



# **German: Background Language ATAR course**

## **Practical (oral) examination requirements**

### **2017**

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## German: Background Language ATAR course Practical (oral) examination

This document contains general advice to teachers, candidates and parents on the German: Background Language ATAR course Practical (oral) examination.

Students who are enrolled in a Year 12 ATAR course pair of units are required to sit both the practical and written ATAR course examination. There are no exemptions and if candidates fail to sit and do not have an approved sickness/misadventure claim then the grades for the course units will not contribute to any of the WACE requirements.

The practical examination for German: Background Language will be held during the period from **Saturday, 14 October** to **Sunday, 29 October 2017** (weekends included) at metropolitan and major country locations. Candidates must be available to complete their practical (oral) examination during this time. A *Personalised practical examination timetable* (Appendix 1) for each candidate will be made available from **Friday, 8 September 2017**. Non-school candidates will be notified directly by mail. Country candidates are expected to take their practical (oral) examination via telephone. If the candidate chooses to travel to the examination centre then they do so at their own cost.

For German: Background Language, the ATAR course examination weightings are:

- Written examination 70%
- Practical (oral) examination 30%

### 1. Reporting achievement

Teachers are responsible for ensuring the practical (oral) requirements are met and making sure candidates are adequately prepared for the practical (oral) examination. Teachers must ensure they are using the current syllabus. Any further advice on matters related to the syllabus or assessment will be published in the *11to12 Circular* which is available on the Authority website at <http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circular-ecircular>.

Teachers should also refer to the ATAR course examination information published in Section 6 of the *WACE Manual 2017*, which is available on the Authority website at <http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual>.

For all ATAR courses with a practical examination, for the pair of units, schools are required to submit to the Authority a:

- course mark out of 100 (weighted for each component)
- mark out of 100 for the written component
- mark out of 100 for the practical component
- grade for the completed pair of units.

### 2. Candidates with an injury, illness or disability

Candidates who have a permanent disability that could prevent them demonstrating their knowledge, understanding or skills in a standard practical examination may apply to be assessed under special examination arrangements. Candidates with a long-term injury or illness which existed prior to the beginning of Term 3 are to apply for special arrangements to be examined in an alternative format if the injury or illness will affect their participation in the standard practical examination. Application is made on the form available at all schools and must be received at the Authority by **Friday, 28 July 2017**. These candidates will not be

granted sickness/misadventure approval. Additional application forms may be obtained on request or from the Authority website at <http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms>.

### **3. Provisions for sickness/misadventure**

Consideration may be given to candidates (except non-school candidates) who believe their performance in a practical examination may have been affected by an unexpected sickness, or unforeseen event beyond their control, close to or during the examinations. Such candidates may apply for sickness/misadventure consideration. Application is made by the candidate by the prescribed date using the form available in schools or from the Authority website at <http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms>.

A candidate with an injury or illness existing at the start of Term 3 is not entitled to apply for sickness/misadventure consideration on the basis of the existing injury or illness.

### **4. Principles of external assessment**

The marking process preserves the anonymity of candidates and their school. This requires that candidates are identified only by their SCSA student number.

Markers apply a consistent standard to assess the candidate's work. This requires:

- a marking key for the practical (oral) examination
- attendance at a marker training meeting prior to the commencement of marking
- trial marking of sample oral recordings to ensure a common understanding of the marking key
- the practical (oral) examination to be marked independently by two markers who then reconcile any differences between them
- the chief marker to ensure consistency throughout the marking by monitoring the marking process and reconciling significant differences where necessary.

### **5. Criteria for marking**

Practical (oral) performance is assessed on what a candidate is able to demonstrate throughout the discussion. The practical (oral) examination marking key 2017, published on the Authority website, identifies the assessment criteria suited to the discussion and describes levels of candidate performance for each criterion. Therefore, candidates are advised to familiarise themselves with the marking key as preparation for their performance in the examination. The candidate is strongly advised to participate in a conversation with the marker, rather than attempt to recite a prepared response that resembles a monologue. In the interest of the candidate, such monologues will be interrupted by the marker at an appropriate point.

A numerical scale is used to assess performance in the practical (oral) examination. All candidates are examined against the following criteria:

- personal investigation – introduction
- response (relevance and depth of information)
- linguistic resources – range
- linguistic resources – accuracy
- speech – pronunciation and intonation.

## 6. Marking procedure

The practical (oral) examination is marked independently by two markers. One marker conducts the discussion while the second marker sits in the background and makes notes on the candidate's performance. An audio recording of each candidate's performance is made. The audio recordings are used to ensure comparability between markers. Selected samples may also be included as exemplars for standards purposes.

## 7. Examination requirements

Candidates are required to submit by **Wednesday, 20 September 2017** a *Personal Investigation Interview Sheet* (Appendix 2) including:

- a 300 word summary in German
- an annotated bibliography of three source texts.

## 8. Examination procedure

On the day of the practical (oral) examination, the candidate must bring their *Personalised practical examination timetable*.

If a candidate is found with any unauthorised materials during the examination, they may be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules committee.

The candidate must ensure that nothing they carry or wear can identify either them, their school, club or achievements. If this does occur, the candidate may be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules committee.

The candidate is required to report to a supervisor at the examination centre at the scheduled reporting time. This reporting time is 20 minutes before the scheduled examination time. The scheduled examination time is the time at which the examination commences.

