



## **2012 HSC German Extension 'Sample Answers'**

When examination committees develop questions for the examination, they may write 'sample answers' or, in the case of some questions, 'answers could include'. The committees do this to ensure that the questions will effectively assess students' knowledge and skills.

This material is also provided to the Supervisor of Marking, to give some guidance about the nature and scope of the responses the committee expected students would produce. How sample answers are used at marking centres varies. Sample answers may be used extensively and even modified at the marking centre OR they may be considered only briefly at the beginning of marking. In a few cases, the sample answers may not be used at all at marking.

The Board publishes this information to assist in understanding how the marking guidelines were implemented.

The 'sample answers' or similar advice contained in this document are not intended to be exemplary or even complete answers or responses. As they are part of the examination committee's 'working document', they may contain typographical errors, omissions, or only some of the possible correct answers.

## Section I — Response to Prescribed Text

### Part A

#### Question 1 (a)

**Sample answer:**

The two animals provide a framework for the ‘story within a story’ to be told, leading to the moral that the concept of truth depends on whose version of a story you hear.

#### Question 1 (b)

**Sample answer:**

Very successful. Despite her failing powers, with advancing age, the *Hexe* does not react in a negative way but, keeping true to her work ethic, sets about improving her house so that it will be the best in the whole area. She doesn’t want to become lazy or depressed and refuses to be bowed or beaten. Despite her physical handicaps, she hobbles around and strains with great care to create the different parts for her house. She is almost blind but continues to be independent, doing everything for herself. Her resilience is emphasised when she remains patient with the children, despite their bad behaviour and ingratitude, treating them with a kindness they do not deserve.

#### Question 1 (c)

**Sample answer:**

Examples of language features could include, among others:

- “*Es waren einmal*” (the traditional introduction to fairy stories, placing events in no particular time frame)
- use of diminutives (eg “*Bettlein*”) showing that the story is aimed at children
- animorphosis, where animals speak and behave as humans, allowing a moral to be told
- use of “*Kneuschen*” (a made-up word, to rhyme with “*Häuschen*”)
- the clear contrast between good and evil, as shown in the title
- archaic language (eg “*verderbt*”, “*fürwahr*”, etc)
- borrowing of verse from the original text “*Knusper, Knusper...*”
- unexpected expressions eg “*grün vor Stolz*”

**Question 1 (d)*****Sample answer:***

When comparing the characters it could be said that the story of *Hänsel und Gretel* is an allegory, written to explore the concepts of truth, and of good and evil. On the other hand, the story of the *Oberst* is told through first-hand experience and can be regarded as a truthful account of a real person. The reader is therefore more likely to react to the plight of the *Oberst*. Through a naive desire to bring some Christmas cheer to his soldiers, he has sent for a *Weihnachtsmann* to visit the outpost, only to have him killed by a sniper. Even the man he sent to find him is terribly wounded. The guilt plagues the *Oberst* who cannot live with what he has done and laments the loss of the innocence, which he had always associated with Christmas. He loses his mind and seems to require ongoing punishment. Although his was a misjudged act (even a stupid one), the reader can feel a deep sense of sadness for him – a decent man damaged forever by the tragedy of war. This sympathy is further enhanced by the compassion and understanding shown to him by both his wife, who humours him, and by the *Weihnachtsmann*, who tells the story and feels devastated by the change he sees in him. On the other hand, the witch is a cartoon character in an imaginary story who, through blind trust and a desire to turn the two evil children to good, loses her life. She is certainly given some human characteristics, but the reference to her as ‘*die alte Hexe*’ constantly reminds us of her fairytale status and prevents us from empathising totally. Both the *Oberst* and the *Hexe* have a misjudged belief in the humanity of others and both take actions that make them responsible for what happens to them. However, it is the *Oberst* who evokes genuine sympathy.

Note: Other approaches are also valid.