

# AP<sup>®</sup> GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EXAM

## 2015 SCORING GUIDELINES

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

#### Presentational Speaking: Cultural Comparison

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##### Clarification Notes:

- The term “community” can refer to something as large as a continent or as small as a family unit.
  - The phrase “target culture” can refer to any community large or small associated with the target language.
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##### 5: STRONG performance in Presentational Speaking

- Effective treatment of topic within the context of the task
  - Clearly compares the student’s own community with the target culture, including supporting details and relevant examples
  - Demonstrates understanding of the target culture, despite a few minor inaccuracies
  - Organized presentation; 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
  - Mostly consistent use of register appropriate for the presentation
  - Pronunciation, intonation and pacing make the response comprehensible; errors do not impede comprehensibility
  - Clarification or self-correction (if present) improves comprehensibility
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##### 4: GOOD performance in Presentational Speaking

- Generally effective treatment of topic within the context of the task
  - Compares the student’s own community with the target culture, including some supporting details and mostly relevant examples
  - Demonstrates some understanding of the target culture, despite minor inaccuracies
  - Organized presentation; some effective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
  - Fully understandable, with some errors which do not impede comprehensibility
  - Varied and generally appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language
  - General control of grammar, syntax and usage
  - Generally consistent use of register appropriate for the presentation, except for occasional shifts
  - Pronunciation, intonation and pacing make the response mostly comprehensible; errors do not impede comprehensibility
  - Clarification or self-correction (if present) usually improves comprehensibility
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##### 3: FAIR performance in Presentational Speaking

- Suitable treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Compares the student’s own community with the target culture, including a few supporting details and examples
- Demonstrates a basic understanding of the target culture, despite inaccuracies
- 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
- Use of register may be inappropriate for the presentation with several shifts
- Pronunciation, intonation and pacing make the response generally comprehensible; errors occasionally impede comprehensibility
- Clarification or self-correction (if present) sometimes improves comprehensibility

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### **2: WEAK performance in Presentational Speaking**

- Unsuitable treatment of topic within the context of the task
  - Presents information about the student's own community and the target culture, but may not compare them; consists mostly of statements with no development
  - Demonstrates a limited understanding of the target culture; may include several inaccuracies
  - Limited organization; ineffective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
  - Partially understandable, with errors that force interpretation and cause confusion for the listener
  - Limited vocabulary and idiomatic language
  - Limited control of grammar, syntax and usage
  - Use of register is generally inappropriate for the presentation
  - Pronunciation, intonation and pacing make the response difficult to comprehend at times; errors impede comprehensibility
  - Clarification or self-correction (if present) usually does not improve comprehensibility
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### **1: POOR performance in Presentational Speaking**

- Almost no treatment of topic within the context of the task
  - Presents information only about the student's own community or only about the target culture, and may not include examples
  - Demonstrates minimal understanding of the target culture; generally inaccurate
  - 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
  - Minimal or no attention to register
  - Pronunciation, intonation and pacing make the response difficult to comprehend; errors impede comprehensibility
  - Clarification or self-correction (if present) does not improve comprehensibility
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### **0: UNACCEPTABLE performance in Presentational Speaking**

- 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
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- (hyphen): **BLANK (no response although recording equipment is functioning)**