Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2021

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

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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.
Students had 1 hour and 5 minutes to complete the paper.

Question 1.
Students were asked to read a text about a holiday and answer questions in English.
Part a) was answered well by most candidates. Some candidates hadn't realised that there was a difference between the weather on the first day and the rest of the holiday and therefore gave the incorrect answer.
Part b) was answered well by most candidates. Some candidates confused 'кататься на лыжах' with 'какаться на коньках.'
Part c) was again answered well by most candidates. There were two possible answers and the majority of candidates understood at least one piece of information with many candidates giving both pieces of information as their answer.

Question 2.
Students were asked to read a short literary text and answer four questions in English.
a) most candidates answered with an appropriate answer. There was frequent confusion with the adjective забавный with some candidates misreading it as незабываемый.
b) the majority of candidates answered this part of the question correctly.
c) was again successfully answered by most candidates who were able to give an appropriate positive response as an answer.
d) this part of the question was answered well by the vast majority of candidates.

Question 3.
Students were asked to read a text on using languages beyond the classroom and answer questions in English. With examples of higher-tier vocabulary, the emphasis of the question was on inferring the correct answer, rather than translating each word. All vocabulary for the question was taken from the wordlist published in the specification.
a) most candidates were successful and understood the points being made by Алиса. Some candidates used the information to make their own conclusions which were often too far from the original text, therefore answers such as "*learning French is not useful*" were not accepted.
b) most candidate answered this part of the question successfully understanding рекомендую.
c) most candidate answered this part of the question successfully and understood много времени.
d) most candidates answered correctly with one of the acceptable answers.
e) again most candidates answered this part of the question correctly and it was pleasing to see most candidates recognising high frequency words such as всегда and везде.

Question 4.
Students were asked to read a literary text and answer multiple choice questions by crossing a box.
All parts of the question were answered well by most candidates.

Question 5.
Students were asked to read an article about teachers and teaching and answer questions in English.
a) – d) required a name from a given list.
e) and f) required fuller answers in English.

The most successful answers were a), b), c) and d). Questions e) and f) required fuller answers and were therefore more challenging.

For question e) '*пример*' was recognised by most candidates, although some answered that teachers should be an example to their students rather than other teachers. Some candidates did not give Alyosha's opinion but one of the other people in the text.

For question f) some responses did not give Kosta's **most important point** and instead mentioned other more minor details from the text. Therefore, responses such as 'teachers are like parents' were not accepted.

Question 6.
Students were asked to read an article on volunteering and in (i) tick 3 correct statements from a list, In (ii) and (iii) students had to answer questions in English. All vocabulary used in the question was taken from the vocabulary lists in the specification.

ii) This question required candidates to interpret. Some candidates saw 'младшие дети' and didn't read further to get the correct answer.

iii) Most candidates gave an appropriate correct response to this question. Some candidates incorrectly responded with 'she tries to interest them'.

Question 7.
Students were asked to read a blog about holidays and answer multiple choice questions by crossing a box. Most students were successful with many gaining full marks for parts (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv).

Question 8.
Students 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 most candidates. Some candidates answered this question using Latin script and should be reminded to answer in Russian to avoid being penalised.

Question 9.
Students were asked to read a website about the internet and answer questions in Russian. This question was challenging, but several students were successful in their answers. Students 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. In this series, all vocabulary used was taken from the published lists in the specification.

a) most candidates gave a correct answer, and it was pleasing to see many candidates adapting language from the text to fit the question.
b) some unsuccessful candidates mentioned свои страницы without a context of social networks.
c) and d) were answered successfully by most candidates.
e) most candidates were able to respond appropriately. Some candidates said that people should not use the internet which was slightly too distant from what is stated in the original text.

Question 10.
Students were asked to translate a passage of 4 sentences of varying length and difficulty into English.
Almost 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 students had some difficulty expressing themselves clearly in idiomatic English.
Candidates must be careful not to omit words - 'других' was often omitted in responses.
Some candidates had difficulty with topic-specific vocabulary from the specification and often failed to translate vocabulary items such as 'окружающая среда' and 'загрязнение' correctly.

Summary.
● Students 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.
● Students are advised to read the questions carefully, paying particular attention to which question word is used (in both Russian and English).
● Students should remember to write neatly and clearly. Marks cannot be awarded for illegible answers.
● Students should be careful to respond in the appropriate language. No marks are given for answers in Russian where English is required or vice versa.
• Texts for this series have been adapted to ensure that they contain only vocabulary published in the word lists in the specification.