

NTC Language Masters: German Tests for Reading, Writing and Speaking (Intermediate through Advanced)

Reviewed by Yvonne Stöger, Duval HS.

This volume in the blackline masters series contains reading comprehensions, writing and speaking tests for students at Stage 5 (Year 10) and Stage 6 (Year 11 Continuers or Year 12 Beginners).

The **reading** passages cover a wide range of topics and reflect a variety of text types – charts, advertisements, recipes and articles. Topics include eating and drinking, travel, holidays, daily activities and illnesses. Students are required to respond in different ways – multiple choice, short answers, long answers, sometimes in English, other times in German. The tests also indicate the level being tested. An answer key is provided.

The **writing** section asks students to respond to written and graphic stimulus. The responses required vary in type and length, and give students an opportunity to write across a range of text types. These include lists, invitations, responding to a letter/advertisement, diary entries, surveys and application forms.

The **speaking** tests are in role-play format using visual prompts. As there is little in the way of problem solving tasks and most activities are guided conversations or contrived information-gap exercises, this section is best suited to Year 10 or Stage 6 Beginners students. The section *Speaking Test for General Conversations* at the end of the book is an excellent resource for teachers preparing Stage 6 Continuers students for their speaking exam.

The graphics in general are dry and old fashioned but they get the message across. However, there are enough useful activities here to make this a worthwhile resource – at times with some editing, depending on the level you are working with.

This resource could easily supplement any course, providing students with a different style of assessment tasks from what they may be used to with the textbook.

Recommended (particularly the reading and writing tests) for Stages 5 and 6.

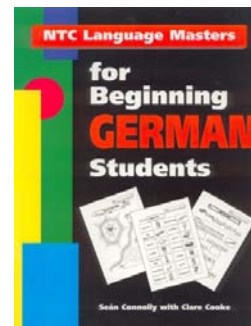
Available from Language Book Centre (published by National Textbook Company)

\$58.95 (as at 04/04)

Email: books@abbeys.com.au or telephone 02 9267 1397

NTC Language Masters: German Tests for Listening (Intermediate through Advanced)

This volume contains listening tasks and has the same target audience as the *NTC Language Masters: German Test for Reading, Writing and Speaking* reviewed above. Topics include weather, holidays, shopping, daily activities, illnesses and work. The graphics work better as part of a listening assessment, adding visual interest to the tests. Each test indicates the targeted level, and includes answer keys and transcripts.



Recommended for Stages 5 (Year 10) & Stage 6 Beginners

Available from Language Book Centre (published by National Textbook Company)
\$78.95 (including booklet and 2 cassettes, as at 04/04)
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NTC Language Masters for Beginning German Students - Volume 1 and Volume II

Photocopiable worksheets with activities for use with beginner students. Eight topic areas are covered in each volume.

Volume I	Volume II
In meiner Schultasche	Das Wetter
Ich liebe Tiere!	Gute Reise!
In der Stadt	Die Zeit
Die Sportarten	In der Schule
Mjam mjam!	Körperteile
Betrachte die Farben	Mein Traumschlafzimmer
Meine Familie	Wir gehen Einkaufen
Bei mir zu Hause	Die Mode

The teacher notes at the beginning of the books give a clear overview of the activities within each topic area, as well as providing an answer key. At the start of each topic, there is a blackline master with all the vocabulary items covered in the topic. Activity types include domino games, sentence completion, multiple choice, code breaking, crosswords, find-a-words, unscrambles and complete the patterns.

An ideal supplementary resource for primary and junior secondary.

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