AP German Language and Culture

Scoring Guidelines

Question 1: Email Reply

5 points

General Scoring Note

When applying the scoring guidelines, the response does not need to meet every single criterion in a column. You should award the score according to the preponderance of evidence.

1	2	3	4	5
Poor	Weak	Fair	Good	Strong
Unsuccessfully attempts to maintain the exchange by providing a response that is inappropriate within the context of the task	Partially maintains the exchange with a response that is minimally appropriate within the context of the task	Maintains the exchange with a response that is somewhat appropriate but basic within the context of the task	Maintains the exchange with a response that is generally appropriate within the context of the task	Maintains the exchange with a response that is clearly appropriate within the context of the task
 Provides little required information (responses to questions, request for details) 	 Provides some required information (responses to questions, request for details) 	 Provides most required information (responses to questions, request for details) 	 Provides most required information (responses to questions, request for details) with some elaboration 	 Provides required information (responses to questions, request for details) with frequent elaboration
 Barely understandable, with frequent or significant errors that impede comprehensibility 	 Partially understandable with errors that force interpretation and cause confusion for the reader 	Generally understandable, with errors that may impede comprehensibility	Fully understandable, with some errors that do not impede comprehensibility	 Fully understandable, with ease and clarity of expression; occasional errors do not impede comprehensibility
Very few vocabulary resources	Limited vocabulary and idiomatic language	 Appropriate but basic vocabulary and idiomatic language 	 Varied and generally appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language 	 Varied and appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language
 Little or no control of grammar, syntax, and usage 	 Limited control of grammar, syntax, and usage 	 Some control of grammar, syntax, and usage 	 General control of grammar, syntax, and usage 	 Accuracy and variety in grammar, syntax, and usage, with few errors
 Minimal or no attention to register; includes significantly inaccurate or no conventions for formal correspondence (e.g., greeting, closing) 	 Use of register is generally inappropriate for the situation; includes some conventions for formal correspondence (e.g., greeting, closing) with inaccuracies 	Use of register may be inappropriate for the situation with several shifts; partial control of conventions for formal correspondence (e.g., greeting, closing), although these may lack cultural appropriateness	 Generally consistent use of register appropriate for the situation, except for occasional shifts; basic control of cultural conventions appropriate for formal correspondence (e.g., greeting, closing) 	 Mostly consistent use of register appropriate for the situation; control of cultural conventions appropriate for formal correspondence (e.g., greeting, closing), despite occasional errors
Very simple sentences or fragments	Simple sentences and phrases	Simple and a few compound sentences	Simple, compound, and a few complex sentences	 Variety of simple and compound sentences, and some complex sentences

- Mere restatement of language from the stimulus
- Completely irrelevant to the stimulus
- "I don't know," "I don't understand," or equivalent in any language
- Not in the language of the exam

NR: no response, pages are blank

Question 2: Argumentative Essay

5 points

General Scoring Note

When applying the scoring guidelines, the response does not need to meet every single criterion in a column. You should award the score according to the preponderance of evidence.

1	2	3	4	5
Poor	Weak	Fair	Good	Strong
Almost no treatment of topic within the context of the task	Unsuitable treatment of topic within the context of the task	Suitable treatment of topic within the context of the task	 Generally effective treatment of topic within the context of the task 	Effective treatment of topic within the context of the task
 Demonstrates poor comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; includes frequent and significant inaccuracies 	 Demonstrates a low degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; information may be limited or inaccurate 	 Demonstrates a moderate degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; includes some inaccuracies 	 Demonstrates comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; may include a few inaccuracies 	 Demonstrates a high degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints, with very few minor inaccuracies
 Mostly repeats statements from sources or may not refer to any sources 	 Summarizes content from one or two sources; may not support an argument 	Summarizes content from at least two sources in support of an argument	 Summarizes, with limited integration, content from all three sources in support of an argument 	 Integrates content from all three sources in support of an argument
 Minimally suggests the student's own position on the topic; argument is undeveloped or incoherent 	 Presents, or at least suggests, the student's own position on the topic; develops an argument somewhat incoherently 	 Presents and defends the student's own position on the topic; develops an argument with some coherence 	 Presents and defends the student's own position on the topic with clarity; develops an argument with coherence 	 Presents and defends the student's own position on the topic with a high degree of clarity; develops an argument with coherence and detail
 Little or no organization; absence of transitional elements and cohesive devices 	Limited organization; ineffective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices	Some organization; limited use of transitional elements or cohesive devices	Organized essay; some effective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices	 Organized essay; effective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
 Barely understandable, with frequent or significant errors that impede comprehensibility 	 Partially understandable, with errors that force interpretation and cause confusion for the reader 	Generally understandable, with errors that may impede comprehensibility	 Fully understandable, with some errors that do not impede comprehensibility 	 Fully understandable, with ease and clarity of expression; occasional errors do not impede comprehensibility
Very few vocabulary resources	Limited vocabulary and idiomatic language	 Appropriate but basic vocabulary and idiomatic language 	 Varied and generally appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language 	 Varied and appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language
 Little or no control of grammar, syntax, and usage 	Limited control of grammar, syntax, and usage	Some control of grammar, syntax, and usage	General control of grammar, syntax, and usage	 Accuracy and variety in grammar, syntax, and usage, with few errors
Very simple sentences or fragments	Uses strings of simple sentences and phrases	Uses strings of mostly simple sentences, with a few compound sentences	Develops mostly paragraph- length discourse with simple, compound, and a few complex sentences	 Develops paragraph-length discourse with a variety of simple and compound sentences, and some complex sentences

