



Pearson
Edexcel

Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2021

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Russian (9RU0)
Paper 1: Written response to work and
Translation

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications are awarded by Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at www.edexcel.com or www.btec.co.uk. Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at www.edexcel.com/contactus.

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: www.pearson.com/uk

November 2021

Publications Code 9RU0_01_2110_ER

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd 2021

Content of the examination

Students were assessed on their understanding of spoken and written Russian from a variety of types of authentic texts and listening material, as well as their ability to translate accurately from Russian into English. Texts and recordings varied in length to include some extended passages. All spoken and written materials were culturally relevant to Russia and Russian-speaking countries and communities, and were drawn from four themes: Развитие российского общества, Политическая и художественная культура в русскоязычном мире, Москва или Санкт-Петербург – Изменения в жизни российского города and Последние годы СССР – М. С. Горбачёв (1985-1991).

Students were given the opportunity to understand main points, gist and detail from spoken and written material; infer meaning from complex spoken and written material; assimilate and use information from spoken and written sources, including material from online media; summarise information from spoken sources, reporting key points and subject matter; and to translate from Russian into English.

The total assessment time was 2 hours. The assessment was out of 80 marks. Students had to answer all questions. The use of dictionaries was not permitted.

Listening

The listening section was made up of spoken passages covering different registers and types, including authentic communication involving one or more speakers. Sources included material from online media.

Question 1 (four marks) used a text from an online blog about the life of a young woman. There were four multiple-choice questions, set in Russian.

Students found this question accessible and performed well.

Question 2 (five marks) was an extract from an announcement regarding a media conference in Belarus'. There were five questions in Russian, to be answered in Russian. Full sentences were not required.

Students generally responded well to this question.

Question 3 (nine marks) was an extract from an interview with someone who lived through the 1991 putsch. Students had to respond in Russian to nine questions in Russian. Full sentences were not required.

Students mostly responded very well to these questions.

Question 4 (twelve marks) required students to respond to five questions in Russian and to make two brief summaries in Russian. The text contained extracts from a radio report about ecological problems in St Petersburg and was delivered in two sections.

The questions were generally answered accurately.

A small number of students found the summary more difficult. Not all ensured that their sentences or phrases linked coherently together to make a viable summary, as the task requires. Students might usefully consider the notion that what they write in the summary needs, as it were, to be understood by someone who has not heard the text or read the question.

Reading

The reading section was made up of texts containing both factual and abstract content and was authentic or adapted from authentic sources. The texts included contemporary, historical, literary, fiction and non-fiction, written for different purposes and audiences.

Question 5 (four marks) was an online article about two homeless people in Moscow, and required students to respond to four multiple choice questions set in Russian.

They generally did so successfully.

Question 6 (four marks) was an extract from a blog in which a young man explained his reluctance to own a smartphone. Students were offered a list of statements in Russian from which they had to select the four true ones.

This question was done very well on the whole, with most students achieving three or four marks.

Question 7 (six marks) was an online article about the beginnings of perestroika. There were six questions to answer in Russian. Full sentences were not required.

Students responded with a good degree of success.

Question 8 (eight marks) contained seven questions to be answered in Russian. The text was an online interview with a dancer. Although full sentences were not required, students were expected to give all information that was relevant to a full answer. A very small number of students gave answers in the first person, as in the text; such answers needed to be manipulated into the third person.

For Q8(ж), students had to explain a term from the text in their own words. A number of possible answers were suggested in the mark scheme, but examiners did accept other plausible possibilities.

Question 9 (eight marks) was a literary one which included an adapted episode from a short story by Maria Evtyagina. It contained eight questions to be answered in Russian.

All the parts of this question appeared to be accessible to students, most of whom answered it well.

Translation into English

The content of the translation (Question 10) dealt with a Kazakh tradition, 'Shildekhana'. The text was divided into twenty sections, each worth one mark. A translation was regarded as successful if an English speaker could understand it without having understood the text in its original language. Variants on the acceptable answers proposed in the mark scheme were accepted if they conveyed the same intended meaning.

Many students found this a fairly challenging task, and only a few achieved full marks. Students sometimes got close to the correct meaning, but then wrote the wrong tense, or wrote a plural instead of a singular, or misspelled a word in such a way that its meaning became ambiguous, or else they omitted words. A few did not understand who in paragraph two was sending whom. The vocabulary and structures contained within the text all appeared to be accessible, with no particular words causing major problems for students.

Summary

Based on performance in this paper, students are offered the following advice:

- Ensure you use a decent black pen and make your handwriting as legible as possible.
- You may do rough work on the blank pages of the question paper, or in the white spaces. Rough work must be crossed out, so that there is no ambiguity about what needs to be marked and what needs to be ignored.
- Time your work carefully, ensuring that you leave enough time to do the Translation.
- For Q2, Q3 and Q4(a), you may respond using single words, short phrases or sentences.
- For Q4(b), you may respond using short phrases or sentences, but you should be aware that the task is to write a summary, so your phrases or sentences must follow on coherently from one to another. Ask yourself the question: would a reader be able to understand my summary without having heard the text or read the question?
- For Q7, Q8 and Q9, you may respond using short phrases or sentences. You may use words from the texts, but you must not copy whole sections. Sometimes, phrases from the text need to be manipulated from first person to third person.
- Even though full sentences are not required, you are expected to give all information that is relevant to a full answer. Be aware that sometimes what you hear or read first is not necessarily the correct answer. Make sure that you respond to both parts of two-mark questions.
- For the Translation (Q10), avoid omitting words. Do not leave gaps, since no marks are awarded for blank spaces. Check that your English is grammatically correct and that each sentence makes sense. Be very careful about details such as tenses, singulars and plurals.