

AP German Language and Culture

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Task 2—Argumentative Essay

- ☑ Scoring Guidelines

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		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 	degree of comprehension o the sources' viewpoints;	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 a least two 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 argumen with some 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 simpl 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

Score of 0: UNACCEPTABLE

- 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.

Task 1: Email Reply Task 2: Argumentative Essay

Begin your response to each task at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

Mit 16 sind Meiste Leate schon Aktiv in Jer
Faligik. Olbren Ohne der Recht zu wählen stand diese
Merschen, dre proktisch Schon er wachsen sind, poutstäch nicht
feil nehmen in der Politische System, dre schon che große
Effekte auf ihnen hot, deshalb sollte 16. Tährige
wählen dürfen.

16-Jöhrige Sind schon politisch aktiv und lægen Ziemlich viel wert schon auf folitik. Heinzlmöser sogt, doss obered Zehn frotzent von die Leute die protestun sind schüler (Q1). Diese Aktivität zieget with wire method aktiv social 16-Jährige sind in der folitik, Obwahl six eine kleine frozehlt der Bevolkerung sind. Quellen moterial 2 zeigt mach doss mehr als ein halb (61%) der 27-Jährigen engangteren sich in einer welse in der folitische system (Q2). Da 16- und 17-Jährige so viel an folitik inderessen, sollen sie wählen dürfen.

Queller Noterial 2 Zeigt anch, tops Jungendlicter interessieven sich sehr viele an Politische Themen (Q2). Zum Beispieler, 76% ter ge frant a Jungendliche Juliesse on menschenvechte huben. Diese Interesse poigh Words Jemenstriert, Joss Jungendliche sind bereit in der Palitische West 461/Zunehmen.

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Task 1: Email Reply Task 2: Argumentative Essay

Begin your response to each task at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines. reint Quelk meterial 3 welter anzubanen (Q3). relit, well genochte Weltonschaung völlig Lente haler Meinryen dre. Oster reich Jungen dlithe Tungardliche interessieren. Vizle woller Deutschland Schweiz Wahlreiht Kleine Warna soller Inagendliche 910 Be (N regionaler withle Kilzunehmen. Diese Wählrecht Ingendicted school die Verandwortung Inverdicted branches ment, doss fürfen (Asok be known Jesto

Task 1: Email Reply Task 2: Argumentative Essay

Begin your response to each task at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

16-Join Alge head 2nd age lifthanks mehr Heraus foderagen als trüber. Wegen der Internet haben sie eine größer Weldans annung als früber, Abad deswegen Sollten 16-Jahrige wähler dürken.

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Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the task you are responding to on this page.

Task 1: Email Reply Task 2: Argumentative Essay

Begin your response to each task at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

In title Lande, wählen sind ein symbol fur alter machen. Bis 18 jahren können Meinstens mann wählen. Aber denn kommt die Frage; sollte das alt für wählen wenig Sein? Die anwort in einfach: ja. Obwohl junge menschen haben manchmal probleme wie chaofische Profesten: Sie Sind überall klug genug und ver Stehen die Consequences von Ihren Aktionen Zu wählen dürfen.

Manchmai Gene Junger men schen Probleme gemacht. Viele gehen bei proteste und sind ein bisschen Chaotisch. Die Kinder will Schneller vor allem eines. erwachsen Sein. Sie Wollen alter dann sie Sind und denken dass sie alle wissen. Aber dass Stimmt nicht. Sie Sind Stelle Kinder. Sie kann ein Auto nicht fanren und sind auch In der Schole. Also

Obwohl dieses probleme Sind wichtig, die wahlrecht von jung menschen & sind sehr wichtiger. Die jungen verstehen was 1st passiert. an 16 jähriger, dieses merchen haben profeste Organizert und sollten unab hängig sind. Mehr alls 35%. von jungenliche unter 18 haben Baykott-Aktion gemacht und sprechen uber pripolitische 42%. Sind Interessiert in LGBT1-

Task 1: Email Reply Task 2: Argumentative Essay

Begin your response to each task at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

Rechte, ein Sehr wichtige Theme und Mehr als halb & jungeniiche in Deutschland und anderen Europäische Lande Sprachen über und verstehen Themen wie Rechte von Migrant innen, umwelt und klima und Menschen recht. Die Kinder Sind nicht dumm. Sie sollten was Sie denken Sagen durfen Die jungendliche sollten rechte für Ihren Sicherkeit, gesundheit, und leben haben. Sie sind auch Leute und können für Ihren Selben denken.

Am Ende, Sollten 16-jährige wählen dürfen? Ja, Ja Sie sollten. Trotzdem die kinder hat manchman probleme, sie sind klein über den positiv und gute ende für wählen rechts für 16-jahrige jugendliche währen ein paar menschen haben probleme sind nicht so gut oder Schlechtes Aktionen machen, am meistens Kinder sind gut und klug gen ug zu wählen rechts Verstanden und haben viele respekt & für den Rechts.

