

CLEP® German Language: At a Glance

Description of the Examination

The German Language examination is designed to measure knowledge and ability equivalent to that of students who have completed two to four semesters of college German language study. It focuses on skills typically achieved from the end of the first year through the second year of college study; material taught during both years is incorporated into a single examination.

The examination is administered in three separately timed sections:

- Sections I and II: Listening
- Section III: Reading

The examination contains approximately 120 questions to be answered in 90 minutes. The three sections are weighted so that each question contributes equally to the total score.

Most colleges that award credit for the German Language examination award either two or four semesters of credit, depending on the candidate's score on the exam.

Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the German Language examination require candidates to demonstrate the abilities listed in each section below. The percentages indicate the approximate percentage of exam questions focused on each ability.

40% Sections I and II: Listening

15% Rejoinders: Ability to understand spoken language through short stimuli or everyday situations

25% Dialogues and Narratives: Ability to understand the language as spoken by native speakers in longer dialogues and narratives

60% Section III: Reading

16% Part A: Discrete sentences: Mastery of vocabulary and structure in the context of sentences

20% Part B: Short cloze passages: Mastery of vocabulary and structure in the context of paragraphs

24% Part C: Reading comprehension: Ability to read and understand texts representative of various styles and levels of difficulty (e.g., passages of about 200 words; shorter pieces such as advertisements, signs, etc.)

Study Resources

Most textbooks used in college-level German language courses cover the topics in the outline above, but the approaches to certain topics and the emphases given to them may differ. To prepare for the German Language exam, it is advisable to study one or more college textbooks, which can be found in most college bookstores.

Besides studying basic vocabulary, you should understand and be able to apply the grammatical principles that make up the language. To improve your reading comprehension, read passages from textbooks, short magazine or newspaper articles, and other printed material of your choice. To improve your listening comprehension, seek opportunities to hear the language spoken by native speakers and to converse with native speakers. If you have opportunities to join organizations with German-speaking members, to attend German movies, or to listen to German-language radio broadcasts, take advantage of them.

A recent survey conducted by CLEP® found that the following textbooks are among those used by college faculty who teach the equivalent course. Most of these have companion websites with practice test questions and other study resources. HINT: When selecting a textbook, check the table of contents against the Knowledge and Skills Required for this test.

DiDonato et al., <i>Deutsch: Na Klar!</i> (McGraw-Hill)
Dollenmayer and Hansen, <i>Neue Horizonte</i> (Heinle)
Haublein et al., <i>MEMO</i> (Langenscheidt)
Jannach and Korb, <i>German for Reading Knowledge</i> (Heinle)
Lovik et al., <i>Vorsprung</i> (Heinle)
Moeller et al., <i>Deutsche Heute</i> (Heinle)
Sevin and Sevin, <i>Wie Geh't's?</i> (Heinle)
Terrell et al., <i>Kontakte</i> (McGraw-Hill)
<i>Treffpunkt Deutsche</i> (Prentice Hall)
Vail and Sparks, <i>German in Review: Lehrbuch der deutschen Grammatik</i> (Wiley)

Second-year texts:

Bahlmann et al., <i>Unterwegs</i> (Langenscheidt)
Moeller et al., <i>Kaleidoskop</i> (Heinle)
Motyl-Mudretzkyi and Späinghaus, <i>Anders Gedacht</i> (Heinle)

In addition, the following resources, compiled by the CLEP test development committee and staff members, may help you study for your exam. However, none of these sources are designed specifically to provide preparation for a CLEP exam. The College Board has no control over their content and cannot vouch for accuracy.

<http://eleaston.com/german.html>
(E. L. Easton Languages Online)

<http://www.daad.org/?p=63212>
(German Academic Exchange Service)

<http://www.young-germany.de/deutsch/deutsch-at-yg-overview.html>
(Young Germany)

<http://www.goethe.de/lrn/duw/enindex.htm>
(Goethe-Institut)

<http://www.uni.edu/becker/German2.html>
(Jim Becker at U. of Northern Iowa)

Visit www.collegeboard.com/clepprep for additional German language resources. You can also find suggestions for exam preparation in Chapter IV of the *CLEP Official Study Guide*. In addition, many college faculty post their course materials on their schools' websites.

Sample Test Questions

The following sample questions do not appear on an actual CLEP examination. They are intended to give potential test-takers an indication of the format and difficulty level of the examination and to provide content for practice and review. For more sample questions and info about the test, see the *CLEP Official Study Guide*.

1. Das _____ an meiner Stadt ist der Marktplatz.

- (A) Gut
- (B) Gute
- (C) Guter
- (D) Gutes

2. _____ auf, denn Strom fließt durch das Gerät.

- (A) Pass
- (B) Geh
- (C) Schau
- (D) Mach

Directions for Part B: In each of the following paragraphs, there are blanks indicating that words or phrases have been omitted. As you go through the questions, the computer will highlight each blank, one at a time. When a blank is shaded, four completions are provided. For each blank, choose the completion that is most appropriate, given the context of the entire paragraph.

Das Wetter fühlt sich ___(3)___ Wochenende endlich überall wie Sommer an. Es wird warm und sonnig. Fast in allen Regionen ___(4)___ das Thermometer dann auf mehr als 25 Grad Celsius.

- 3. (A) an
 - (B) auf
 - (C) am
 - (D) aufs
- 4. (A) stieg
 - (B) steigt
 - (C) steigen
 - (D) gestiegen

Directions for Part C: Read the following selections. Each selection is followed by one or more questions or incomplete statements. For each question, select the answer or completion that is best according to the selection.

Bahn frei für Kinder

Kostenlose Mitfahrt für alle unter 15 Jahren.

Die Bahn macht mobil. In Begleitung der eigenen Eltern, Großeltern oder deren Lebenspartner fahren Kinder zwischen 6 und unter 15 Jahren immer kostenlos mit! Sie müssen aber vor Fahrtantritt auf der Fahrkarte ihrer Begleitperson eingetragen werden. Und wenn die Kinder einmal alleine unterwegs sind, dann zahlen sie nur die Hälfte.

- 5. Wann dürfen Kinder kostenlos mit der Bahn fahren?
 - (A) Wenn sie mindestens 15 Jahre alt sind
 - (B) Wenn sie mit einer Begleitperson fahren
 - (C) Wenn die Eltern oft mit der Bahn fahren
 - (D) Wenn sie alleine unterwegs sind
- 6. Was soll man machen, bevor man mit Kindern in den Zug einsteigt?
 - (A) Dem Kind eine eigene Fahrkarte kaufen
 - (B) Das Kind vom Zugbegleiter eintragen lassen
 - (C) Die Eltern des Kindes um eine Bescheinigung bitten
 - (D) Den Namen des Kindes auf die Fahrkarte schreiben

Credit Recommendations

The American Council on Education has recommended that colleges grant 6 credits for a score of 50, which is equivalent to a course grade of C, on the CLEP German Language exam, and 12 credits for a score of 60. Each college, however, is responsible for setting its own policy. For candidates with satisfactory scores on the German Language examination, colleges may grant credit toward fulfillment of a distribution requirement, or for a particular course that matches the exam in content. Check with your school to find out the score it requires for granting credit, the number of credit hours granted and the course that can be bypassed with a passing score.

Answers to Sample Questions: 1-B; 2-A; 3-C; 4-B; 5-B; 6-D.