2019

AP[°] German Language and Culture

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Task 2—Persuasive Essay

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AP[®] GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE 2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Identical to Scoring Guidelines used for French, Italian, and Spanish Language and Culture Exams

Presentational Writing: Persuasive Essay (Task 2)

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.

5: STRONG performance in Presentational Writing

- Effective treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Demonstrates a high degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints, with very few minor inaccuracies
 Integrates content from all three sources in support of the essay
- Presents and defends the student's own viewpoint on the topic with a high degree of clarity; develops a persuasive argument with coherence and detail
- Organized essay; effective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
- Fully understandable, with ease and clarity of expression; occasional errors do not impede comprehensibility
- Varied and appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language
- Accuracy and variety in grammar, syntax, and usage, with few errors
- Develops paragraph-length discourse with a variety of simple and compound sentences, and some complex sentences

4: GOOD performance in Presentational Writing

- Generally effective treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Demonstrates comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; may include a few inaccuracies
- Summarizes, with limited integration, content from all three sources in support of the essay
- Presents and defends the student's own viewpoint on the topic with clarity; develops a persuasive argument with coherence
- Organized essay; some effective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
- Fully understandable, with some errors that do not impede comprehensibility
- Varied and generally appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language
- General control of grammar, syntax, and usage
- Develops mostly paragraph-length discourse with simple, compound, and a few complex sentences

3: FAIR performance in Presentational Writing

- Suitable treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Demonstrates a moderate degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; includes some inaccuracies
- Summarizes content from at least two sources in support of the essay
- Presents and defends the student's own viewpoint on the topic; develops a somewhat persuasive argument with some coherence
- Some organization; limited use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
- Generally understandable, with errors that may impede comprehensibility
- Appropriate but basic vocabulary and idiomatic language
- Some control of grammar, syntax, and usage
- Uses strings of mostly simple sentences, with a few compound sentences

2: WEAK performance in Presentational Writing

- Unsuitable treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Demonstrates a low degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; information may be limited or inaccurate
- Summarizes content from one or two sources; may not support the essay
- Presents, or at least suggests, the student's own viewpoint on the topic; develops an unpersuasive argument somewhat incoherently
- Limited organization; ineffective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
- Partially understandable, with errors that force interpretation and cause confusion for the reader
- Limited vocabulary and idiomatic language
- Limited control of grammar, syntax, and usage
- Uses strings of simple sentences and phrases

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Presentational Writing: Persuasive Essay (Task 2) (continued)

1: POOR performance in Presentational Writing

- Almost no treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Demonstrates poor comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; includes frequent and significant inaccuracies
- Mostly repeats statements from sources or may not refer to any sources
- Minimally suggests the student's own viewpoint on the topic; argument is undeveloped or incoherent
- Little or no organization; absence of transitional elements and cohesive devices
- Barely understandable, with frequent or significant errors that impede comprehensibility
- Very few vocabulary resources
- Little or no control of grammar, syntax, and usage
- Very simple sentences or fragments

0: UNACCEPTABLE performance in Presentational Writing

- 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

- (hyphen): BLANK (no response)

