

Assessment Report

New Zealand Scholarship German 2025

Performance standard 93006

General commentary

The 2025 Scholarship German examination contained three questions.

Question One required candidates to listen to a podcast about the experiences of a German sign language interpreter. To answer the question, candidates needed to write in German, discussing whether or not they agreed with a quote about translation going beyond words to involve the translation of a whole culture in relation to the podcast, while using their own knowledge and experiences. Common connections made included experiences of intercultural learning in Germany, New Zealand, and other countries, experiences of learning NZSL and having deaf friends, and discussions and solutions for the issue of cultural appropriation.

Question Two required candidates to read a text in German about different experiences of using *du* and *Sie* and formal and informal addresses in Germany and across different cultures. To answer this question, candidates had to show they had understood the text thoroughly by writing a response in English, discussing whether they believed the *du* and *Sie* forms of address were still relevant in today's society. Some connections made were experiences of using *du* and *Sie* correctly and incorrectly in German and other languages with formal addresses, issues of language hierarchy and democracy, and discussion of the "You" form in English as the previous formal form. Successful candidates took a strong stance in their answer, but explored different perspectives in detail. Scholarship and Outstanding Scholarship performance in this question required candidates to write clearly and convincingly in English and to synthesise and deeply evaluate their ideas.

Question Three required candidates to respond to a quote in relation to communication and languages, and discuss how communication barriers can be overcome, in connection with the listening and reading texts and their own experiences. Successful candidates referred explicitly to both texts and then further explored their own ideas and experiences in relation to these texts, giving examples and further detail. Successful candidates also spoke in clear and generally accurate German and kept to the time limit of five minutes.

The quality of answers was high and candidates who gained a score of 14 or more came close to the Scholarship cut score.

Future Scholarship German candidates must remember to identify the key points from and explicitly refer to the stimulus texts in their answers, as well as developing their own ideas.

Report on performance standard

Candidates who were awarded **Scholarship with Outstanding Performance** commonly:

- showed a high and consistent level of skill in communicating in clear, precise, accurate, and convincing high-level German at CL8 and beyond across all three questions
- wrote and gave captivating responses across all three answers
- fully interpreted and went beyond the stimulus material, showing perceptive and insightful thought

- clearly and effectively synthesised and evaluated ideas, providing evidence and drawing implications across most or all questions.

Candidates who were awarded **Scholarship** commonly:

- used the stimulus texts to develop some sophisticated and insightful full ideas and arguments across all answers
- communicated in a natural manner with some evidence of sophistication and style across all answers
- used an effective range of German at CL8 and above
- developed and integrated some perceptive opinions and ideas across all answers.

Candidates who were **not awarded Scholarship** commonly:

- summarised stimulus texts, rather than responding to them
- did not refer to the stimulus text
- did not go beyond the stimulus text
- did not answer the question, but rather went off on a tangent
- repeated information in answers
- went over time in the speaking section in Question Three
- used simple or incorrect German.