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Examiners' Report
June 2011

GCE Russian 6RU02 01

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Introduction

This paper has now been running since 2009 and tests candidates' understanding and written response to Russian. The tasks vary from short cloze tests to longer comprehension sections, culminating in a substantial writing task.

The paper lasts two and a half hours and contains 3 sections: listening comprehension (20 marks), reading comprehension (20 marks) and a written task (30 marks divided between 15 for content and 15 for language). Candidates require their own CD or Mp3 player and must complete the listening section within 45 minutes. This leaves approximately 45 minutes for the reading comprehension and 1 hour to complete the written task. It is important that for this last task they remain within the word limit of 150 to 165.

Material for this paper is drawn from a range of authentic sources and covers the four general topic areas as AS:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel tourism, environmental issues and the Russian-speaking world
- Education and employment
- For details of the linked subtopics, please refer to page 30 of the specification.

Question 2

Candidates found this question very accessible on the whole. By far the majority gained all four marks for the question. A small number may have jumped to the conclusion that as the course was an English one it must include a trip to England. It is also worth remembering that the 4 correct answers may be bunched and not necessarily evenly distributed among the incorrect answers.

Question 3

This close test for listening comprehension was, like Question 2, well done by the majority of candidates who generally gained all four marks. Very rarely was the year mistaken in which the public canteens were opened. Careful listening was required in order to choose between nouns дома, города, работы, и страны, though an accurate knowledge of case endings proved an asset.

Question 4

This question is intended to be the most challenging to candidates, as it is a more extended recording with questions set and answers required in Russian.

This 8-mark question concerning the best strategy to acquire a job on Russian radio was intended as a challenge, as both question and answers are in Russian and more extended.

(а) По мнению Анны, на какой радиостанции лучше всего искать работу?

на той радиостанции (1)

↑ ~~кампора~~ ^{стоит} на вашей любимой музыке.

(б) Где она советует искать вакансии?

(1)

в интернете.

(в) Что надо сделать, чтобы Вас пригласили на интервью?

(1)

~~сказать~~ ~~сказать~~ позвонить ведущим эфира

(г) Как Анна советует одеваться для интервью?

(2)

немного неформально, но сбалансированно
вкусно.

(д) Что надо будет делать для продюсера?

(2)

прочитать несколько текстов и сделать
чтобы продюсеры проверили бы какой
звук и четкость кандидата.

(е) Почему Вы не узнаете сразу, что Вас приняли на работу?

(1)

потому что

↑ кандидатов много на эту работу.



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Examiner Comments

Candidates, generally acquitted themselves well, however, often scoring close to full marks. The candidate whose work is displayed here lost the first mark through lack of clarity in wording. The third question was clearly misinterpreted. Despite a misunderstanding in part (e) a mark was allowed as it was clear that the producer needed to check her voice quality was understood. This is an example of a candidate who has understood most of the recording, but lost a couple of marks through lack of clarity or misinterpretations



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Examiner Tip

Read the questions first, then listen through the text as a whole before jumping to conclusions about what is being said or asked.

Question 6

This question about a bicycle event for a wide range of people proved quite challenging to some, though many gained full marks.

- (a) Apart from young people and sport-loving families, name one other specific group of people mentioned in the second sentence who took part in the 'Day of the Bicycle'. (1)

elderly people

- (b) What activities were included in the programme for children from three years old and those with physical disabilities? (1)

competitions

- (c) What were the main aims of the festival? (1)

increase the bicycle's popularity as a sport and mode of transport

- (d) How many more bicycle parking areas are to be built in the city? (1)

no less than twenty

- (e) What was it possible to buy at the festival? (1)

products for bicycle related sports



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Many acceptable renderings were given for пожилые люди и ветераны. Some candidates fell short of full scores as they appeared to misread part (c) about the main aims (plural) of the festival. An extremely large number of synonyms for товары для велосипедного спорта were offered.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Always read the questions in English carefully to ensure that the target information is found in the text.

Question 7

This question proved to be generally well tackled by candidates who clearly had a good deal of background knowledge about the subject

This question was generally well tackled by candidates who had good background knowledge of this topic of humanity's responsibility towards the environment and energy issues.

7 Ответьте на следующие вопросы, употребляя, насколько возможно, свои слова **по-русски**.

(а) Почему мы должны больше использовать альтернативные источники энергии в будущем?

(1)

Потому что нефть и газ ^а очень загрязняют природу

(б) Почему автор статьи обсуждает только три альтернативных источника энергии?

(1)

Потому что автор только может рассмотреть 3 из них

(в) Почему ГЭС занимают седьмое место из 11-и в списке Якобсона? Дайте две причины.

Потому что ⁽²⁾ это является одним из самых старых источников энергии
находясь ~~одним из самых старых~~ и употребляет
большое количество энергии

(г) Что значат эти слова в четвёртом абзаце? **Объясните своими словами по-русски:**

(i) экологичный

(1)

Не приносит вреда окружающей среде

(ii) минимальный

(1)

самый низкий уровень

(д) Что нужно, чтобы ветрогенератор был эффективным?