- Mere restatement of language from the prompt
- Clearly does not respond to the prompt; completely irrelevant to the topic
- "I don't know," "I don't understand," or equivalent in any language
- Not in the language of the exam

NR: no response, pages are blank

Clarification Note:

There is no single expected format or style for referring to and identifying sources appropriately. For example, test takers may opt to: directly cite content in quotation marks; paraphrase content and indicate that it is "according to Source 1" or "according to the audio file"; refer to the content and indicate the source in parentheses "(Source 2)"; refer to the content and indicate the source using the author's name "(Smith)"; etc.

Question 3: Conversation 5 points

General Scoring Note: When applying the scoring guidelines, the response does not need to meet every single criterion in a column. You should award the score according to the preponderance of evidence present in the majority of the exchanges and in alignment with most, but not necessarily all, criteria listed within a score point.

1	2	3	4	5
Poor	Weak	Fair	Good	Strong
 Unsuccessfully attempts to maintain the exchange by providing a series of responses that is inappropriate within the context of the task 	Partially maintains the exchange with a series of responses that is minimally appropriate within the context of the task	 Maintains the exchange with a series of responses that is somewhat appropriate within the context of the task 	 Maintains the exchange with a series of responses that is generally appropriate within the context of the task 	 Maintains the exchange with a series of responses that is clearly appropriate within the context of the task
 Provides little required information (e.g., responses to questions, statement and support of opinion) 	 Provides some required information (e.g., responses to questions, statement and support of opinion) 	 Provides most required information (e.g., responses to questions, statement and support of opinion) 	 Provides most required information (e.g., responses to questions, statement and support of opinion) with some elaboration 	 Provides required information (e.g., responses to questions, statement and support of opinion) with frequent elaboration
 Barely understandable, with frequent or significant errors that impede comprehensibility 	 Partially understandable, with errors that force interpretation and cause confusion for the listener 	 Generally understandable, with errors that may impede comprehensibility 	 Fully understandable, with some errors that do not impede comprehensibility 	 Fully understandable, with ease and clarity of expression; occasional errors do not impede comprehensibility
Very few vocabulary resources	Limited vocabulary and idiomatic language	 Appropriate but basic vocabulary and idiomatic language 	 Varied and generally appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language 	 Varied and appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language
 Little or no control of grammar, syntax, and usage 	 Limited control of grammar, syntax, and usage 	 Some control of grammar, syntax, and usage 	 General control of grammar, syntax, and usage 	 Accuracy and variety in grammar, syntax, and usage, with few errors
 Minimal or no attention to register 	 Use of register is generally inappropriate for the conversation 	 Use of register may be inappropriate for the conversation with several shifts 	 Generally consistent use of register appropriate for the conversation, except for occasional shifts 	 Mostly consistent use of register appropriate for the conversation
 Pronunciation, intonation, and pacing make the response difficult to comprehend; errors impede comprehensibility 	 Pronunciation, intonation, and pacing make the response difficult to comprehend at times; errors impede comprehensibility 	 Pronunciation, intonation, and pacing make the response generally comprehensible; errors occasionally impede comprehensibility 	 Pronunciation, intonation, and pacing make the response mostly comprehensible; errors do not impede comprehensibility 	 Pronunciation, intonation, and pacing make the response comprehensible; errors do not impede comprehensibility
 Clarification or self-correction (if present) does not improve comprehensibility 	 Clarification or self-correction (if present) usually does not improve comprehensibility 	 Clarification or self-correction (if present) sometimes improves comprehensibility 	 Clarification or self-correction (if present) usually improves comprehensibility 	 Clarification or self-correction (if present) improves comprehensibility
				Scoring note: A response that meets the majority (but not necessarily all) of these criteria for at least 4 of the exchanges may be sufficient to earn a score of 5.

