



German: Background Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination requirements

2023

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

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German: Background Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination

This document provides general advice to teachers, candidates and parents about the German: Background Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination.

Where a Year 12 ATAR course has both a written and a practical examination, students are required to sit for both of these examinations. Students who do not sit an ATAR course examination and do not have an approved sickness/misadventure application for that course will not have the grades for the pair of units completed in that year contribute to the calculation of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).

The practical (oral) examination for the German: Background Language ATAR course will be held during the period from **Saturday, 14 October** to **Sunday, 22 October 2023** (weekends included) at metropolitan 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 **Tuesday, 5 September 2023**. Examination timetables can be downloaded by schools/providers via SIRS and by students from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) [student portal \(https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au/\)](https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au/). Country candidates are expected to sit their practical (oral) examination via telephone or may choose to travel to the examination centre at their own cost.

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

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

1. Reporting achievement

Teachers are responsible for ensuring the practical (oral) examination requirements are met and making sure candidates are adequately prepared. 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 Circulars \(https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circular-ecircular/11to12-circulars\)](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circular-ecircular/11to12-circulars), on the Authority website.

Teachers should also refer to the ATAR course examination information published in Section 6 of the [WACE Manual \(http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual\)](http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual), on the Authority website.

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. Provisions for sickness or misadventure

Consideration may be given to candidates (with the exception of non-school candidates) suffering from a temporary sickness or misadventure close to or during the examinations. The candidate may submit a *Sickness/Misadventure Application*, if they believe their performance in an examination has been affected by the sickness or misadventure.

If a candidate misses or is not able to complete an examination session for health reasons, it is important that medical evidence be provided to verify the nature and severity of the illness/injury. In most cases, that will mean producing evidence from a medical professional who was consulted on the day of the examination or the day before.

Applications will be considered only if made on the correct form, available from examination centres and the Authority website (from September 2023) at <http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms>.

Applications that relate to the practical component must be submitted immediately following the practical examination.

Only one form should be used to cover all examinations for which the application is being made. The completed form and all supporting evidence must be received at the Authority by **4.00 pm Tuesday, 21 November 2023**.

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.

3. Principles of external assessment

The marking process preserves the anonymity of candidates and their school. This requires that candidates are identified only by their Western Australian student number (WASN).

Markers apply a consistent standard to assess the candidate's performance. 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.

4. Criteria for marking

Practical (oral) performance is assessed on what a candidate is able to demonstrate throughout the discussion. The *German: Background Language ATAR course practical (oral) marking key 2023*, 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. Candidates are strongly advised to participate in a discussion 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 – fluency, pronunciation and intonation.

5. Marking procedure

Each candidate's 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.

6. Examination requirements

Candidates are required to submit a *Personal investigation interview sheet* (Appendix 2) by **Wednesday, 20 September 2023**, including:

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

7. Examination procedure

On the day of the practical (oral) examination, the candidate **must** bring a signed hard copy of their *Personalised practical examination timetable* to the examination as proof of enrolment, together with a form of photographic ID for proof of identity. An image of their *Personalised practical examination timetable* on their mobile phone will not be accepted as proof of enrolment.

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

Candidates **must not** wear or carry anything that identifies them, any school, club or achievements. Failure to do so will result in a breach of examination rules. The candidate is responsible for their personal belongings at all times.

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.

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, 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.

8. Breach of examination rules

An alleged breach of examination rules will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee. Further information related to examination breaches can be found on the [Rules of conduct for Year 12 ATAR course examinations page \(https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/rules-of-conduct-for-atar-course-examinations\)](https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/rules-of-conduct-for-atar-course-examinations) on the Authority website and in Part II of the *Year 12 Information Handbook*, published in July.

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

9. Structure of the practical (oral) examination

Examination	Duration
Discussion of personal investigation	approximately 12–15 minutes

10. Conduct of the practical (oral) examination

When the candidate enters the interview room, the marker begins by greeting the candidate in German and then asks them in English to state their WASN. The candidate reads out their WASN in English.

For example:

Marker:	<i>Guten Tag. Wie geht es Ihnen?</i>
Candidate:	<i>Guten Tag. Danke, gut ...</i>
Marker:	I am your interviewer for the German: Background Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination today. Can you read me your WA student number in English please?
Candidate:	Yes, my number is ...
Marker:	Thank you. I'll repeat that number (repeats number to confirm).

Discussion of personal investigation

The marker initiates the discussion.

For example:

Marker: *Erzählen Sie mir bitte über ...* (focus of the candidate's personal investigation).

The candidate introduces briefly the focus of their personal investigation in approximately 90 seconds.

The candidate discusses the focus of the personal investigation with the marker, 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 between the candidate and the marker 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.

For example:

Marker: *Danke, das ist das Ende Ihres Interviews.*

11. Key dates

Thursday, 20 July 2023

Last date for withdrawal of enrolment from ATAR courses with a practical examination component

Tuesday, 5 September 2023

Personalised examination timetables can be downloaded by schools/providers via SIRS. Students can access their personalised examination timetables via the student portal

Wednesday, 20 September 2023

Last date for the Authority to receive *Personal investigation interview sheet* submissions

Saturday, 14 October to Sunday, 22 October 2023 (weekends included)

German: Background Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination

Appendix 1: Personalised practical examination timetable



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Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable 2023 German: Background Language

WA student number:

X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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Candidate: Sample Candidate

School name: Sample School

School code: XXXX

Examination details

Course: German: Background Language

Date: Day, Date Month Year

Reporting time: 10:10 am

Examination time: 10:30 am

Venue: Sample Venue
(Re-check on the day prior to the examination)

Reporting location: Sample Location

Refer to the map on the following page

These examination details are final and no changes can be made.

Candidates, staff and visitors are required to comply with all venue specific requirements.

Students who are unwell must complete and submit a *Sickness/Misadventure Application Form*, with supporting evidence, to the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority). If you are a non-school candidate for this course, there is no option to apply for Sickness/Misadventure.

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

Candidates **must not** wear or carry anything that identifies either them, any school, club or achievements. Failure to do so will result in a breach of examination rules.

Candidates are required to sign this timetable prior to the examination. This signed timetable must be shown to the supervisor, with photographic ID, when registering at the examination venue for the practical (oral) examination. Digital copies of your timetable, e.g. on a mobile telephone, are **not** permitted.

Candidates **must not** contact the venue about the examination arrangements. Any queries must be directed to the Authority on 9273 6377.

SignatureDate

Emergency contact for candidates: Phone 0434 734 248

Appendix 2: Personal investigation interview sheet



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German: Background Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination 2023 Personal investigation interview sheet

WA student number:

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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:

October 2023

Use this three-page template to complete the following:

- a cover sheet
- a 300-word summary of your personal investigation, written in German
- an annotated bibliography of your three source texts.

Note: do **not** name your parent, teacher or any school in this *Personal investigation interview sheet*. Use generic terminology, e.g. 'my teacher', without using actual names.

Submissions must be received by Dianne Rogers (address below) no later than 4 pm Wednesday, 20 September 2023.

Submissions to be marked Private & Confidential and emailed to dianne.rogers@scsa.wa.edu.au.

Complete the 300-word summary of your personal investigation, written in German, below.

SAMPLE

Complete the annotated bibliography of your three source texts below.

SAMPLE