überall, Meisten jugenliche sind unabhängig und kann Ihren leben gemacht. Sie sind nicht junge kinder, Kein Mehr jungen und mädchen. Also sind sie erwachsen. Junge erwachsen, aber am ende, erwachsen. Ob anderen Leute Respekt Wollten, dann mussen sie erste

Task 1: Email Reply Task 2: Argumentative Essay

Begin your response to each task at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

die Junge menschen auch Respektieren. Ob die kinder der probleme in der weit verstehen, denn kann sie wie wichtige wählen rechts sind auch verstanden. Die kinder Sind Immer neuging und mussen die weit sehen und verstanden.

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Task 1: Email Reply Task 2: Argumentative Essay

Begin your response to each task at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

William die Jurgeliche Wahun, "ist das ein probleme? Ich Denub nicht. Wahn it gene W politikish bekommen, Es itst für die alte tersonen. Im Quellun moturieal ling, sprechen sie die komness über Mabrina und schulur und schulur und schulur und schulur und schulur in. Desires ist nicht eine richtig Arghumt. Denn die 16 15 still einer Kind um ibt ein Kleiner Kopk.

Im Quellun maturial zwei, Du Mannst gubern die tolitikish Activitat uon 17 Jahren und die materialn sehen das

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Question 2

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

The question overviews can be found in the "Chief Reader Report on Student Responses" on AP Central.

Sample: 2A Score: 5

This response constitutes a strong performance in Presentational Writing. The response is an effective treatment of the topic within the context of the essay task because it fulfills all requirements set out in the directions. It presents a clear viewpoint by stating that 16-year-olds should be able to vote ("deshalb sollte 16-Jährige wählen dürfen"), and it skillfully marshals the information in the three sources in support of this thesis. The basic thrust of the argument is succinctly stated in the initial paragraph of the essay: 16-year-olds are almost adults ("praktisch schon erwachsen"), particularly in the sense of their political maturity, and they deserve to vote because the political system has such a strong effect on their lives. This early summary allows the argument to be reinforced multiple times within the essay, lending it real rhetorical power.

This response displays a high degree of comprehension of the three sources and integrates each into a truly coherent argument that is effectively structured around two major points. The first point is summarized in the first sentence of the second paragraph: "16-Jährige sind schon politisch aktiv." Three paragraphs build out this premise in considerable detail. Sources 1 and 2 are cited as showing that students are politically engaged. There is a minor inaccuracy in the understanding of a statement in source 1 (the source says that only the top 10% of youth participates in climate demonstrations; it does not say that youths comprise 10% of demonstrations generally), but the source does confirm that at least some youths are politically active, and information from the lefthand bar graph in source 2 is brought in to reinforce the point that the younger generation is politically engaged ("mehr als ein halb (61%) der 17-Jährigen engagieren sich . . . in der politischen System"). Information in the right-hand bar graph is analyzed to make much the same point: Young people are up to speed with political topics ("Zum Beispiel 76% der gefragte Jugendliche Interesse an Menschenrechte haben"). Having established the fact that youths are politically aware, the response hammers home the call for voting rights: "Da 16- und 17- Jährige so viel an Politik interessen, sollen sie wählen dürfen"; "Diese Interesse demonstriert, dass Jugendliche sind bereit in der Politische Welt teilzunehmen"). In its fourth paragraph the essay also addresses source 3, implicitly accusing the German politician of hypocrisy for suggesting that 16- and 17-year-olds must wait to vote ("Vielech hat Dr. Löffer recht, weil meisten 16-Jährige keine völlig gemachte Weltanschaung haben, aber wenige Leute haben Meinungen die nie sich ändern werden auch wenn mann 30 Jahre alt ist").

The fifth paragraph opens up a new line of argumentation centered around the observation that young people will use their right to vote if it is granted. Source 1 is cited, accurately this time, as showing that 90% of young voters in Austria vote, which is "besonders viel" in comparison to the rest of the population. Information from source 2 is adduced in support of this point to show that young

Question 2 (continued)

people are already part of the voting public in other areas as well: "Viele [Jugendliche] in Deutschland und in der Schweiz haben auch schon die Wahlrecht für kleine regionale Wählen." The response poses a rhetorical challenge here to good effect: "Warum sollen diese Jungendliche dann nicht in der große Wähle teilnehmen?" Indeed, the fact that 16- and 17-year-olds are already voting is used as ammunition in another attack on Löffler's point of view in source 3. Small regional elections give young people exactly the kind of experience and the responsibility that Löffler says they need in order to prepare for their role as full-fledged citizens.

The final paragraph adds to this point of view by observing that the Internet plays a role in voting maturity: "16-Jährige heutzutage erfahren mehr Herausforderungen als früher. Wegen der Internet haben sie eine größer Weltanschauung als früher." Today's 16-year-olds, the response states, are more exposed than ever before to world events; they are politically aware, politically able, politically engaged. The conclusion, by the end of this very strong essay, is a refrain that the reader has been skillfully conditioned to hum along with: "deswegen sollten 16-Jährige wählen dürfen."

