

# FACTFILE: GCSE GERMAN

## Reading 4

### CONTEXT 1: IDENTITY, LIFESTYLE AND CULTURE



## Culture, customs, festivals and celebrations



### Introduction

Here are some key points to help you study this topic.

### Learning Outcomes

You should be able to:

- understand and respond to different types of written language;
- understand details within texts using high frequency familiar language;
- identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of written passages;
- deduce meaning from a variety of written texts (from a range of specified contexts including short narratives, authentic material and unfamiliar material);
- recognise and respond to key information, important themes and ideas in extended written text and authentic sources;

- demonstrate understanding by being able to scan for particular information, organise and present relevant details, draw conclusions in context and recognise implicit meaning where appropriate; and
- translate sentences from German into English.

These lists are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

### Skills

- Geburtstag Geburtstagsfeier.
- Weihnachten.
- Silvester.
- Ostern.
- Halloween.

### Preparation

- Read for interest – German magazines and newspapers and short articles on line.
- The learning and revision of vocabulary is essential.
- Learn vocabulary according to topics. There is often a useful list at the end of a unit in your text book and there is a list in the German GCSE Specification, available on the CCEA website.
- Work together with other members of your class to help one another learn.
- Make out your own vocabulary list, recording gender and plural form of nouns and present tense and past participle of irregular verbs.
- Learn word families, e.g. Weihnachten  
Weihnachtskarte Weihnachtsbaum  
Weihnachtsmann.

## Practice

- Use past papers so that you are familiar with the standard and types of questions.
- Make sure you understand the rubrics which are listed in the German Specification.
- It may help to write a) b) c) etc. in the margin against the area of the text where you have found the answer.
- Take account of the number of marks given in brackets at the end of each question. This is a useful guide to the amount of detail required.
- Make sure that you answer in the correct language.
- Attempt all questions. Do not leave blanks. If necessary, have a good guess.
- In the Revision Section there are some Practice Sentences. They are not connected in any way, but they contain both familiar and more challenging vocabulary, most of which is to be found in the Vocabulary List in the German GCSE Specification. Do not look at the solutions below and use the sentences as revision practice.
  - It is funny that the Oktoberfest begins in September.
  - At Easter I ate too many chocolate eggs, but they were tasty.
  - My brother would like a motorbike for Christmas.
  - I don't know what I should give my sister.
  - My parents gave me a computer for my birthday.
  - My sister is engaged. I am looking forward to her wedding.
  - Our relatives always come to visit at Christmas.
  - For many young people Christmas is an important celebration.

## Revision

- Es ist komisch, dass das Oktoberfest schon im September beginnt.
- Zu Ostern habe ich zu viele Schokoladeneier gegessen, aber sie waren lecker!
- Mein Bruder möchte/wünscht sich ein Motorrad zu Weihnachten.
- Ich weiß nicht, was ich meiner Schwester schenken soll.
- Meine Eltern haben mir einen Computer zum Geburtstag geschenkt.
- Meine Schwester ist verlobt. Ich freue mich auf ihre Hochzeit.
- Unsere Verwandten kommen immer zu Weihnachten zu Besuch.
- Weihnachten ist für viele junge Leute ein wichtiges Fest.

