

Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2010

GCSE

GCSE Russian (1241/04)

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Paper 4 - Writing - June 2010

This paper will reward students for Communication and Content as well as for Knowledge and application of grammar and structures:

Task 1: Candidates will be required to write short lists or fill in a form or questionnaire using individual words. The task will be marked for communication only and instructions will be in English. Task instructions will be given in English.

Candidates should be awarded for communication of any item feasibly found in a Russian home. Marks can be awarded for members of the family/pets

5 marks

Task 2: Candidates will be required to write a postcard or similar message of approximately 30 words. Task instructions will be given in English. **Candidates are expected to respond to all bullet points from the question to achieve the higher marks for communication and content.**

10 marks

Task 3: Candidates will be required to produce a piece of continuous writing of approximately 70 words. A task could be a reply to a short letter in the target language, the expansion of notes or be based on visuals or other simple stimuli written in the target language. Task instructions will be given in English. **Candidates are expected to respond to all bullet points from the question to achieve the higher marks for communication and content**

20 marks

Task 4: Candidates may be required to narrate events, express ideas and justify points of view. They will be expected to produce longer sequences of writing, using a wider range of vocabulary, structure and time references. They will be offered a **choice of task** and will be required to produce a piece of approximately 150 words. Questions will be set so that candidates can undertake either narrative or discursive writing. These may be factual or imaginary narratives or involve extended letter writing. They may be based on stimuli in the target language, visuals or a combination of both. Instructions will be given in the target language.

20 marks

In 4a candidates are expected to discuss the positive aspects of the holiday as well as the problem in order to respond fully to the stimulus. Candidates can score high marks for knowledge of language and accuracy without reference to all verb tenses.

In 4b candidate are expected to refer to all of the bullet points for attainment of the highest marks for communication and content. Candidates should also refer to the sub bullet points.

Total for paper = 55 marks

Writing Mark Scheme

The first question rewards candidates for communication only whereas all other questions attract marks for knowledge and application of target-language grammar and structures. Questions 3 and 4 share a common mark scheme both for communication and content, knowledge and application of language and accuracy. The knowledge and application mark scheme for question 2 incorporates elements that reward accuracy.

Question 1

Marked for communication only.

Marks are awarded positively for each item/point communicated in such a way that it can be readily understood by a sympathetic native speaker. No marks are allocated for accuracy beyond that required for effective communication.

Question 2

Marks are awarded globally across each task using the criteria below:

COMMUNICATION AND CONTENT	
5	The task is completed, perhaps with minor ambiguity or omission.
4	Most of the task is completed. There may be some ambiguity or omission.
3	About half of the task is completed, though with some ambiguity.
2	One or two elements of the task are completed but with some ambiguity.
1	There is little meaningful communication - single lexical items only.
0	No effective communication.

KNOWLEDGE AND APPLICATION OF LANGUAGE	
5	Appropriate vocabulary for the task. Correct syntax in simple phrases. Generally accurate with some lapses.
4	Basic errors evident but these rarely interfere with communication. Able to construct simple sentences with some lapses. Vocabulary and structures generally appropriate for the task.
3	Inaccurate language sometimes impedes communication. Shows some ability to construct simple sentences. Vocabulary and structures adequate to the task.
2	Much inaccuracy which impedes communication. Some examples of simple sentence structure - prelearned phrases. Vocabulary and structures only just adequate for the task.
1	Frequent errors which prevent communication, only isolated examples of accurate recognisable language - unconnected words or characters. No awareness of structure.
0	No language worthy of credit.

Questions 3 and 4

Marks are awarded for **Communication and Content**, **Knowledge and Application of Language** and **Accuracy**. Please refer to the following grids:

COMMUNICATION AND CONTENT	
9-10	Task clearly understood and responds fully to stimulus. Ability to narrate, expand, give full descriptions and express opinions as appropriate to task. Time sequence/verb tenses clear with no ambiguity. Piece clearly linked as a whole and relevant to set task. Coherent, pleasant to read.
7-8	Responds fully to all or nearly all of the task although there may be some minor omissions. Task clearly understood. Shows ability to go beyond a minimal response, and provides evidence of description and opinion as appropriate to the task. Time sequence/verb tenses generally sound with occasional lapses. Coherent with some lapses. Fairly clear, and reasonable attempt to link the piece into a whole. May be rather pedestrian or alternatively, somewhat over ambitious.
5-6	Majority of task completed and relevant information conveyed although there may be some omissions. There may be some misunderstanding of the question leading to some irrelevance. Evidence of ability to go beyond a minimal response, beginning to expand ideas and express opinions etc suitable for actual/imaginative tasks. Appropriate use of verb tenses with some lapses, sometimes leading to ambiguity. Comprehensible overall with some attempt at linking piece into a whole. Ambiguous in places especially if more ambitious language is attempted.

