### AP® GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EXAM 2016 SCORING GUIDELINES

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

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

#### 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

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#### 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

#### 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)

In generall sind Menschen heute piet In Sohr auf
Heute Sind Mensehen in generall in sehr auf
Fitness und Schonheit Fixiert. Zugt ist Fitness gestund
Für den Körper ober wenn man darauf zu viel fotusiert
lebt man sein leben nicht und mann genießt das
Leben nicht.
arelle 1 handelt sich um die positiven æspekt
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in Deutsehland die ihre meinung geben inter was
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Korperlich Kit zu Sein Für Wichtig halten. Die
Quelle Zeigt auch dass, 22%. von Jugendliche

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Ein andere Problem mit Fitness
und Schönheit im Deutschland ist dass
es Kostet zu viel Zeit. Im Vergleich zu
ein Persons Familie, Gesundheit ist
ment wichtig (Q2). Personnen in
Deutschland gibt "Zwischen 20 [oder 7 40
Minuten pro tag für Fitness, Das ist
Zeit dass man Köntle mit sein Familie oder
im sein Arbeit sind, Fitness und Schönheit
ist zu wichtig und Merchen im Deutschland
solltermehr Zeit für Mihren Familien
finden.
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sagt dass zu viel Fitness Kann man sterhen Whenn man so fixiert an Fitness wist, er er traineit mehr als 20 oder 40 Minuten. (a1) Dass ist mehr als man

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	fixiert an Fitness und Schönheit. Es Kostet zu Gviel Geb, es Kostet zu viel Zeit, und es ist böse für Mans Leben. Man sollte mehr zeit zu Familien und Freunden und weniger Zeit fur Fittess und Schönheit.
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Do Not Write Beyond This Border

Leute will eine gutes Gesundheit habt
AUF Quellenmaterial 21, Bt Gesundment @ Zwe
auf von Statista. Es war unter
Gute Freunde haben 64 prozent Sogt
inver Cresundheit es wichtig. Viellecht
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1St es Jaggen, Skilangiauf, oder Schwimmen. Auf Quellen moterial 1 & sagt es
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denke (resundheitesnicht so wichtig
@ 1St. Diese Leute sind Falson. Eine
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the Gesundheit well es parqibit nur eins.

## AP® GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE 2016 SCORING COMMENTARY

#### Task 2: Persuasive Essay

Note: Student samples 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 Contemporary Life (*Alltag*), students wrote essays in response to the question of whether people today are too fixated on fitness and physical beauty (*Sind die Menschen heute zu sehr auf Fitness und Schönheit fixiert?*). The print source (*Quellenmaterial 1*) argues for the importance of regular physical activity for overall health and wellness, touching on several positive effects of exercising at least three times a week for 20 minutes. Regular participation in endurance activities, such as jogging or biking, can help individuals maintain their weight and regulate their blood pressure as they age. Individuals who are fit are more effective at their jobs, and physical activity aids in a child's healthy development. *Quellenmaterial 2*, a bar graph, summarizes the results of a survey that asked over 3,000 Germans between the ages of 14 and 25 what aspects of life they considered to be most important or worth striving for. Along with health and fitness, answers included good friends, family, a satisfying profession, and a secure job. *Quellenmaterial 3*, the audio to which students listened twice, presented a viewpoint that contrasted with that of the print source. In the audio source a physician and theologian offered a critique of the contemporary fascination with health and fitness, arguing that the constant striving for physical fitness and beauty detracts from an individual's ability to enjoy life fully.

Sample: 2A Score: 5

This essay constitutes a strong performance in presentational writing and an effective treatment of the topic within the context of the task. The student presents and defends a viewpoint at the opening of the essay: one needs to be active and healthy, but not fixate so much on fitness that life becomes unenjoyable. The student uses all three sources, demonstrating a high degree of comprehension of each of the sources through the effective integration of the source materials into the argument. There is good variety in vocabulary and idiomatic phrases, as well as ease and clarity of expression, with only a few errors. This response received a score of 5.

Sample: 2B Score: 3

This essay is a fair performance in presentational writing and a suitable treatment of the topic within the context of the task. The student identifies three sources but uses them only briefly, offering conclusions based on textual facts that do not seem to connect to the argument that there is a "fear" of beauty and fitness in Germany (Das sind so viel [Fitness] studios für ein Land wie Deutschland). The Source 3 material is neither properly identified nor comprehended (Dr. Manfred Lütz sagt dass zu viel Fitness kann man sterben). Overall the language of the essay is appropriate but basic. This response received a score of 3.

# AP® GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE 2016 SCORING COMMENTARY

Task 2: Persuasive Essay (continued)

Sample: 2C Score: 2

This essay is a weak performance in presentational writing and an unsuitable treatment of the topic within the context of the task. The student argues in favor of health and, by implication, fitness, although the word "fitness" is not used — only physical activities and the word *Sport* are mentioned. The basic and insufficient summary of sources fails to explain or connect to an argument. The language of the essay demonstrates limited vocabulary and limited control of grammar, syntax, and usage. This response received a score of 2.