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Examiner's Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2018

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Japanese (5JA03_01) Paper 3
Reading & Understanding in Japanese

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Introduction

Candidates appeared to have been well prepared for this question paper by their teachers. Candidates clearly put in a great deal of effort into learning the script, particularly the kanji.

Details of responses to questions

Question 1 required reading of hiragana and katakana. It was pleasing to see that more candidates are now familiar with the word for Korea.

In question 2, many candidates did not seem to know the word けしゴム. Some candidates also lost marks as they missed how of the number "32".

As noted above, candidates gave evidence of having made a good attempt to learn the kanji in answering question 3. Candidates are encouraged to learn kanji compounds (answers H to J) as well as single kanji.

Question 4 required gaps to be filled with particles – every year candidates find this question hard, and this year was no exception. Candidates need further practice on the fact that particle "o" is written を and お.

The vocabulary of question 5 was about school and so relatively familiar to candidates, although this was not obvious from the heading of the question. Some candidates seemed to be unfamiliar with the word じゅぎょう.

The grammatical structures used in question 6 were more challenging. Candidates are encouraged to focus on grammar and form as well as vocabulary and kanji.

The vocabulary in question 7 was again quite challenging, with many candidates seemingly unfamiliar with words such as そふ、やわらかい、かるい、びっくり.

As noted above, candidates clearly do put a good effort into learning kanji, but question 8 showed that they could do with more time learning kanji compounds.

It was pleasing that most candidates attempted most parts of question 9. In (a) many candidates missed the word "specifically" and so only answered "big" or "large" rather than "biggest in Japan". Similarly the specifics of "four times per hour" were often missed in (b), even if candidates picked out the kanji number 四. Another question that candidates needed to read more carefully was the very last question (g) (iii), as many candidates answered "They had a lovely day and would

like to go again”, which is not an answer to the question “Where did they write their comments about the day?”

Advice

1. Candidates should continue to learn kanji as they are, but should also practice kanji compounds as well as single kanji.
2. Candidates should continue to practice the question types which will appear on the new GCSE examination paper.
3. Candidates should practice inference questions.