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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2019

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Japanese (1JA0) Paper 3F: Reading and
Understanding in Japanese

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Introduction

The paper is in two sections: section A, reading comprehension, worth 43 marks, and section B, translation, worth 7 marks. The total marks on the paper is 50. The time allowed for the examination is 50 minutes. The skill of translation was tested for the first time in this new specification in 2019.

Question 1

Students were required to match people to statements they made about themselves. (c), Ben, was perhaps the easiest. Some students lost marks for writing 'Risa' rather than 'Lisa'. Students are encouraged to use all the help available on the paper as this name was clearly printed on the examination paper.

Question 2

Students were required to complete information about a school choosing words from those supplied. Most students were able to read the kanji numbers required for (c) and (d). Some students erroneously chose 'music' for (e).

Question 3

Students were required to write short answers in English in response to comprehension questions. (a) (ii) was the easiest, with many students able to answer 'fish'. Some students had difficulty with reading the katakana word 'engineer' in (a) (i).

Question 4

Students were required to answer multiple choice questions based on a short story. In this set of questions, (ii) was the easiest with (iii) perhaps the hardest.

Question 5

Students were required to answer short questions in English about Megumi's summer holiday project. (a) was generally well answered, with most students able to state 'homework' or 'a summer holiday project.' In part (c) some students lost marks as they wrote things like 'clean up the area' which was not specific enough. Students are encouraged to be as specific as possible in their answers.

Question 6

Students were required to answer multiple choice questions about a girl's experience of volunteering at an old people's home. (ii) about singing songs was the easiest question for students, with (v) requiring interpretation of the word おかしい the hardest.

Question 7

Students were required to complete statements about Kenta's day by choosing the correct word from a given set. Most students were able to answer (a) and (c).

Question 8

Students were required to write answers in English to comprehension questions, having read a literary text about a visit to a dentist. (c) was the easiest, with many students able to identify either the skill of the dentist or the receiving of medicine as the cause for the writer feeling better. Students found (d) the hardest, possibly because they were not expecting to read about beautiful artwork in a waiting room in the context of a short story about dental treatment.

Question 9

Students were required to match details about each school with the speaker who made the comment. Most students found (b) with the key word 'winter' relatively easy. Interpreting (a) about lunches for sports day was harder.

Question 10

Students were required to translate a short passage about going to see a baseball match into English. Most students who tried this question were able to pick out 'Japan' and 'America'. Students are urged to write down what they have understood, even if they are not able to tackle the whole passage. The number of students who did not know the word baseball was surprising.