Examiners' Report

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GCSE Russian 5RU04 01

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Introduction

Section A (the short writing task) required candidates to produce a short writing task in

Russian (25-50 words) in response to a choice of four questions that relate to both of the prescribed themes (Media, travel and culture/Sport, leisure and work). The task was assessed for communication and knowledge and application of language only.

Section B (the longer writing task) required candidates

to produce some extended writing in Russian (at least 90 words). Candidates had to choose one of four possible tasks that related to both of the prescribed themes. Tasks offered opportunities for candidates to narrate, express opinions and to justify points of view. The task was assessed for communication, knowledge and application and accuracy of language.

Question 1 (a)

Candidates were asked to describe a favourite musician or group they had seen. An opinion was required about the performance.

Candidates responded well to this question and managed to come up with a variety of possible musicians from pop to rock to classical composers. The best examples described succinctly the make up of the group or a description of the musical genre. Clear descriptions of a performance included details such as where the event took place and what the audience felt. A large number of candidates ignored the word limit of 25-50 words. Stronger candidates used appropriate and correct adjectival forms as well as showing a good ability to use the past tense. Simple opinions such as the verb "любить" were well known.

a very good example of a question that fits the exact requirements of the task. candidate to describe a favourite musician and when they saw the musician perform giving an opinion on this.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new task with a cross ☒.

Chosen task:	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
	☒	☒	☒	☒

Моя любимая группа называется Сплин. Это очень известная рок группа в России. Главного музыканта в этой группе зовут Александр Васильев. Первый раз, когда я попала на их восступление, я была приятно удивлена, что музыка вживую звучит точь-в-точь как на записи.

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TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 20 MARKS

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candidate produced 39 words, easily within the 25-50 word target.group mentioned with two qualifying facts (it is a famous rock group and the name of the singer). implies that the candidate has seen the group on more than one occasion but the first time created a strong impression. high level of vocabulary with no repetition. some complex items and fluent response.

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Examiner Tip

keep to the word limit as this does focus the response. plan equal amount of response to each bullet point.

Question 1 (b)

Candidates were required to discuss what they usually eat on holiday. The second bullet point required a description of something different to be sampled on a future holiday and the reasons for this.

The second bullet point was an issue for weaker candidates. They either didn't mention anything new that they would eat using a future construction or instead they chose to talk in depth about what they ate on their last holiday. Stronger candidates gave excellent justification for what they would try as something new.

Several candidates did not mention what they like to eat on holiday but just talked about thier usual eating habits. Candidates were not disadvantaged for this but are encouraged to read the stimulus task very carefully.

This question allowed for an impressive range of food related vocabulary to be employed

candidate required to describe usual eating habits on holiday with expansion to describe what will be eaten on a future holiday and why.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new task with a cross ☒.

Chosen task:	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
	☒	☒	☒	☒

Привет Миша,

Так как ты попросил меня рассказать о моих каникулах. Я буду рассказывать о них не в одном письме, а в нескольких.

В этом письме я ~~заострю~~ заострю внимание на его. Прошлые каникулы я провёл в ~~Токио~~ Англии. На ~~зав~~ завтрак обычно были ~~рис~~ каша, а на обед мясо и овощи. На ужин было тоже мясо ~~рыба~~ с гарниром и салаты. На следующих каникулах я попытаюсь попасть в Токио и попробовать японскую кухню.

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Examiner Comments

the candidate goes over the expected word limit with an introductory paragraph which is irrelevant to the question. the main paragraph comfortably hits the required word limit. for communication and content the candidate scores a mark of 7/10 as there is no reference as to why the candidate would like to try Japanese food. there is also minimal response to what the candidate usually eats but much detail about eating on a previous holiday. the candidate has made a good atempt to relate the whole response to holiday. the candidate scores 9/10 for knowledge and application of language with a wide range of vocabulary and eveidence of clear understanding of tenses. language is clearly manipulated although not faultless.

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Examiner Tip

do not spend too much time on introductions. communication refers more to the actual bullet points.

Question 1 (c)

This was the most commonly attempted answer from section A. Candidates were required to discuss which subjects they currently study and describe their future work plans and why such a career interests them. Very competent answers were received from learner candidates; this is obviously a subject that is taught thoroughly in schools.

Stronger candidates gave convincing responses detailing the subjects they have chosen. Less strong candiadtes mentioned subjects that they like but did not state whether they are actually studying them. Some confusion arose around the correct verb to use for "to study". *Изучать* was well known but *учиться* caused more difficulty. Some candidates talked about their subject choices for the following year without mentioning what work they intended to do.

The most popular professions were lawyers, doctors, accountants, film producers and designers.

