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Examiners' Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2021

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Japanese (1JA0)

Paper: Listening and Understanding in Japanese  
(1H)

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Publications Code 1JA0\_1H\_2111\_ER

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Question 1 required candidates to extract details about the Tokyo Olympics. Most candidates tackled this question well, with only (e), that the beds are recyclable, being challenging for some candidates. Some candidates erroneously wrote an answer in their own words to this part rather than choosing from the list of words given.

Question 2 was Megumi talking about her trip to Kyoto. This question was extremely well answered by candidates, including the most challenging question about what Megumi did with the handkerchief she had bought.

Question 3 dealt with Janet's ambitions to become an English teacher in Japan. The vast majority of candidates answered this question extremely well, including the idea of using song and drama to teach English.

Question 4 was also relatively easy for candidates, as it dealt with school subjects. Some candidates missed the negative in (c).

Question 5 dealt with a school closure arising from the imminent arrival of a typhoon. Although the concept may have been unfamiliar to some candidates, they dealt well with the questions.

In question 6, childhood memories, the hardest part was (a), presumably as the vocabulary for "economics" was less familiar to candidates. In part (e), some candidates lost the mark as they were not specific enough about her ability to read difficult books in English.

Question 7 dealt with tourist information about Hakuba, and was tackled reasonably well by most candidates. (d) proved hardest for candidates; this may have been because they were unfamiliar with the vocabulary for scenery.

Question 8 dealt with "cool business" and other ideas to keep cool in the summer in Japan. Most candidates were able to tackle the multiple choice questions well.

In question 9, Yukari described her grandfather. Part (a) was well answered, with candidates able to extract the required details and giving the craft items that they had made together. Part (b) was harder, particularly the opening question about the hardships her grandfather had had in his life. Some candidates lacked the vocabulary to communicate the key points of what they had heard.

Question 10 was about West Shinjuku middle school. These questions required close listening for specific details and were relatively challenging. Candidates need to pay attention to the full detail of what is said and not jump to conclusions from key words only.

