Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2020

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Russian (1RU0) Paper 3H: Reading and
Understanding

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Overview
This paper was worth 50 marks and was divided into 3 sections.
Section A was worth 28 marks and required answers in English.
Section B was worth15 marks and required answers in Russian.
Section C was worth 7 marks and was the translation into English.
Candidates had 1 hour and 5 minutes to complete the paper.

Question 1
Candidates were asked to read a text giving health advice and answer questions in English.
Part (a) was answered well by a majority of candidates. There were three possible answers, the most popular being the need for sports clothing.
Part (b) was answered well by a majority of candidates. Some candidates' answers were too general with answers such as "It is better for your health".
Part (c) was again answered well by a majority of candidates. There were three possible answers. A majority of candidates chose the first option, "running in the morning", whereas others were able to identify "плавайте в бассейне" easily.

Question 2
Candidates were asked to read a short literary text and answer four questions in English.
Q2a was successfully answered by a majority of candidates. There were two possible answers that could be given with a majority of candidates describing Stas as "an excellent friend".
Q2b the majority of candidates were able to give one of the possible answers. "Studying badly" and "not doing homework" were amongst the most popular answers given.
Q2c was again successfully answered by a majority of candidates. Some candidates answered unsuccessfully with "listening to music".
Q2d several candidates missed *most of all* in the question which resulted in them giving the incorrect answer.

Question 3
Candidates were asked to read a text on the environment and answer questions in English. Although there was some difficult vocabulary, the emphasis of the question was on inferring the correct answer, rather than translating each word. Specific vocabulary for the question was taken from the wordlist published in the specification.
Q3a a majority of candidates were successful, understanding **газ** as a near cognate. Some candidates did not give enough detail, writing just "oil" or "gas" without making reference to the fact that "there will be **no** gas/oil".
Q3b some candidates did not notice the **не** in front of **природные ресурсы** and therefore answered incorrectly. A majority of candidates managed to translate **зелёная политика** suitably.
Q3c some candidates did not give sufficient information, answering that "war was scary" rather than the "threat of war being scarier". **Нищета** was not recognised by a majority of candidates but **голод** was correctly identified by the majority of candidates to enable them to achieve the mark for the question.
Q3d a majority of candidates answered correctly. Some answers, such as "running water" or "rising sea levels" were either not clear enough or too far from the original text.
Q3e was answered well by a majority of candidates. Some had misunderstood the final paragraph and taken their answer from the incorrect sentence which referred to handing out fines for pollution rather than recycling.

Question 4.
Candidates were asked to read a literary text and answer multiple choice questions by crossing a box.
Q4 (i, iii and iv) were the most successful answers.
Q4ii required the candidate to inference and some had chosen '*hungry*' rather than '*thirsty*'. Some candidates may have misread '*холодно*' as голодный.
Q4v was correctly answered by a majority of of the candidates, but some had not understood '*счастливо*'.

Question 5

Candidates were asked to read an article about living in a town versus the countryside and answer questions in English.
Q5a – 5d required a name from a given list.
Q5e and 5f required fuller answers in English.

The most successful answers were Q5a, Q5b, Q5c and Q5d. Questions Q5e and Q5f required fuller answers and were therefore more challenging.

For question Q5e '*движение*' proved to be a challenging word, although it was pleasing to see a majority of candidates understanding this from context. Some candidates translated it as 'movement' which did not make sense in the given context.

For question Q5f some candidates did not notice '*не так важны, как*' and wrote down 'relationships with neighbours' or 'healthy food' which were incorrect answers.

Question 6
Candidates were asked to read an article on volunteering and in Q6(i) tick 3 correct statements from a list, In Q6(ii) and Q6(iii) candidates had to answer questions in English.

Q6(ii) This question was answered well by a majority of candidates. The most popular answer given was that *it makes people calmer*. It was also impressive to see some candidates understanding *сосредоточивается* as an alternative answer.

Q6(iii) a majority of candidates gave the correct response to this question.

Question 7
Candidates were asked to read an email from Ivan about holidays and answer multiple choice questions by crossing a box. A majority of candidates were successful gaining full marks for parts Q7(i), Q7(ii), Q7(iii) and Q7(iv).

In part Q7(v) some candidates did not identify '*скучно*' in the text as a synonym for '*неинтересно*'.

Question 8
Candidates had to read a text about opinions on food and identify who thought what, using the names given in the rubric.
This question was answered well by a majority of candidates. Some candidates incorrectly wrote **Нина** for part Q8c, failing to notice the negative before **вегетарианка.** Please remind candidates that responses to this question should be given in Russian to avoid being penalised.

Question 9
Candidates were asked to read a website about a school conference and answer questions in Russian. This question was challenging, but several candidates were successful in their answers. Candidates at this level are expected not only to understand the language, but also to infer meaning from a text containing words which may not necessarily be familiar.

Q9a some responses required a little more precision. Unsuccessful candidates lifted answers from the text which meant little out of context, e.g. '*европейских студентов*'. Some candidates incorrectly answered 'о медицине'.
Q9b some unsuccessful candidates described what the problem was, rather than how he solved it.
Q9c and Q9d were answered successfully by a majority of candidates.
Q9e a majority of candidates were able to give at least one of the advantages of studying in Russia. Some candidates were unsuccessful as they used language from the text without suitably adapting it. Some wrote "инностраные студенты понимали **нас**"

Question 10
Candidates were asked to translate a passage of 4 sentences of varying length and difficulty into English.
A vast majority of all candidates scored at least 4 marks out of 7 with several achieving full marks. It should be noted that minor spelling or syntactical errors did not prevent this as long as the meaning was fully conveyed. Some non-learner or Heritage candidates had some difficulty expressing themselves clearly in idiomatic English.
Candidates must be careful not to omit words - frequent omissions were 'частью', 'более', ' даже'. Some candidates mistranslated риски as 'Russians'.
Some candidates translated эксперты as 'experiments.
The negative caused problems for some in the last sentence with some translating the double-Russian negative directly into English as 'nobody doesn't'.

Summary
- Candidates should be aware that there will be unknown vocabulary in several questions, and they should learn to read for gist and be aware of cognates.
- Candidates will be expected to use the new skills of inference and interpretation of written Russian.
- In the translation question full marks can be gained despite minor errors, as long as the meaning of the passage is conveyed.
- Candidates are advised to read the questions carefully, paying particular attention to which question word is used (in both Russian and English).
- Candidates should remember to write neatly and clearly. Marks cannot be awarded for illegible answers.
- Candidates should be careful to respond in the appropriate language. No marks are given for answers in Russian where English is required or vice versa.