

## Areas of Competence

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*Note: The following descriptions are based on the Council of Europe's "A Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment"*

### Reception

#### A2

The candidate can grasp common items of information from simply structured and job-related texts, using aids such as dictionaries and illustrations. He/she can understand the content of short messages related to everyday working life if these are spoken clearly and slowly and there is an opportunity to listen to them more than once.

#### B1

The candidate can quickly grasp the details contained in texts that are in frequent use in his/her field of work, using aids such as dictionaries and illustrations. He/she can understand virtually all the content of messages spoken clearly and at an appropriate, natural speed if the items of information are noticeably separated and there is an opportunity to listen to the message more than once.

#### B2

The candidate can comprehend fairly complex texts in his/her field of work and recognise their implicit meaning, using works of reference if necessary. He/she can follow messages spoken at a natural speed and detect and record the main ideas even if these are spoken with a slight regional accent.

#### C1

The candidate can comprehend authentic, complex texts related to his/her field of work and recognise their implicit meaning, using works of reference if necessary. He/she can follow messages spoken at a natural speed and detect and record both the main ideas and details even if these are spoken with a regional accent. He/she is aware of language variances.

### Production

#### A2

The candidate can fill in forms used in everyday working life and form short sentences. He/she can successfully produce longer, guided messages, using aids such as dictionaries and/or text modules. The candidate has sufficient command of the language in order to convey the most commonly used, job-related factual information (even if the language employed is not always completely correct).

#### B1

The candidate can produce standard texts that are typical of his/her field of work in the foreign language to a relatively high degree of accuracy, acting on instructions and using works of reference. He/she can express factual information concerning his/her field of work comprehensibly in the foreign language despite a limited range of vocabulary.

#### B2

The candidate can phrase texts that are typical of his/her field of work to a high degree of language and stylistic accuracy and appropriacy of form, without necessarily resorting to text modules.

#### C1

The candidate can phrase texts that are typical of his/her field of work correctly with stylistic accuracy and appropriacy of form, either briefly or at length, according to the

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addressees' requirements. His/her language and intercultural competences enable him/her to communicate very effectively; hardly ever distorting his/her messages.

### **Mediation**

#### **A2**

The candidate can render simple, job-related facts provided in the foreign language in German. He/she can also convey simple job-related facts given in German, in his/her own words in the foreign language, using works of reference.

#### **B1**

The candidate can render job-related facts provided in the foreign language in German or convey the message in the foreign language facts provided in German, using works of reference. Of primary concern is appropriacy of content, not accuracy of language and suitability of style.

#### **B2**

The candidate can either render fairly complex job-related information provided in the foreign language in German or convey fairly complex job-related information given in German in his/her own words in the foreign language, using works of reference. He/she considers stylistic appropriacy.

#### **C1**

The candidate can either render complex job-related information provided in the foreign language in German or convey messages provided in German in the foreign language, using works of reference. He/she considers linguistic and stylistic appropriacy, according to addressees and situations.

### **Interaction**

#### **A2**

The candidate can cope with simple conversational situations in the foreign language dealing with the exchange of information in his/her field of work, making use of the help provided by the person to whom he/she is talking. He/she is aware of cultural differences existing between the speakers of the two languages. He/she is able to react to very frequently used messages using basic language. Pronunciation, choice of vocabulary and use of structures may still be strongly influenced by his/her mother tongue.

#### **B1**

The candidate can cope with conversational situations in the foreign language that arise frequently in his/her field of work, on occasion making use of the help provided by the person to whom he/she is talking. He/she can react to messages, and express or explain his/her own opinions or plans, considering major cultural differences. Pronunciation, choice of vocabulary and use of structures may still be influenced by his/her mother tongue.

#### **B2**

The candidate can cope confidently with conversational situations in the foreign language that relate to his/her field of work. In the process, he/she can also take the initiative and adapt to the needs and wishes of the other person. He/she can react to fairly complex contributions within the situation. He/she can explain facts in detail and defend his/her position. In this context, he/she is able to pay appropriate attention to the intercultural differences existing in the occupational environment of the speakers of the two languages. Although the influence of his/her mother tongue may still be

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recognisable with regard to pronunciation, choice of vocabulary and use of structures, he/she has an appropriate command of idiomatic expressions.

### **C1**

The candidate can communicate spontaneously, clearly and fluently in the foreign language. He/she can participate in conversations actively and competently, and may also take the initiative. His/her substantial command of lexis and idioms enables him/her to use the foreign language effectively and flexibly both in business life and social areas. His/her language and intercultural competences allow him/her to present issues and arguments precisely and in a logical way according to addressees, considering sociocultural differences.

*The four levels of the Foreign Language Certificate issued by “The Standing Conference of Ministers for Education and Culture of the Länder” (KMK) can be categorised according to the Euro-Levels as follows: (Table: Basic / Independent / Proficient User etc.)*