COMMUNICATION AND CONTENT

3-4 Main points of question completed but some of the task may have been misunderstood. Some relevant information conveyed but there may be major omissions and/or irrelevance, repetition. Level of response minimal with no evidence of description or opinions etc appropriate to task. Some attempt at verb but inconsistent and unreliable/insecure leading to ambiguity. Just about comprehensible overall. Not easy to read.

1-2 Little relevant information conveyed. Much ambiguity and omission. Task generally misunderstood. Substantial degree of irrelevance and incoherence. Time indications/verb tenses required by the task are absent or unreliable. Except for isolated items would not be comprehensible to a native speaker.

0 No relevant communication.

KNOWLEDGE AND APPLICATION OF LANGUAGE

5 Vocabulary and structures comfortably equal to the task. Variety of vocabulary, idiom and structures appropriate for narrative and description eg expressing and justifying opinions, ideas and points of view and to avoid repetition. Confident use of more complex structures such as pronouns, negatives, superlatives, range of tenses although there may be the occasional lapse. Clear ability to manipulate to suit purpose.

4 Evidence of a range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to narrative and description, eg expressing opinions, justifying ideas and points of view. Some attempt to vary sentences by using more ambitious structures: subordinate clauses, pronouns, adverbial or other phrases, range of tenses, although these are unlikely to be wholly successful. Shows ability to manipulate language to suit purpose, albeit with mistakes.

3 Vocabulary and structures adequate to task. Language appropriate for purpose, there may be occasional mother-tongue influence, which does not impede communication. Style basic, correct syntax when using simple short sentences. Some longer sentences where syntax not always correct. Fairly correct use of standard idiom. Attempts enhancement of fact with adjectives and adverbial phrases with (some) success. Attempts to use subordinate clauses / simple linking. Evidence of correct formation of tenses with some lapses. Although there will be prelearned, set phrases and attempts to manipulate the language, this may be only partially successful.

2 Limited vocabulary and structures, only just adequate to the task. Language basic and sometimes inappropriate to the task, some mother-tongue influence and words in non-target language. Sentences simple and usually short, syntactically more or less correct, occasional use of standard idiom. Some evidence of correct formation and use of verbs/tenses though frequent lapses. Prelearned, set phrases predominate and there will be no evidence of any ability to manipulate the language. Some attempt at enhancement of fact with adjective or adverbial phrases though these are likely to be only partially successful. There may be some simple subordination.

KNOWLEDGE AND APPLICATION OF LANGUAGE

1 Very limited language. Frequent use of mother-tongue or non-target language words greatly restricts communication. Language very basic and frequently inappropriate. Little understanding of language structures, eg the formation and use of tenses. There may be the occasional almost correct phrase or short sentence but this will be prelearned or stereotyped.

0 No language worthy of credit.

ACCURACY OF LANGUAGE

5 High level of accuracy though not necessarily faultless. Spellings, genders, agreements, verb forms generally mastered with the odd slip. Secure when using more complex language but again there may be minor errors.

4 Generally accurate in straightforward language, most verb forms correct, secure in genders and agreements but the odd lapse. Spellings mostly accurate. Accuracy can be more variable when more complex structures are attempted.

3 Fairly accurate in simple language. Some lapses in spellings and genders and verb endings. Inconsistency in verb forms but more correct than incorrect. Spellings of common words generally accurate. About half of what is written should be free of major errors; inaccuracy increases if attempts more complex structures. Despite error the message is communicated.

2 Many basic errors but main points communicated. Some correct phrases but frequent misspellings, inaccurate genders, incorrect verb endings.

1 Frequent basic errors and inaccuracies prevent communication. Isolated examples of correct language. Spellings and genders very weak. Little or no evidence of correct verb formation.

0 No language worthy of credit.

Summary of mark allocations for the writing paper

	Task 1	Task 2	Task3	Task 4
Communication and Content	5	5	10	10
Application of Language	-	5	10*	10*

* Marks are equally divided between application of language and accuracy within this task.

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