



Pearson
Edexcel

Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

October 2020

Pearson Edexcel GCE Advanced Level
In Japanese (9JA0/03)
Paper 3: Listening, Reading and Writing

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Paper 9JA0/03 is composed of two sections: Section A is listening, Section B is listening, reading and writing.

The November 2020 series was exceptional in having only a very small cohort compared with previous series, due to the issuing of Centre Assessed Grades for the vast majority of Year 13 students in Summer 2020.

Q01 was a listening text based on an interview with a Japanese teenage boy who was carrying a heavy school bag, broadening out to the issues of pressures teenagers face. The questions to this text were multiple choice, and were extremely well answered.

Q02 was also a set of multiple choice questions based on middle school students' use of their mobile phones. These questions were again very well tackled.

Q03 (a) was a longer listening passage about some American university students coming to offer English lessons in a high school in Sendai, a city that was particularly affected by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. This text required written answers in Japanese for short comprehension questions. It was pleasing that almost all candidates attempted all of the questions. 3 (a) (ii) was possibly the most challenging, as some candidates missed the fact that the lesson was about writing essays in English, and not just a general English lesson.

Q03 (b) was a discussion about whether all buildings should be torn down and rebuilt, or whether some should be left standing as a memorial, in areas which had been devastated. Candidates were required to summarise what they heard, based on guiding bullet points. Given that this was a totally new question type, candidates tackled it extremely well.

Q04 was a text in which a university student reflected back on her middle school years, remembering how miserable she had been and what had helped her through. Candidates were required to answer short comprehension questions in Japanese. Again, candidates reached very high standards, and it was impressive that most candidates were able to answer most of the questions.

For **Q05 (a)**, candidates had to listen to Emma talking about working in Japan, and pick out 4 different aspects of the opinion she gave about working in Japan. Most candidates were able to pick out 4 relevant pieces of information.

Q05 (b) required candidates to do the same, only this time from a written text by a Nepalese person working in Japan, who had a very positive experience of working in Japan. Again it was pleasing that most candidates were able to do this with no difficulty.

Q05 (c) required candidates to give their own opinions on the two viewpoints expressed in the two previous passages. The main mistake candidates made with this task was not understanding what was required of them: some wrote their own opinion of working in Japan; some wrote a piece based on general knowledge of foreign workers in Japan. For this question, candidates need to come to a conclusion regarding the two contrasting viewpoints expressed in the spoken and written text, evaluating both those opinions in the process.

Given the performance in this exam, students are offered the following advice:

- Continue listening to a wide variety of spoken texts in Japanese.
- Practise not only answering short comprehension questions based on spoken texts, but also summarising.
- Make sure that they understand the requirements of question 5 (c). Candidates are likely to be helped by their teacher leading them through a guided discussion on the marking criteria, so that they clearly understand what the marks are awarded for.

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