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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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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 worth 15 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 to Moscow and answer questions in English.

Part a) was answered well by most candidates. Some candidates failed to see the negation and answered 'it snowed'. Some candidates also translated тепло as 'hot' and also failed to gain the mark.

Part b) was answered well by most candidates. Candidates on the whole were able to identify one of the two adjectives used to describe the hotel. Some candidates talked about the location of the hotel rather than describing it.

Part c) required candidates to understand больше всего. Most candidates identified магазины and therefore achieved the mark. Some candidates translated магазины as 'magazines'.

Question 2.

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

a) most candidates answered correctly. Some unsuccessful candidates translated акрисы as 'artists' or failed to mention both elements, either answering with just 'Americans' or 'Actresses'.

b) the majority of candidates answered this part of the question correctly. Some candidates answered incorrectly by mentioning what Anna did in the morning.

c) was again successfully answered by most candidates and it was pleasing to see how many candidates identified устала.

d) this part of the question was answered well by the majority of candidates.

Question 3.

Students were asked to read a text on future plans 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 this question was taken from the wordlist published in the specification. Marks were occasionally missed through misreading of the questions.

a) most candidates were successful and understood that the question related to Sonya. Some candidates answered in the incorrect language, using Cyrillic rather than Latin script.

b) most candidate answered this part of the question successfully, although some thought that Tanya wanted to work by herself without realising that this was a negative aspect of her career choice.

c) most candidate answered this part of the question successfully, although some candidates misread the question and answered, 'volunteering work'.

d) many candidates found this part of the question challenging, either because their answer did not express a concern, or the candidate did not

recognise безработица. Some candidates interpreted from the text that Pasha felt that he would need work experience to find a good job, and this answer was also accepted.

e) most candidates answered this part of the question correctly and it was pleasing to see that they had understood the meaning of одна in this context.

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 using technology whilst travelling.

a) – d) required a name from a given list.

e) and f) required fuller answers in English.

Some candidates answered parts (a) to (d) in Cyrillic script and therefore could not gain the marks for this section. Parts (a), (b) and (d) required candidates to interpret the context rather than look for individual vocabulary items. Despite this, many candidates gave successful responses to these questions. Соцсеть appeared in two different texts, resulting in some incorrect responses for part (c). Questions e) and f) required fuller answers and were therefore more challenging.

For question e) most candidates identified одежда and used good inferencing skills to come up with the correct response. It was pleasing to see several candidates recognising зонтик. Some candidates' responses were not detailed enough with responses such as 'to find out the weather forecast' not being accepted.

For question f) some responses did not give enough detail, with responses such as 'taking photos' or 'visiting sites' not accepted. Not all candidates were familiar with достопримечательности.

Question 6.

Students were asked to read an article on a charitable organisation and in part (i) tick 3 correct statements from a list. In parts (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) Most candidates managed to respond with one of the possible answers to this question. Some candidates did not specify what the charity did for 'young people' and gave examples of how the charity helped theatres.

iii) It was pleasing to see that most candidates identified тысяча, although some failed to notice несколько and therefore did not achieve the mark. Any answers which suggested 'multiple thousands' were accepted.

Question 7.

Students were asked to read a blog about a school trip 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 living in the town and countryside 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 climate change in Siberia 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. Recognition of question words often gave candidates a greater chance of accessing the correct answers. In this series, all vocabulary used was taken from the published lists in the specification.

a) most candidates gave a correct answer, although some candidates responded with огромный регион or talked about its location rather than mention why most people had heard of Siberia.

b) most candidates were able to find one of the acceptable answers to this part of the question. Some candidates talked about appearance of lakes whilst others referred to increasing temperatures. It was pleasing to see some candidates using their own words to answer this part of the question, although they could also achieve the mark by lifting the appropriate parts of the text.

c) was answered well by most candidates. Some candidates answered with люди в России which wasn't specific enough to gain credit. Some candidates misread кто for что, therefore giving an incorrect answer.

d) was answered successfully by most candidates, although some gave a negative viewpoint rather than negative, suggesting that people like the lakes or global warming. Some candidates also forgot to negate their sentence and said that people were wearing hats and coats rather than the opposite.

e) most candidates were able to respond appropriately. It was pleasing to see some candidates accessing marks by identifying where the answer is even if they don't necessarily understand all the vocabulary in the text.

Question 10.

Students were asked to translate a passage of 4 sentences of varying length and difficulty into English.

Many candidates scored at least 4 marks out of 7 with some 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. Some candidates also offered a summary rather than a translation.

Candidates must be careful not to omit words - 'скопo' and 'особенно' were often omitted in responses. Candidates should also identify different tenses in their translations. Several candidates failed to identify понравилсь as a past tense and translated it as 'likes' or 'enjoys', rather than 'liked' or 'enjoyed'. Some also didn't identify собирается, translating it as 'collect'. Some candidates had difficulty with topic-specific vocabulary from the specification and often failed to translate vocabulary items such as 'навыки' 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.