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Edexcel

Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2019

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Russian (1RU0) Paper 3F: Reading and
Understanding in Russian

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Overview

This paper was worth 50 marks and divided into 3 sections.

Section A requires answers in English and is worth 28 marks.

Section B requires answers in Russian and is worth 15 marks.

Section C is the translation into English and is worth 7 marks.

Students had 50 minutes to complete the paper.

Question 1.

Students were asked to read a text and identify who said what about shopping, using the names given.

The majority of students coped very well with this question, with many gaining full marks. However, some students did not appear to have read the instructions and did not realise that the names could be used more than once.

Question 2.

Students had to read an extract from a website and complete 5 sentences in English using the vocabulary given in a box. Again the majority of the students did well. The most frequently correct answers were b), c), d). Surprisingly less successful students did not understand «день рождения» answering 'an anniversary' for a). Also surprising was the number who did not understand «мороженое» and therefore were unsuccessful in e).

Question 3.

Students were asked to read an email and answer questions in English. The question was in two parts. Part a) had 3 questions on an email about holidays, part b) had two further questions on the continuation of the email.

Part a)

- (i) was accessible to the majority of students with 'by plane' or 'flying' as acceptable answers.
- (ii) Most students were successful here, but some did not read closely and answered wrongly that 'Ivan liked hotels in the town'. Successful students answered either, 'in the campsite', 'camping' 'countryside' or 'in the village'.
- (iii) Very few students were unsuccessful with almost all answering either 'bicycle' or 'skateboard'.

Part b)

- (i) The most successful students knew 'зимой', but some failed to understand and referred to another season or time such as 'weekend'.
- (ii) The majority of students was successful in understanding 'каждый день'.

Question 4.

Students were asked to read an extract from a literary text and answer multiple choice questions in English. The most frequently correct answers were (i), (ii) and (v). In (iii) the less successful students did not understand 'счастлив'.

Question 5.

Students were asked to read a text about a school exchange and answer questions in English. Part a) was answered well by the majority of students.

In b) unsuccessful students lost the mark by failing to be accurate. The answer was '*English schools were bigger/newer*' or '*English teachers were kinder/nicer*'. While the rubric states that students need not write in full sentences, they must write enough to convey a correct answer. '*Bigger*', '*newer*' or '*kinder*' is not sufficient.

c) was accessible to most students, although surprisingly many guessed '*castles*' apparently not understanding either '*дворцы, музеи or кинотеатры*'. Several unsuccessful students wrote '*theatre*' instead of '*cinema*'.

Question 6.

Students were asked to read a short literary text and answer questions in English.

a) Was successfully answered by the majority of students, although several less successful students wrote '*grandfather*' presumably confusing '*дедушка*' with '*девушка*'.

b) Again was well answered, although some less successful students did not read the question carefully and confused '*what*' with '*who*' confusing '*дедушка*' with '*девушка*' again. Others wrongly guessed '*his phone*' or '*his wallet*'.

c) Successful students inferred that he had got on '*the wrong train*'. '*He was on the train to Paris*' was not enough for the mark, whereas '*he was on the train to Paris, but wanted to go to Minsk*' was.

d) Successful students answered '*he will never speak on the phone again at the station*' while less successful students either guessed wildly or just wrote '*he will never speak on the phone again*' which is not supported by the text. '*At the station*' is necessary for the mark.

Question 7.

Students were asked to read a text in Russian and then complete sentences in Russian using words from the box.

Some students did not use the words in the box and unfortunately gained no marks.

Parts a) and e) proved to be the most challenging. In a) students had to connect '*технологии*' from the text with '*информатике*' (both cognates) from the box. Surprisingly some students were unsuccessful. In e) successful students linked '*мнения*' with '*идеи*'.

b) c) and especially d) proved to be the least challenging with the vast majority of students gaining a mark for d).

Question 8.

Students were asked to read a text about the internet and complete multiple choice questions in Russian by crossing a box. This question was accessible to almost all students with the most successful gaining full marks.

Question 9.

Students had to read a text about foreign languages and identify who thought what using the names given in the rubric. a) was mostly correct, although some wrote 'Сергей' instead of 'Виктор'. The use of 'много' by Viktor and cognates for exams and stress should have pointed students in the right direction. b), c), d), e) were generally successfully answered.

Question 10.

In this new style of question, students were asked to translate a short passage containing 4 sentences of varying difficulty into English. It was surprising that some students did not know 'квартира' or 'волосы'. More unsuccessful students did not understand 'длинные' and many translated 'скрипка' as 'scripts'. However it must be remembered that as long as the meaning of the passage is communicated fully, 7 marks can be awarded despite minor errors.

Summary and advice.

- Students should be aware of the need for careful reading of Russian texts and questions both in Russian and English and for the need for accurate answers.
- Students should read the question words (eg *who, what, where* or *когда, куда, где etc*) carefully in order to answer correctly.
- The question title can provide a clue for students eg *School Exchange* or *Иностранные языки*.
- Students should write answers in the appropriate language/script. No marks can be awarded for answers in the wrong language.
- Students should write clearly in both scripts. Any errors made should be crossed through and rewritten.