- Mere restatement of language from the prompts
- Clearly does not respond to the prompt; completely irrelevant to the topic
- "I don't know," "I don't understand," or equivalent in any language
- Clearly responds to the prompts in English

NR: no response although recording equipment is functioning

Question 4: Cultural Comparison

5 points

General Scoring Note

When applying the scoring guidelines, the response does not need to meet every single criterion in a column. You should award the score according to the preponderance of evidence.

1	2	3	4	5
Poor	Weak	Fair	Good	Strong
Almost no treatment of topic within the context of the task	Unsuitable treatment of topic within the context of the task	Suitable treatment of topic within the context of the task	Generally effective treatment of topic within the context of the task	Effective treatment of topic within the context of the task
 Presents information only about the target culture or only about the student's own or another community, and may not include examples 	 Presents information about the target culture and the student's own or another community, but may not compare them; consists mostly of statements with no development 	Compares the target culture with the student's own or another community, including a few supporting details and examples	 Compares the target culture with the student's own or another community, including some supporting details and mostly relevant examples 	 Clearly compares the target culture with the student's own or another community, including supporting details and relevant examples
 Demonstrates minimal understanding of the target culture; generally inaccurate 	 Demonstrates a limited understanding of the target culture; may include several inaccuracies 	 Demonstrates a basic understanding of the target culture, despite inaccuracies 	 Demonstrates some understanding of the target culture, despite minor inaccuracies 	 Demonstrates understanding of the target culture, despite a few minor inaccuracies
 Little or no organization; absence of transitional elements and cohesive devices 	 Limited organization; ineffective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices 	 Some organization; limited use of transitional elements or cohesive devices 	 Organized presentation; some effective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices 	 Organized presentation; effective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
 Barely understandable, with frequent or significant errors that impede comprehensibility 	 Partially understandable, with errors that force interpretation and cause confusion for the listener 	 Generally understandable, with errors that may impede comprehensibility 	 Fully understandable, with some errors that do not impede comprehensibility 	 Fully understandable, with ease and clarity of expression; occasional errors do not impede comprehensibility
Very few vocabulary resources	 Limited vocabulary and idiomatic language 	 Appropriate but basic vocabulary and idiomatic language 	 Varied and generally appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language 	 Varied and appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language
 Little or no control of grammar, syntax, and usage 	 Limited control of grammar, syntax, and usage 	Some control of grammar, syntax, and usage	 General control of grammar, syntax, and usage 	 Accuracy and variety in grammar, syntax, and usage, with few errors
Minimal or no attention to register	Use of register is generally inappropriate for the presentation	Use of register may be inappropriate for the presentation with several shifts	 Generally consistent use of register appropriate for the presentation, except for occasional shifts 	 Mostly consistent use of register appropriate for the presentation
 Pronunciation, intonation, and pacing make the response difficult to comprehend; errors impede comprehensibility 	 Pronunciation, intonation, and pacing make the response difficult to comprehend at times; errors impede comprehensibility 	 Pronunciation, intonation, and pacing make the response generally comprehensible; errors occasionally impede comprehensibility 	 Pronunciation, intonation, and pacing make the response mostly comprehensible; errors do not impede comprehensibility 	 Pronunciation, intonation, and pacing make the response comprehensible; errors do not impede comprehensibility
 Clarification or self-correction (if present) does not improve comprehensibility 	 Clarification or self-correction (if present) usually does not improve comprehensibility 	 Clarification or self-correction (if present) sometimes improves comprehensibility 	 Clarification or self-correction (if present) usually improves comprehensibility 	 Clarification or self-correction (if present) improves comprehensibility
		Scoring note: A response that does not explicitly compare may earn a score of 3 if it provides a suitable treatment of the topic, including a basic understanding of the target culture and the student's own or another community.	Scoring note: A response that does not explicitly compare may earn a score of 4 if it provides a generally effective treatment of the topic, including some understanding of the target culture and the student's own or another community.	Scoring note: A response that does not explicitly compare cannot earn a score of 5.

- Mere restatement of language from the prompt
- Clearly does not respond to the prompt; completely irrelevant to the topic
- "I don't know," "I don't understand," or equivalent in any language
- Clearly responds to the prompt in English

NR: no response although recording equipment is functioning

Clarification Notes:

- The term "community" can refer to something as large as a continent or as small as a family unit.
- The phrase "target culture" can refer to any community, large or small, associated with the target language.