## AP® GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE 2013 SCORING GUIDELINES

#### **Presentational Writing: Persuasive Essay**

#### 5: STRONG performance in Presentational Writing

- Effective treatment of the 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 the 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 the 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

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#### **Presentational Writing: Persuasive Essay (continued)**

## 2: WEAK performance in Presentational Writing

- Unsuitable treatment of the 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

#### 1: POOR performance in Presentational Writing

- Almost no treatment of the 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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# AP® GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE 2013 SCORING COMMENTARY

#### Task 2: Persuasive Essay

**Note**: Students' responses are quoted verbatim and may contain grammatical errors.

#### Overview

This task assessed writing in the presentational communicative mode by having students 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 the sources to support the essay. As they referred to the sources, they needed to identify them appropriately. Furthermore, the essay had to be organized into clear paragraphs.

In this exam, and within the theme of Global Challenges (*Globalisierung*), students wrote their persuasive essay in response to the question whether young men should perform compulsory military service (*Sollen junge deutsche Männer Militärdienst machen*?). The print source (*Quellenmaterial 1*) presented three reasons in support of compulsory military service, for example, that 50 percent of career soldiers in the German military are drawn from those who have completed their compulsory service. *Quellenmaterial 2*, a table, showed which European countries still maintain compulsory military service, which countries have eliminated it after 1990, and which have never required it. *Quellenmaterial 3*, the audio to which students listened twice, presented a viewpoint that contrasted with that of the print source and rejected the need for compulsory military source. It argued, for example, that today's military requires highly trained and specialized personnel, which a six-month compulsory military service cannot provide.

Sample: 2A Score: 5

This response provides an effective treatment of the topic within the context of the task by demonstrating and integrating all three sources and viewpoints in order to create a persuasive argument for the abolishment of compulsory military service. There are some minor inaccuracies ("zeigt die Grafik das die Zahl von Länder die Wehrpflicht haben in Europa nach 1990 gestiegen ist"). This essay is organized, fully understandable, and supports content with accurate grammar, syntax, and usage with few errors. This written response is strong.

Sample: 2B Score: 3

This response constitutes a suitable treatment of the topic within the context of the task. A moderate degree of comprehension of the viewpoints with some inaccuracies is evident ("Im audio sagte es, dass es nicht gesund ist. Als da ein Krieg es, viele leute wurden sterben"). The student offers a personal viewpoint somewhat coherently that is generally understandable, with some errors ("Kannst du ein pries auf ein junge machen?"). This written response is fair.

## AP® GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE 2013 SCORING COMMENTARY

**Task 2: Persuasive Essay (continued)** 

Sample: 2C Score: 2

This response presents an unsuitable treatment of the topic within the context of the task. The essay provides inaccurate information from one source, which furthermore does not support the argument of the essay ("Beruf Soldaten bin Gut fur Deutschland, aber das ist ein choice"). Although the student's own viewpoint is presented, the response develops an unpersuasive argument incoherently ("Ich denke das junge Deutsche Männer sollen Militärdienst machen nichts. Nicht Viele Männer will die Militärdienst machen"). This writing sample is only partially understandable, with errors that force interpretation and cause confusion ("Deutscher solle pick ein Beruf. Soldaten sollen will sein Soldaten. Ich weiß es ist imfortaten"). This written response is weak.