

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2015

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
in Russian (5RU01/01)
Paper 1: Listening and Understanding
in Russian

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GCSE Russian
Unit 1 Listening and Understanding in Russian
Examiner Report

There was a pleasing response to this paper, with the candidates showing sound preparation and the ability to do well over a range of topics.

Question 1

The majority of candidates were able to tackle this question confidently, and almost all scored full marks.

Question 2

This was generally well answered - it was pleasing to see that a large number of candidates could identify "пятница" and "двадцать три" as in the past staples, such as days of the week and numbers, have appeared neglected in even good candidates' vocabulary. Rather surprisingly, some candidates missed оранжевый as the colour of the telephone.

Question 3

This was accessible to the majority of candidates, who seemed to be well drilled in "free time" vocabulary and answering questions in this format.

Question 4

Candidates answered this question well, although a small number left sections un-answered, thus failing to have any chance of gaining a mark.

Question 5

Part iii proved the most challenging part of this question, perhaps indicating some candidates were not confident with drawing inference from what they had heard.

Question 6

Only the weakest of candidates experienced any difficulty in answering this question.

Question 7

Most candidates coped well with this question as a whole but many seemed not to know their modes of transport and therefore were unable to score full marks on this question.

Question 8

This question was aimed at the most able candidates - statement "I" proved the most challenging for candidates to choose correctly.

Question 9

Aimed at more able candidates and requiring written answers, candidates must read each question very carefully and give clear, detailed answers to be assured of gaining the marks available. Some candidates showed they had some understanding of the text but answers were just too vague to be awarded marks.

a) Only the best students understood that the date was the 15th (not the 5th) and a significant number confused June and July. A surprising number of candidates did not understand "после экзаменов", or simply did not understand that the use of "**exactly**" in the question meant that more than just a date was required.

b) The word "директор", meaning head teacher/ headmistress/ headmaster or principal was not widely known.

c) A large number of candidates missed "в свою школу", instead seizing on the word "ресторан" to answer this.

d) Many candidates were unable to score on this question as they were unable to distinguish past events from the future. This proved a barrier to them taking advantage of words which are cognates or near cognates, such as "в джинсах", "лимузины" and "ресторан". On the other hand, there were some pleasing examples of candidates drawing inference, for example, "the dress code was smart"

e) A pleasing number of candidates recognised 2000.

f) Some candidates' answers were too vague in that they neglected to include that it was a **children's** hospital.

g) Many candidates were able to answer this precisely.

h) A pleasing number of candidates understood that other schools would do likewise in the future.

Some general observations:

- Candidates will not gain any credit for writing in Russian if the rubric specifies English.
- Candidates should be encouraged to attempt all questions. Again, a small number of candidates ruled themselves out of gaining marks on some questions by not even attempting multiple choice or similar questions.

- Candidates should read the questions (particularly on Question 9) carefully.

Grade Boundaries

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