

FORMAT OF EXAMINATION

The examination lasts 30 minutes and is divided up as follows:

- 1) One specialist topic: 15 minutes consisting of:
 - a) a five-minute presentation on a significant aspect (e.g. person, event, place) of this specialist topic
 - b) ten minutes of questions and discussion on the specialist topic (NB. NOT on the same content area as the 5-minute presentation)
- 2) Overview knowledge: 15 minutes consisting of questions related to the background of two or three pieces of current affairs taken from the previous six months (approximately) in the US and the UK. Please note: it is very good to keep abreast of the news generally but the grade here is dependent more on your ability to talk about the BACKGROUND to the relevant issue as the range of possible current affairs topics is too vast. The current affairs issues picked in this section will relate to areas in the given topics list (download).

There will always be a second examiner in the room, usually from the same school type as yours. They are entitled to ask one question.

Please consult the separate topics list and talk to your examiner about your choice of specialist topic and mini-presentation topic.

Five-minute presentation (section 1 of exam):

The aim of this task is to:

- allow you to warm up into the examination
- allow you to show your enthusiasm for a specialist area
- allow you to demonstrate your presentation skills (very relevant to teaching)

Please do NOT try to present the whole specialist topic in five minutes. You should choose one micro-aspect (e.g. a significant person, place or event) and present this, trying to make it as interesting for the examiners as possible. After this section the examiner will move into the wider area of your specialist topic with their questions. NB: you need to agree with your examiner in advance on both your specialist topic and your mini-presentation topic.

Question types

Following the initial 5-minute presentation, the exam is a series of questions from the examiner in which the candidate should answer as fluently and as fully as possible. The questions in the second part will be related to the background to two or three pieces of current affairs from both US and UK. The more relevant detail and substance which can be delivered, the higher the mark will be. The same is true for the ability to tie in personal insight. The exam mandate requires **historical knowledge** to be tested so be prepared for **at least** one question about historical background. Other common question approaches are:

- ♦ **contrastive** (i.e. how does the chosen system differ from Germany/UK/USA)
- ♦ **geographical**
- ♦ **pedagogical** (i.e. what are the most relevant aspects for a Grundschule/Hauptschule/Realschule/Gymnasium class)
- ♦ **explanatory** (i.e. explain what is important about some significant expressions/dates/people from the given subject)
- ♦ **systemic** (i.e. how does a basic system such as the school system basically function)
- ♦ **discursive** (i.e. give some arguments for and against a given system)
- ♦ **experiential** (i.e. give your personal account of how a particular cultural studies phenomena functions) NB. here it is important to show analytical skills as well as purely anecdotal ability.

(These are only examples. Naturally some questions may fall outside these categories).

Grades

There are two separate grades: one for Sprechfertigkeit and one for Landeskunde/Kulturwissenschaft.

Please see the 'Descriptors' download for details of grading criteria.

READING

BASIC CORE READING:

(please make sure you take the latest edition as they are regularly updated)

Oakland, John, British Civilisation, Routledge: London

Mauk, David & John Oakland, American Civilisation, Routledge: London

FURTHER READING

See Bibliography download.

We wish you the best of luck in your exam ☺!