A candidate who has not reported to a supervisor once their scheduled examination time has commenced will not be admitted to the practical (oral) examination and the examination cannot be rescheduled.

At the scheduled reporting time, the candidate reports to the registration desk with their *Personalised practical examination timetable*. Prior to the scheduled examination time, a supervisor directs the candidate to leave any unauthorised materials at the registration desk. The supervisor accepts no responsibility for these materials.

The candidate is taken to an interview room at the prescribed time.

The candidate must leave the examination area once they have completed their examination, and must not have contact with candidates waiting to be examined, or teachers, or other parties who are seeking feedback from the examination until all the examinations have concluded. Failure to do so may result in a breach of examination rules.

## 9. Breach of examination rules

An alleged breach of examination rules is referred to the Breach of Examination Rules committee. Further information related to breach of examination (malpractice) can be found at <http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/year-12-information>.

A breach of one of these rules can result in cancellation of a part or all of the practical raw examination mark.

## 10. Structure of the practical (oral) examination

Examination	Duration
Discussion of personal investigation	approximately 12–15 minutes

## 11. Conduct of the practical (oral) examination

When the candidate enters the interview room, the marker begins with a greeting to the candidate in German and then asks them in English to state their School Curriculum and Standards Authority student number. The candidate reads out their number in English.

Marker: *Guten Tag. Wie geht es Ihnen?*

Candidate: *Guten Tag. Danke, gut ...*

Marker: *I am your interviewer for the German: Background Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination today. Can you read me your School Curriculum and Standards Authority student number please?*

Candidate: *Yes, my number is ...*

Marker: *Thank you. I'll repeat that number (repeats numbers to confirm).*

### Discussion of personal investigation

The marker initiates the discussion in the following way:

Marker: *Erzählen Sie mir bitte über das Thema, das Sie vorbereitet haben ...*  
(focus of the candidate's personal investigation)

The candidate introduces briefly the focus of their personal investigation in no more than one minute.

The candidate discusses with the marker the focus of the personal investigation, referring to the source texts used. The candidate can also refer to personal experiences related to the topic, or area of interest.

This discussion of the personal investigation allows for an accurate assessment of the candidate's linguistic ability and knowledge of their topic, or area of interest.

At the end of the discussion, the marker stands, thanks the candidate and states that the examination has concluded.

Marker: *Danke, das ist das Ende Ihres Interviews/Ihrer mündlichen Prüfung.*

## 12. Key dates

5 April 2017	Last date for upload into SIRS of changes to student enrolment for the practical (oral) examination
28 July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Last date for receipt by the Authority of application for special examination arrangements (alternative format examination)</li><li>• Last date for receipt by the Authority of changes to student enrolment for practical examinations</li></ul>
8 September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personalised timetables can be downloaded by schools/providers from SIRS</li><li>• Students can access their personalised examination timetables via the Authority's student portal</li></ul>
20 September 2017	<i>Personal Investigation Interview Sheet</i> submission to the Authority
14 October to 29 October 2017 (weekends included)	German: Background Language ATAR course Practical (oral) examination

## Appendix 1: Personalised practical examination timetable



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<b>2017 ATAR Course examinations</b> <b>Personalised practical examination timetable</b> Practical (oral) examination in <b>German: Background Language</b>
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SCSA student number:

2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
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Candidate: Sample Candidate

School name: Sample School

School code: 4188

### Examination details

Course: German: Background Language

Date: Sunday, 22 October 2017

Reporting time: 1:00PM

Examination time: 1:20PM

Venue: Sample Venue

Reporting Location: Reception

Refer to the map on the back

<b>These examination details are final and no changes can be made.</b>
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Candidates who have not reported to a supervisor once their scheduled examination time has commenced will not be admitted to the practical (oral) examination and the examination cannot be rescheduled.

Candidates must not wear or carry anything that identifies either them, their school, club or achievements. If this does occur, candidates will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules committee. This does not apply to phone interviews.

Candidates are required to sign this sheet prior to the examination. This signed timetable is shown to the supervisor when registering at the examination venue for the practical (oral) examination.

Candidates must leave the examination area once they complete the examination. Candidates must not have contact with candidates waiting to be examined, or teachers, or other parties who are seeking feedback from the examination. Failure to do so may result in a breach of examination rules.

Candidates must not contact the venue about the examination arrangements. Any queries must be directed to the School Curriculum and Standards Authority on 9273 6377.

Signature .....Date .....

**Emergency contact for candidates: Phone 9273 6377**



## Appendix 2: Personal investigation interview sheet



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### 2017 German Background Language practical (oral) ATAR course examination Personal Investigation Interview Sheet

#### Instructions to candidate:

Use the information from your personalised practical examination timetable to fill in the time and date of your practical (oral) examination.

Time:  Date:

Attach the following to this cover sheet:

- A bibliography of your three source texts. All references and use of another person's work of materials used in the submitted works are to be referenced clearly.
- A three hundred word written summary of your personal investigation, written in German.

SCSA student number:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Submissions must be received by the Authority no later than 4 pm Wednesday, 20 September 2017. Submissions after this time will not be accepted. Failure to submit these documents means you will not be able to sit the practical (oral) examination. Faxes will not be accepted.

Submissions must be marked Private and Confidential and posted to:

Mark Leigh – Senior Consultant  
School Curriculum and Standards Authority  
PO Box 816  
CANNINGTON WA 6987  
[exams@scsa.wa.edu.au](mailto:exams@scsa.wa.edu.au)