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Examiners' Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2020

Pearson Edexcel GCSE  
In Portuguese (1PG0) Paper 1H: Listening and  
Understanding

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Publications Code 1PG0\_1H\_2011\_ER

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## **General comments**

Taken into account that it was the first exam of the new specification series, candidates' overall performance was good. There were some mixed results in the questions in Portuguese as not only the candidates have to understand what they hear but also work out what the question is asking them to do. Different skills are required to do so but with time they will become more familiar. Candidates found the open-ended questions in English challenging in general but mostly all attempted to answer them. A very few answered them in Spanish and therefore missed the total marks.

### **Question 1**

This was the first question of section A which was in Portuguese. Question 1 was a fill in the gap type of question and it targeted grade 4. Candidates had to listen to Mr Maia talking about the cultural life of his family and fill in the gaps with a word from the box. This proved to be a challenging question even for higher candidates as some did not manage to identify all the right answers.

### **Question 2**

Question 2 was the second question in Portuguese and targeted grade 5. Candidates had to listen to a conversation between teenagers about school trips and select which of the four adjectives was best fitted for each opinion. The question was accessible for the majority of more able candidates.

### **Question 3**

This was the first question of section B which was in English. In this question, which was targeted grade 4, candidates had to listen to Lucas and Vivienne's podcast on nature-related jobs of the future. There was a good percentage of candidates scoring each of individual parts of the question.

### **Question 4**

This question was targeted at grade 5 and it was a multiple-choice type question. Candidates had to listen to Mónica talking about her work in the summer holidays and choose the 3 right statements out of 7.

### **Question 5**

This question targeted grade 6 and candidates had to listen to a podcast about fashion. Candidates had to choose the correct answers from a number of options. A considerable number of candidates performed well.

### **Question 6**

This question targeted grade 6 and it was the first open response in English question. Candidates had to listen to the Director of a holiday camp in Cabo Verde talking about the summer ahead. Candidates had to respond to (a) exact location of the camp, (b) where to find the information regarding the

camp, (c) suitable age to enrol, (d) one object that young people need to bring and (e) one personal characteristic useful for the participants. Many missed that "island of Maio" was the precise location of the camp and that "they will need enthusiasm, good vibe and will to live unique holidays" was a personal characteristic. There were also some candidates who replied in Portuguese instead of replying in English, thus losing all marks.

### **Question 7**

This question targeted grade 7 and it was another open response in English question. Candidates had to listen to a podcast on the project Academies of Knowledge and answer (a) why should the future be a major focus of education, (b) what is the main purpose of the academies, (c) how may youngsters the programme will reach in the next 5 years, (d) two skills that the programme aims to develop in Portuguese candidates . This proved to be a very challenging question for the vast majority of candidates as there was a very limited number of candidates scoring full marks.

### **Question 8**

Question 8 was aimed at grade 7 and 8. Candidates had to listen to a group of friends discussing their new school. Candidates had to choose the correct answers from a number of options for the different parts. Overall, there was a successful response to this question as candidates at higher grades scored in between 4 to 6 marks.

### **Question 9**

Question 9 was the last of the open responses in the Higher Paper. Candidates had to listen to a promotional video about the Rock in Rio festival. In part A and part B candidates had to provide answers about the festival. As per the results, this question proved to be challenging for the majority of the candidates .

Part 9a (i) candidates missed out that it is the **biggest music** festival in the world, just music festival was not enough.

Part 9a (ii) some candidates recognised 12 hours but didn't translate the concept of party/music.

Part 9a (iii) "palcos" was not well understood by many candidates .

Part 9a (iv) – not many were able to provide a name of a stage nor its purpose, at least in the suitable combination.

Part 9b (i) – a very limited number of candidates understood the concept of success in 2018/last edition of Rock in Rio

Part 9b (ii) – a very limited number of candidates conveyed "promote new visions" or "create a better world"

Part 9b (iii) – many candidates did not attempt an answer

Part 9b (iv) – although some candidates understood the duration of 3 days, not many conveyed party or music.

Part 9b (v) – "fogos de artifício" was surprisingly understood by few candidates and although some mentioned fireworks, they had to convey biggest.

### **Question 10**

This question was targeted at grade 9 and candidates had to listen to two Brazilian linguists giving an interview on national radio about how and why we should all learn foreign languages. Candidates had to select the 2 out of 5 right answers in part (i) and (ii). Most candidates got at least 1 part correct.

### **Advice to centers**

I would strongly recommend that candidates are made aware of the vocabulary list as this is an important resource to have given that points candidates in the right direction in terms of vocabulary. Secondly, it is vital that candidates answer in English when questions are in English, this can be trained beforehand. Finally, many questions were left unanswered. It is crucial that candidates attempt an answer.

