



Examiners' Report June 2010

GCSE Russian Unit 3: Listening and Understanding in Russian (5RU03)





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Unit 3: Reading and Understanding in Russian (5RU03)

The new style of the exam with questions and instructions in English did not prove to be an issue for candidates, who had obviously been well prepared for it.

Candidates should be encouraged to write clearly, as some lost marks through unfortunately illegible handwriting as examiners could not read the answer. Reading the question is also essential. Some candidates lost marks through answering in the wrong language.

The less able candidates coped well with Questions 1, 3, 5 with the majority of candidates gaining full or almost full marks.

Q 7 in particular proved to be a good discriminator for those aiming at a C, where a variety of different structures including some use of different tenses needed to be understood. Questions 2 and 6 caused no significant problems with the majority of candidates being able to extract details from different types of written texts.

Questions 4, 8, 9 proved challenging to all but the most able. Questions 8 and 9 were accessible to most candidates at this level with some gaining full marks. They were required to read an extended text, draw conclusions and recognise points of view expressed in sometimes unfamiliar language. Question 8 required answers in Russian, which was a departure from the previous specification, but candidates had obviously been trained for this and coped well. Unfortunately in Question 9 some candidates answered in Russian and scored no marks. Others only gave only one detail in (d) or did not appear to have read in (f) *how* and *when*. Candidates should be encouraged to read the instructions carefully.

Overall the results were pleasing with many candidates gaining the higher grades and showing an ability to read unfamiliar language, extracting the main points. Even the weaker candidates attempted all questions, showing understanding of short, simple texts and managed to gain some marks on the harder questions.

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Grade Boundaries

Grade	Max Mark	A*	Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	U
Raw mark boundary	50	41	35	29	23	20	17	14	11	0
Uniform mark scale boundary	70	63	56	49	42	35	28	21	14	0

The modern foreign languages specifications share a common design, but the assessments in different languages are not identical. Grade boundaries at unit level reflect these differences in assessments, ensuring that candidate outcomes across these specifications are comparable at specification level.

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