This response follows an organized, logical sequence due to transitional elements as well as varied and appropriate vocabulary ("Zum Beispiel"; "praktisch schon erwachsen"; "liegen ziemlich viel Wert schon auf"; "Obwohl"; "deswegen"). There is ease and clarity of expression, and occasional errors such as "liegen," "kann diese Menschen," and "obere zehn Protzent" do not impede comprehensibility. Finally, the language is accurate and varied in grammar, syntax, and usage, with some complex sentences ("um wählen zu dürfen"; "je mehr politische Rechte 16-Jährige bekommen desto verantwortlicher und politisch aktiver werden sie"). This is a strong performance in Presentational Writing, and it accordingly received a score of 5.

Sample: 2B Score: 3

This response exemplifies a fair performance in Presentational Writing. The response constitutes a suitable treatment of the topic within the context of the task, as it provides a statement of the student's position ("junge Menschen . . . sind uberall klug genug . . . zu wählen dürfen") and uses information from at least two of the sources build an argument in favor of that position. The organization of the essay is worth reviewing. It starts somewhat counter-intuitively with a concession: "Manchmal haben junger menschen Probleme gemacht. Viele gehen bei proteste und sind ein bisschen chaotisch." Although there is no source cited, this information is based on source 1. Indeed, the response intensifies this critical view of young people, noting that they don't know as much as they think they do ("Sie ... denken dass sie alle wissen. Aber dass stimmt nicht") and then stating that they are still children and thus cannot even legally drive a car ("Sie sind stelle Kinder. Sie kann ein Auto nicht fahren"). No source is cited here, though the example aligns with the one mentioned by Dr. Löffler in source 3. According to the response, the upshot of all of this is not that the young people of today are untrustworthy, though; it is simply the case that "other people," by which is probably meant "grown-ups," just don't understand them ("Also haben anderen Leute die Kinder nicht so gut verstehen").

With that, the argument starts to turn a corner. The problems that youths cause are minor, whereas their voting rights are a major issue ("Obwohl dieses probleme sind wichtig, die wahlrecht von jung

Question 2 (continued)

menschen sind sehr wichtiger"). The question is given a moral dimension: these voting rights are important because young people deserve to be independent ("dieses menschen haben proteste organiziert und sollten unabhängig sind"). The third paragraph draws on source 2 to support the idea that young people are politically engaged ("Mehr alls 35% von jungenliche unter 18 haben Boykott-Aktion gemacht . . . 42% sind interessiert in LGBTI-Rechte"). What is nice about this essay is that it does two things in combination: it presents facts that show how young people can keep up with political events, and it argues compellingly for voting as a right ("Die Kinder sind nicht dumm. Sie sollten was sie denken sagen dürfen. Die jungendliche sollten rechte für Ihren sicherkeit, gesundheit, und leben haben. Sie sind auch Leute und können für Ihren selben denken").

The fourth and fifth paragraphs offer limited development of the argument. Both function as conclusions (they start with "Am Ende" and "Überall," respectively) and offer no new ideas, though the word "Respekt" is usefully introduced as a kind of synonym for the justifications already given for an extension of voting rights.

This response employs a limited repertoire of transitional elements and cohesive devices ("Obwohl", "Am Ende"), but they do help to organize the flow of the essay. The language here can be characterized as generally understandable and basic in all respects. Vocabulary is appropriate but basic, with errors that occasionally impede comprehensibility ("altermachen"; "das alt"; "Sie sind stelle Kinder"; "sie sind klein über"; the use of "Ob" where "Wenn" is needed) and there is only some control of grammar, syntax and usage, with errors including subject-verb agreement, word order, and verb structures ("Die Kinder will"; "Ob die kinder der probleme in der welt verstehen, dann kann sie wie wichtige wählen rechts sind auch verstanden"). Spelling is a notable area of difficulty ("Meinstens mann"; "alls"; "Theme"); the key word Jugendliche is never capitalized and never spelled fully correctly, with variations ranging from "Die jugendliche" to "jungenliche," "jugenliche," and "jungendliche." This response received a score of 3.

Sample: 2C Score: 2

This response constitutes a weak performance in Presentational Writing. The treatment of the topic is unsuitable, as it barely addresses the issue of voting rights for 16-year-olds. The response indirectly presents a viewpoint ("Wann die Jungeliche wahlen, ist das ein probleme? Ich Denkt nicht"), but the next sentence suggests the opposite position ("Wann it gehe zu politikish bekommen, Es ist für die alte personen"). The response exhibits misunderstanding of source 1 ("Im Quellenmaterieal eins, sprecken sie die fairness uber Katrina und schuler und schullerin"). There is limited vocabulary and control of grammar ("Denn die 16 is still einer Kind umitt ein Kleiner Kopf"). The response concludes with an attempt to summarize source 2 that unfortunately does not go beyond repeating one of the headings ("du kannst gesehen die politikish activitat von 17 Jahren und die materialen sehen das"). Overall, the response demonstrates an unsuitable treatment of the topic within the context of the task, and it accordingly received a score of 2.