Success at writing
GCSE German

Activity pack

teachitlanguages

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Higher tier

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Introduction

This GCSE pack is designed to prepare students for their German writing exam. It can be used as a teaching resource to dip into throughout the GCSE course or as a revision tool in the run-up to the exam.

The pack has been specifically written for use with the AQA specification for GCSE German, although it will also be relevant to the Edexcel and Eduqas exam boards, as many of the tasks are similar if not identical. The activities and ideas will help students develop confidence and accuracy in preparing for the written and translation elements of the exam.

You will find separate sections for each of the Foundation and Higher questions in the AQA GCSE writing exam, as outlined in the teaching notes on the next page (with the 90 word 'cross-over' question being identical for both tiers).

The worksheets and example questions cover a wide range of topics from the three themes:

1. Identity and culture

2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest

3. Current and future study and employment.

This pack is Teachit Languages' take on what will be helpful to your students in the written exam. Please note that none of the sample questions or suggested answers have been created or endorsed by AQA.

Acknowledgements

Our thanks go to our contributing writer, Carol Bennell.

Carol has been teaching French and German for over twenty years and has been a contributor for Teachit Languages since 2016. She is an experienced examiner for AQA's GCSE writing exam and is currently completing a Masters in German translation whilst continuing to teach part-time.

Teaching notes

Each of the questions in the Foundation and Higher writing exams has its own, dedicated section of this pack (with the 90 word question being the cross-over task).

This enables very effective and targeted differentiation for your students, and allows them to focus on the particular areas they personally need to improve.

Overview and marks

The Foundation writing exam consists of four questions:

1. A photo description task (four sentences)

    *   8 marks (marked for communication only)

2. A 40 word paragraph in response to four bullet points

    *   16 marks (10 for content and 6 for quality of language)

3. Five sentences to translate into the target language

    *   10 marks (5 for conveying key messages and 5 for grammatical knowledge of language and structures)

4. A 90 word answer in response to four bullet points, with a choice of two tasks

    *   16 marks (10 for content and 6 for quality of language).

The Higher writing exam consists of three questions:

1. A 90 word answer in response to four bullet points, with a choice of two tasks

    *   16 marks (10 for content and 6 for quality of language)

2. A 150 word answer in response to two bullet points, with a choice of two tasks

    *   32 marks (15 for content, 12 for range of language and 5 for accuracy)

3. A short passage to translate into the target language

    *   12 marks (6 for conveying key messages and 6 for grammatical knowledge of language and structures).

In each section of this pack you'll find a five-part structure:

1. Getting started

Here you'll find worksheets and activities to build vocabulary, revise verbs, tenses, time frames and opinions. These are focused on the specific elements that will be most useful to each question.

2. Tackling the question

We've created pair work activities to unpick the strategies for each question type, and peer-assessment tasks to help students understand how to pick up more marks.

Please note that the assessment grids in the pack are modelled on the AQA mark schemes, but have been adapted to make them more accessible for students to use.

Where there are marks for both content as well as quality or range of language and accuracy, we have provided assessment grids solely for content. This is to make it easier for students to accurately peer- or self-assess. The marks for quality or range of language, as well as those for accuracy, are still addressed in the activities which are designed to make students aware of how to improve.

You can find full details of the AQA assessment criteria and mark schemes on their website: www.aqa.org.uk.

3. Exam practice

These are exam-style questions but with some additional support, such as planning grids, to encourage students to tackle the question in the most effective way.

4. Reflect and review

This element of the pack consists of a simple one-page quiz designed to enable students to assess what they have understood about each question type and how to pick up most marks.

5. Answers

Answers can be found at the end of each section. Please note that written answers are suggestions only rather than models.

! Top tips

Throughout each section you'll also find top tips, which give invaluable advice on how best to tackle each question type to enable students to maximise their marks.

Describing a photo

A. Picture some people

Photos often show people. Do you know these words for different people? Write the English in the second column.

Deutsch	Englisch	Deutsch
ein Mann		
eine Frau		
eine Person		
ein Kind		
ein Baby		
ein Junge		
ein Mädchen		
eine Familie		

- Check your answers on page 22.
- Now try to memorise the German words in the first column.
- Say them out loud, then copy them on some rough paper, looking carefully at the spelling, capitalisation and gender (*der, die, das*). Note that '*Person*' is always feminine.
- Finally, cover the first column, look at the English words and write the German for them in the third column, from memory.

B. Family and friends

Photos might show family members or friends together. Translate the following sentences.

> **!** **Top tips**
>
> Take care with the little words (*ein/eine/einen/die/zwei/drei etc.*) and remember to add the correct plural endings.

1. There is a family.

   Es gibt ……………………………………………

2. I see a mum and a dad.

   Ich sehe ……………………………………………

3. There are two men.

   ……………………………………………

4. I see some children.

   ……………………………………………

5. There are three friends in the photo.

   ……………………………………………

6. I think that it's a brother and sister.

   ……………………………………………

> **!** **Top tips**
>
> Keep sentences as short as possible for this task. Don't write: '*Es gibt einen Lehrer mit Kindern*'. Instead, make two shorter sentences out of this: '*Es gibt einen Lehrer. Ich sehe Kinder*'.

C. Noun storm

Photos usually show places and objects, as well as people. What nouns do you already know in German that might be useful for photos taken in these places? Write them in the boxes below, including '*ein/eine/einen/die*'.

In der Schule	In der Stadt	Im Urlaub
Im Restaurant	**Im Park**	**Auf einer Geburtstagsparty**

- Swap words with a partner. How many more can you add?

- Use a dictionary or online dictionary to look up some more words for each box.

- Can you find 10 nouns for each box?

- Cover the words and just look at each heading in turn. Write as many words as possible in one minute or test a partner.

D. What's the weather like?

Any photo taken outside usually gives some indication of what the weather might be like. There are two ways weather sentences can start in German. Categorise the weather words into the correct column and add the English meanings.

Es ist … (+ *adjective*)	Es … (+ *verb*)

Weather words		
nebelig	friert	schön
grau	kalt	schneit
sonnig	wolkig	regnet
windig	heiß	schlecht

! Top tips

Students sometimes add an extra verb e.g. '*ist*', so they write '*es ist regnet*'. There is no need to add the extra '*ist*', because '*regnet*' can be translated as 'rains' or 'is raining' (like all German verbs in the present tense).

E. Describe the weather

Translate the following weather sentences, without looking back at the grid.

1. It's hot. …………………………..

2. It's raining. ………………….…

3. It's sunny. ……………………….

4. It's cold. ………………………………

5. It's a grey day. ………………………

6. It's a horrible day. ……………………