegangen. Das hat viel gekostet und das Kino war auch voll. Ich
wohnen. Ich liebe andere Kulturen und ich möchte sie kennenlernen.
2. (a) Wenn möglich, treibe ich dreimal pro Woche Sport. Da ich nicht sehr sportlich bin,
Mannschaftssportarten, sondern gehe einfach gerne spazieren. Das reicht* für
Moment bin ich sehr gestresst vom Alltag. Ein Problem ist die Arbeit in der Schule
Sorgen. Zum Glück unterstützen mich meine Eltern immer. Ich bin sehr froh, das
kann. Als ich ein Kind war, lebte ich total ungesund. Früher fand ich fast alle Lebensmittel
nur Brot und Käse. Zu meinem zwölften Geburtstag habe ich dann in einem internen
Das Gemüse sah so frisch aus, dass ich es probieren musste. Das hat mich wirklich
jeden Tag Gemüse. Es ist nie zu spät, seine Gesundheit zu verbessern. Nächstes
bin, werde ich weiterhin gesund kochen, damit ich in Form bleibe.
* Das reicht – that is enough
2. (b) Meine Familie und ich feiern jedes Jahr am Silvester, denn es ist die größte Party
normalerweise gegen 18 Uhr. Wir haben viele Leute mit Essen und Getränken für alle
wenn die Musik startet und die Leute tanzen. Ein Nachteil von Partys ist, dass es
sauber machen muss, da es normalerweise jede Menge leere Flaschen gibt. Zum
Party ist teuer. Vor einem Monat hatte ich Geburtstag, und meine Freunde und
einen Kuchen zu machen. Natürlich sind wir auch essen gegangen, denn ein Essen ist
einem Geburtstag. Natürlich musste es meine Lieblingsküche sein, Essen aus Asien
meiner Stadt Karneval statt. Die Stimmung wird wie jedes Jahr spannend sein. Es
und mit einem großen Musikkonzert im Park enden. Ich freue mich riesig darauf.

3.

Message	Example
I am on holiday in the capital city.	Ich mache Urlaub in der Hauptstadt.
I am staying in a well-known hotel next to the train station.	Ich wohne in einem bekannten Hotel neben dem Bahnhof.
One disadvantage is that it is loud at night in the town centre.	Ein Nachteil ist, dass es laut ist in der Innenstadt.
Yesterday I could not sleep because of the music outside.	Gestern konnte ich wegen der Musik nicht schlafen.
I will speak to the manager to change my room.	Ich werde mit dem Manager sprechen, um mein Zimmer zu wechseln.

Mark	AO2	Mark	AO3
5–6	Messages translated; lack of clarity is rare.	4	Consistently accurate.
3–4	Messages translated; an occasional unclear/incomplete message.	3	Generally accurate.
1–2	Some messages translated; sometimes unclear/incomplete messages.	2	Some accurate.
0		1	Very limited examples of accurate messages.

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Preview of Answers Ends Here

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