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Edexcel

Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Japanese (1JA0)

Paper 3H Reading and Understanding in Japanese

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Overall comments

The standards achieved by this cohort of candidates was good to excellent. Candidates demonstrated good knowledge of vocabulary, grammar and kanji.

Question 1

This question required short responses in English, in response to a text about going to the cinema. Most candidates were able to answer all three questions: some had difficulties with giving a description of the actors in part (c).

Question 2

This was a set of multiple choice questions in response to a passage about a friend coming to stay at New Year. These questions were generally very well answered.

Question 3

This was the first of the two literary texts, about the lessons offered by Prof. Nishida at Kyoto University. Some candidates lost the mark in (a) as they answered "Saturday". Some candidates mistook the non-MCV vocabulary item きょうだん for きょうしつ.

Question 4

This text described various music festivals which take place in different cities in Japan. This set of questions was generally very well answered.

Question 5

The text had descriptions of their future jobs by 3 Japanese young people. Candidates were asked short answer questions. (a) caused some difficulty, with some candidates mistakenly offering "Yoshiko" as the answer. Presumably they spotted the kanji for "money" in the text and based their answer on this, without reading further. For (b), the 学びます needed to be reflected in the answer in some way to be awarded the mark.

Question 6

This was the second literary text, which required candidates to respond to multiple choice questions. Again these questions were generally well tackled.

Question 7

The text described four different places to stay. Most candidates were able to respond to the questions. Some wrote "camp" or "camping" instead of "campsite" – whilst this was allowed, candidates are reminded that they should answer using the words given in the rubrics. For (f) some candidates took a guess from general knowledge and answered that everyone needs to help with the cleaning at a youth hostel.

Question 8

This question dealt with a school on an island where the population is low. Candidates were required to respond in English to short reading comprehension questions. Explaining the details of how Ms Kawamura taught science lessons in (b) proved challenging for some candidates, as they struggled to explain themselves precisely in English. A similar problem occurred in (c). In both cases, the marks were awarded if the examiner could understand the point the candidate was trying to make.

Question 9

The text was about a family holiday to Beijing, at the end of which the father announced that they were going to be moving there in April. The first set of questions, in which candidates had to choose the 6 correct statements were generally well answered. In the second set of short answer questions, most of the candidates demonstrated that they had understood the passage, since they were able to answer (a). (b) was more challenging, with a wide-range of interpretations offered for the word ひどい: anything reasonable was accepted.

Question 10

The passage for translation dealt with noise and light pollution. It was impressive that the vast majority of the candidates handled the higher tier grammatical structures such as *ことができません* and *つもりです* correctly. Some candidates mistook *あかるい* for *あかい*. Candidates are advised to read the text very carefully and make sure that they do not miss out anything in their translation: *夜おそくまで* was sometimes missed out or the meaning only partially conveyed.