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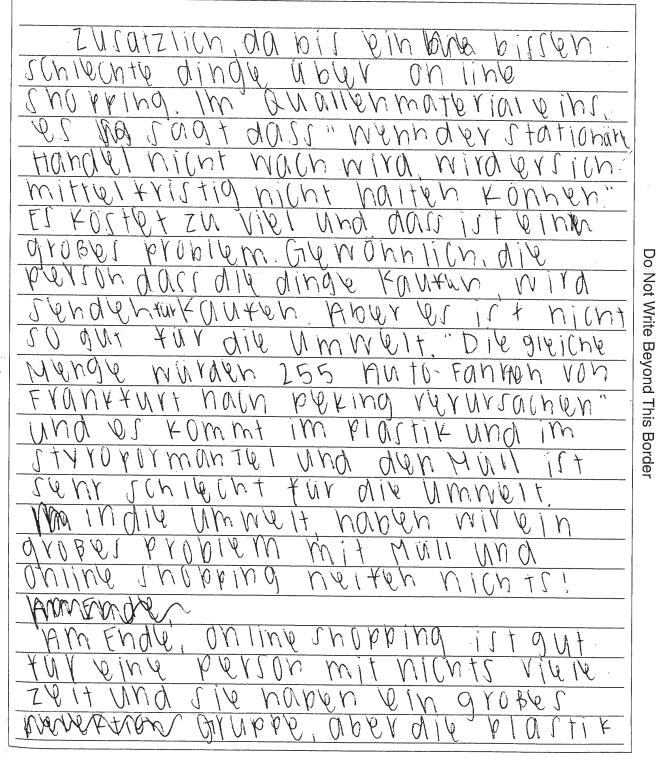
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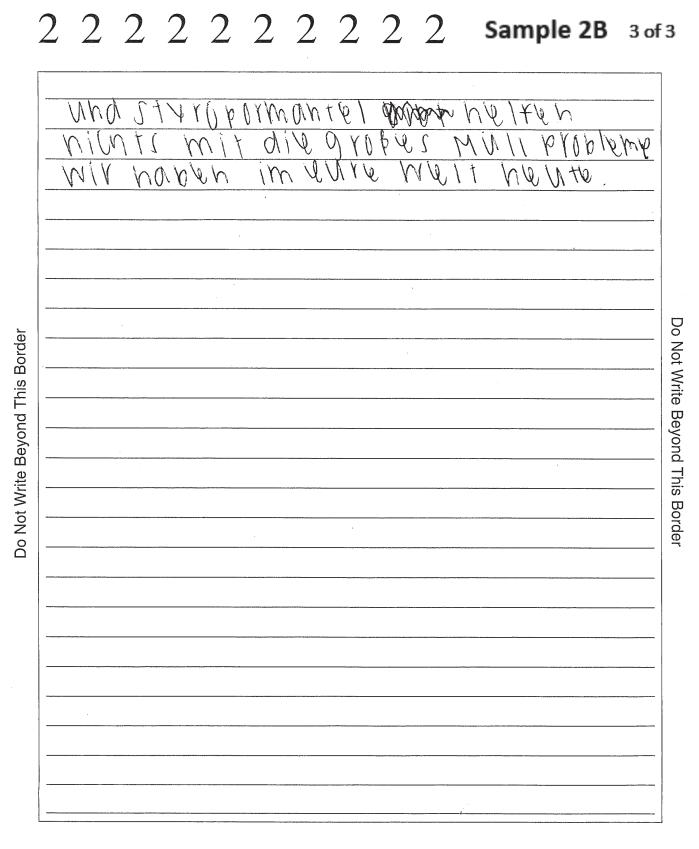
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Task 2: Persuasive Essay

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

Overview

This task assessed writing in the presentational communicative mode by having the student write a persuasive essay on a given topic while referencing three sources of information about the topic. Students were first allotted 6 minutes to read the essay topic and the two printed sources. Then they listened to the one audio source. Afterward they had 40 minutes to write the essay. The response received a single, holistic score based on how well it accomplished the assigned task. Students needed to be able first to comprehend the three sources and then to present their different viewpoints. They also had to present their own viewpoint and defend it thoroughly, using information from all of the sources to support the essay. As they referred to the sources, they had to identify them appropriately. Furthermore the essay had to be organized into clear paragraphs.

In this exam, within the theme of Global Challenges (*Globalisierung*), students wrote essays in response to the question of whether one should do less online shopping. (*Sollte man weniger online einkaufen?*) The first print source (*Quellenmaterial 1*) offers a variety of reasons that speak against the online shopping boom: They range from the substandard working conditions in the industry to negative consequences for small businesses and shopping centers to the detrimental environmental impact of delivery, return, and packaging of the products. The second print source (*Quellenmaterial 2*), a table titled "Why do you sometimes prefer to shop on the Internet rather than in the store?" (*Warum kaufen Sie manchmal lieber im Internet als im Geschäft ein?*), offers nine different reasons *for* online shopping and also lists the small percentage of people who prefer to shop at a store. *Quellenmaterial 3*, an audio source, features an interview with Amelie Richter, a student who is an avid online shopper, and with the clothing designer Carl Tillessen, who describes the advantages of e-commerce for his small business, which is trying to strike a balance between physical retailing and Internet sales.