(2)

Нужны климатические и географические факторы

(е) Согласно тексту, кто производит электричество с помощью солнечных батарей ?

(2)

(i) Заводы крупных компаний

(ii) простые люди



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Examiner Comments

The opening question allowed a variety of answers to be accepted and caused few problems. Likewise, part (b) provided little difficulty with candidates recognising В этой небольшой статье. The mark was gained provided that some manipulation such as статья небольшая was offered.

Part (B) was found challenging some candidates who needed to deduce the positive reason and negative reason for hydroelectric power stations occupying 7th position out of 12.

The definition questions were successfully rendered by most with some impressive answers for минимальный such as наименьший.

Good reasons for locating windfarms were recognised by almost all, but the need for minor manipulation such as placing these in the nominative rather than genitive case should be remembered.

The same applies to the final questions about sun batteries where на заводах and простым людям needed to be manipulated to at least the nominative cases in order to gain credit for their answers. This is a good example of a competently done question overall, but with common errors which might have been avoided through careful reading of the question and/or text



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Examiner Tip

Read the text through carefully before committing to answers which may seem common sense. Answers need not be in full sentences, but should be relevant to the questions and show some manipulation in the foreign languages.

It is not advisable to spend too long on this question as at least an hour should be spent on question 8 which is worth 30 marks and where time is needed to check work through carefully.

Question 8

The final writing question about health proved accessible to virtually all candidates who were clearly well prepared for this topic and were generally able to obtain high scores both for content and use of language.

• как можно помогать нездоровым людям.

По моему мнению, ~~здоровым~~ это ~~важно~~
важно иметь здоровый образ жизни. чтобы быть
здоровым, можно пить пять стаканов
воды каждый день и можно есть много
фруктов! нельзя пить алкоголь или курить,
потому что это ~~очень~~ ужасная привычка!

также, это важно заниматься с спортом
каждый день. ~~это~~ на этой неделе, ~~я~~
ходила в джим каждый день, потому что я
хотела бы ~~здоровее~~ более здоровый. также, я
ездила городе не автобусам. ~~вместо~~ я
ходила пешком. также я ела меньше 'фаст-
фуд', которые ~~были~~ очень было трудной! с одной
стороны, я думаю что будет больше
нездоровых людей, сегодня, это ~~очень~~ трудно

ходить в зал, потому что не много время.
здоровая
теда это также ~~много~~ голове, и люди не
хоту тратить много денег, так они купят
нездоровая еда. С другой стороны, я думаю что

люди будут здоровы, потому что много
людей хотели бы быть более здоровы, так
я думаю что они будут делать время
ходить в зал. мне кажется что нездоровы
людей хотели бы ходить в зал, если меньше
также здоровы
денег. ~~много~~ теда должны меньше денег, ~~так~~
чтобы помогать люди быть более здоровы!



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Examiner Comments

This particular candidate dealt in detail with the first bullet concerning their definition of what constitutes a healthy lifestyle. They refer to the need to drink plenty of water and eat a lot of fruit. They then mention the undesirability of drinking alcohol or smoking before returning to the positive point of practising sport daily.

Moving on to the second bullet they say what they did last week: visiting the gym and walking rather than taking the bus to town and eating less fast food. (Many candidates were unable to be given credit for this bullet point as they omitted reference to last week and did not use the past tense).

Turning to the third bullet, the candidate says that nowadays people find it hard to visit the gym as they have too little time. They eat less healthy food as it is too expensive. At first it is not clear that the third bullet is being addressed with respect to whether the candidate believes there will be more unhealthy people in the future. However, he/she then says that many people will want to make time to attend the gym.

The final bullet is just about adequately dealt with as the candidate mentions that healthy food should be made cheaper to help unhealthy people. A little more detail would have made possible and even higher mark for Content and Response.

The mark for Quality of Language is lower than for Content and Response, as although communication is generally good and there is a wide successful use of lexis and structures, there are quite a number of spelling and grammatical errors.



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Examiner Tip

For this question it is important to cover all the bullet points of the task within the 165 word limit. Candidates often reach this before the final bullet point. This limits their content mark to 9, as the mark grid states that in order to access 10 marks or above the task must be understood and developed successfully.

Candidates must be especially careful to read the task and bullets very carefully in order to gain the maximum marks of which they are capable for Content and Response.

Ideally, candidates should aim to address all the bullets in roughly the same amount of detail, but, as individuals some candidates will have more to say about some bullets than others. Therefore, flexibility is given when marking for Content and Response.

It is advisable to attempt the bullets in the order in which they are set.

As set out in the marking grid, in order to maximise marks for Quality of Language, candidates should aim to use as wide a range of lexis and structures as possible and pay attention to accuracy, checking their spelling and grammar once they have completed the task.

Paper Summary

This paper was tackled well by the majority of candidates many of whom displayed an impressive understanding of spoken and written Russian.

The written task produced many interesting responses in which the strongest candidates covered a wide range of different aspects of healthy living, predictions about the future and ideas for assisting unhealthy or unfit people.

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