Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2022

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Russian (1RU0)

Paper 1F: Listening and Understanding in Russian

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications are awarded by Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at www.edexcel.com or www.btec.co.uk. Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at www.edexcel.com/contactus.

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: www.pearson.com/uk

Introduction

This qualification is now divided into Foundation and Higher papers. There are 14 questions at Foundation Level, covering grades 1- 5 and the paper is worth 50 marks, (25% of the overall grade). The number of open response tasks in English has increased to 4, worth a total of 15 marks. There are also two questions in the target language accounting for 10 marks, previously there were no questions in the target language. There are also new topics not tested pre-2019, covering areas such as the global dimension and voluntary work.

Generally, candidates were prepared for these test types and topics, but some of the requirements proved challenging for some candidates and the open response questions, requiring answers in English, proved daunting for less successful candidates. Candidates performed well across the paper as a whole and there were some excellent performances. There was evidence of some good listening and exam skills. Many candidates had used the five minutes reading time well (underlining key words in the title, rubric and questions, annotating questions), generally using the time to anticipate what they were about to hear. The questions that were intended to discriminate did so, many candidates understood enough, and felt confident enough, to attempt the whole paper but there were blank answers for the whole or parts of questions 8 and 12 (open response questions in English). There were some candidates who were unable to cope with the demands of the paper - the increase in difficulty as they progressed through led some to give up and the target language questions proved very demanding indeed at Foundation Level.

Comments on individual questions

Questions 1-5 were targeted at grades 1-2 and required candidates to identify the key points in short extracts. In these test types, vocabulary is of key importance and lack of familiarity with the common core vocabulary list can cost candidates marks.

Questions 1 and 2 were well answered. The use of inference to elicit Question 3 C, as a correct answer, "Раньше я любил.... Сейчас я предпочитаю....." was not understood by all candidates.

Question 4 proved more accessible, and knowledge of free time activities led most candidates to be awarded full marks.

The majority of candidates scored well on Question 5 and had the confidence to attempt the answers. Questions (a) and (c) proved the more accessible. Part (d) requiring candidates to understand "скучно", was more challenging.

The remaining questions targeted at higher grades required careful listening to the whole text and proved difficult for some candidates, who tended to give answers based on the recognition of single lexical items, usually the first word that they heard and recognised. Candidates should be encouraged not to write when listening to the extract for the first time, but to listen to the whole extract.

Question 6 was well answered, with most candidates successfully scoring at least two of the three marks available. Some candidates appeared not to know, "мультфильм", which was needed to fill in the third gap correctly. This question required candidates to choose words or short phrases from a box to complete a gap-filling exercise. Candidates should be advised that each word is part of a pair as this will facilitate their choice.

Question 7 was generally well answered – candidates coped well with the use of inference.

Question 8, requiring answers in English to open response questions, was slightly less well done than Question 5, which was the same question type targeting a similar grade. "Вечером" was frequently not known.

Questions 9-14 targeted grades 4 and 5. Question 9 proved accessible for many candidates. Parts 9(ii) and 9(iv) relied on understanding inference. This multiple-choice question required careful listening to identify correct and incorrect choices for each part of the question and also the ability to process information.

Question 11 required some ability to understand inference and on the whole, candidates coped well.

Questions 10 and 12 required answers in English to open response questions. The incline of difficulty was clear. Question 10 proved to be a challenge to many Foundation candidates. However, most were able to supply a correct answer for 10 (a), where a possible 4 answers could be offered. In spite of the cognate "тинейджеры" being used in the text, a number of candidates were unable to score on 10 (b). Question 10 (c) was generally well answered. For 10 (d) the generic "sightseeing" was permissible to gain the mark and was far more widely used than mentioning Red Square or the Kremlin.

In Question 10 the majority of candidates attempted all the questions, whereas a number of candidates left Question 12 blank. In Question 12, there was evidence of snatched listening with candidates honing in on single lexical items and then putting them together, often incorrectly. Sometimes candidates picked up individual words and made up answers which were not related to what they heard. Whilst the majority of candidates responded well, some were not able to recognise familiar vocabulary, perhaps out of its usual context.

Questions 13 and 14 were in the target language. Candidates were generally more successful in answering Question 13, with 13 (a) and (d) being the most commonly correct and 13 (b) being the most challenging. Many were unable to use linguistic clues or context to arrive at the correct answer. Question 14 proved challenging for all but the most successful candidates. This task required candidates to process what they heard, understand inference and match what they heard with a description of future plans, inserting a proper name to complete the answer. A small number of candidates had clearly not understood the rubric for these two questions and attempted to answer either with words outside the choices they were given or in English.

 For this paper, candidates need to

- carefully read the questions
- be able to understand the questions in Russian and recognise linguistic clues
- have sound knowledge of core vocabulary
- listen to the whole rather than hone in on individual words
- identify cognates and familiar words in unfamiliar contexts
- recognise the use of tenses and time indicators
- pay attention to detail
- apply logic