Sample: 2A Score: 4

The response presents a generally effective treatment of the topic because the student demonstrates a high degree of comprehension of the sources and integrates them to support argumentation. For example, "Es gibt auch Sachen, die man in der Nähe nicht finden kann (3). Das ist für die Kunden offensichtlich gut. Es ist auch gut für die Kultur, weil Leute immer neue Sachen finden und ausprobieren können" and "Oft, wenn man etwas online kauft, funktioniert es nicht genau wie man gedacht hat. Dann musst es zurück transportiert, inspiziert, und manchmal repariert werden." The student presents a personal viewpoint and defends it, although there is occasionally a lack of clarity or continuity in the way this is done. In the first paragraph the student signals a position with the statement "Meiner Meinung nach, sollen wir viel weniger online kaufen." The student then concedes the advantages of online shopping that are described in sources 2 and 3; the sources are integrated well, and the reader can overlook the unfortunate use of the word "Vorurteile" where the student is describing the advantages (the appropriate word would have been Vorteile) of online shopping. Some confusion arises at the beginning of the third paragraph, however, because the student starts to describe disadvantages of online shopping by using the very same word ("Es gibt aber viele Vorurteile"). After these small lapses, though, the train of thought becomes clear because the student is able to cite information from sources 1 and 3 in support of local shopping ("Zum Beispiel geht jedes zweite Paket ... zurück"; "Es gibt zum Beispiel Klieder, die nur in echten Läden sind"), and the student adds a few personal observations that round out the shop-local position: "Es macht auch mehr Spaß in echten Läden einkaufen zu gehen. Man kann mit Freunden sprechen, und es ist sehr gut für die Gesundheit, ein bisschen zu laufen." Although the essay lacks a final statement that might have summed up the student's overall stance, it is well argued and coherent.

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Task 2: Persuasive Essay (continued)

The response demonstrates some nice idiomatic and appropriate vocabulary ("*Das ist für die Kunden offensichtlich gut*") and a control of grammar that is closer to the score point 5 than 4 in complex sentences such as "*Weil es jetzt so einfach ist, etwas online zu kaufen, müssen die Kunden entscheiden, wo sie ihr Geld benutzen wollen.*" Perhaps due to time pressure, though, the last sentence of the essay is incomplete ("*Obwohl es schnell und bequem ist, mit dem Internet einzukaufen, müssen wir uns erinnern*"), and it is left up to the reader to formulate both the thought and the student's overall position. Still this essay can still be called a good performance; therefore, it received a score of 4.

Sample: 2B Score: 3

This response constitutes a fair performance and a suitable treatment of the topic because the student is able to carry out the assigned task, but at a basic level. The response demonstrates a moderate degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; some nuances are lost and paraphrases are inaccurate as a result. For example, "*Im Quallenmaterial drei, diskutieren die Menschen über die positives mit on line shopping*" and "*Im Quallenmaterial eins, es sagt dass 'Wenn der Stationäre Handel nicht wach wird, wird er sich mittelfristig nicht halten können.' Es köstet zu viel und dass ist ein großes problem.*" Some parts of the essay are incomprehensible and force interpretation ("*So Sie können dass online Shopping besser sehen sein. Zusatzlich, da bis ein bissen schlechte dinge über on line shopping*"). The student uses appropriate but basic vocabulary and demonstrates only some control of grammar ("*Am Ende, online shopping ist gut für eine person mit nichts viele zeit und sie haben ein großes Gruppe, aber die plastik und Styropormantel helfen nichts mit die großes Müll probleme wir haben im eure Welt heute*"). This sample is generally understandable with errors that, at times, may impede comprehensibility ("*Sie können Klamotten nichts viele haben finden*"). This fair performance received a score of 3.

Sample: 2C Score: 2

This essay exemplifies a weak performance in Presentational Writing, as it fails to complete some aspects of the assigned task. For starters, it does not engage with all of the sources (there is no clear reference to anything in source 2) and demonstrates a low degree of comprehension when the source material is used ("*In dem Hortext sie sagt dass es macht spaß und sie kennen Klamoten auf USA und ja dass ist toll aber est ist schlect fur die welt*"). At the same time, the student also demonstrates a limited vocabulary and a limited control of grammar and syntax ("*Was gut komst von dass?*"). Some sentences force interpretation ("*Es macht 800 Packete, und 400 CO2, Mensch gefaillt es denn es ist einfch aber eingenicht es ist nur schlect*"). The student suggests a personal viewpoint ("*Einkaufen mit dem Internet ist ncht gut für die Welt*"), but develops an unpersuasive argument that is additionally somewhat incoherent: "*Warum ncht zu dm shoppe gehen? Du will sport geben und es ist besser.*" While this sample is partially understandable, it is marred by limited organization and errors that force interpretation. All in all, it is a weak performance that earned a score of 2.