An example of a candidate who has good ability to manipulate language but who does not tackle the exact requirementsl of the task.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new task with a cross ☒.

Chosen task:

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
☒	☒	☒	☒

Я учусь в Англие в интернациольной школе. В начале года мы могли выбрать три придмета. Я выбрал историю бизнес и три науки в одном придмете. Как и я, все студенты должны учить математику и ~~Англиский~~. ~~Я все следуюет году буду~~ Я следумие два года буду учится в колеДже. Я буду концентрирован только на три предметах: Математика, компютер и физика. После этого я собираюсь учится в университе в Америке, потому что там очень хорошее обучение.

Question 1 (d)

This was the least commonly chosen question from section A. Candidates were required to discuss which hobbies and activities are the most popular amongst young people. The second requirement of the task was to mention a hobby that the candidate had pursued previously with the reason as to why they no longer do it.

Candidates must ensure reading the question carefully; this was the least well answered question as some pupils talked about their own current hobbies instead of what activities and hobbies are popular in the UK. Candidates showed a sound knowledge of the past tense, hence accessing the higher boxes of the Knowledge and Application of Language.

Stronger candidates wrote impressively about the interests of young people and moved away from simple descriptions of sport. Less confident candidates could however discuss the importance of sport in the UK. Several versions of the Russian for "United Kingdom" were suggested.

a candidate who has taken on board the requirements of the task. the candidate demonstrates good communication and content with less secure knowledge and application of language.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new task with a cross ☒.

Chosen task:	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
	☒	☒	☒	☒

В соеу~~нн~~ённое королевство футбол очен народный потому что его крайне весёло! также, регби народный какои футбол это больше в Англия я играл теннис когда было молодой! сейчас, я не играю теннис потому что я предпочитаю играть регби. я люблю регби потому что я играю в школе.

word count: 46

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Examiner Comments

the candidate has read the task well and gives detailed response to the stimulus with good reference to how people spend their free time. the candidate also deals with the bullet point about a hobby that he/she no longer pursues with some justification for this.

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Examiner Tip

use the dictionary to check exact meanings of required vocabulary. Proof read to check for alphabet errors eg ето or это.

Question 2 (a)

Candidates were required to write about an event that had taken place in their town. Candidates had to give their impressions of the event and say whether they would attend such an event in the future. This question was the least commonly attempted in section B.

Music and sporting events were the most commonly described. Stronger candidates took the opportunity to employ an impressive range of vocabulary as well as showing strong evidence to manipulate their responses. Stronger candidates also balanced their responses by giving full reasons as to why they would or would not attend a similar event in the future.

Some weaker candidates misinterpreted the instructions and wrote a response in which they simply described their home towns. Some less confident candidates also demonstrated less ability in manipulating verb forms with ambiguity between the formation of past and future structures.

the requirement was to disuss/describe an event that had taken place in the town with an extension on whether the candidate would attend a similar event in the future.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new task with a cross ☒.

Chosen task:

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
☒	☒	☒	☒

День исскуств в лондоне. Как вы знаете, дорогой читатель, в лондоне недавно прошел День исскуств. Было много выставок. Мне удалось побывать на несколмих из них.

Первая выставка была посвящена фотографиам. Сама по себе выставка необычна тем что проходила в бывшем бомбоубежище. Свет был приглушен, а музыка добавляла мрачности, что соответствовало тематике выставки: "Фотографии войны".

Вторая выставка проходила тоже не в совсем обычным месте. На последнем этаже, а так же на крыши местного небоскрёба. Всё было очень воздушно и романтично. Тема данной выставки была: "Романтика на фотографиях."

Фото с выставок вы можете посмотреть на нашем сайте. Надеюсь что ещё не раз в Лондоне будут такие выставки

P.S. Лично мне выставки очень сильно понравились.

Question 2 (b)

This was by far the most popular question in section B. Candidates seemed to respond convincingly to a very familiar topic area. Candidates were expected to write a response in which they described what for them is an ideal holiday. They were also required to write about whether they had already been on such a holiday or when they intended to go in the future.

Stronger candidates responded fully to the task with an impressive range of vocabulary and very secure use of different tenses. Good reasons were given for the choice of ideal holiday. There was clear evidence of a range of different tenses, although verbs of motion caused some problems. In particular there was confusion between travel by transport or on foot. Several candidates stated that they would be walking to their ideal destination.

Weaker candidates did not take on the exact nature of the task and simply wrote a generic essay about a holiday they had been on. Some weaker candidates described their last holiday and barely mentioned (if at all) their ideal holiday.

Some candidates made reference to a past holiday being their ideal break but failed to justify why it had been the ideal holiday. A surprisingly high number of candidates wrongly used the transliteration "*Идеал холидей*" in this task. This seemed especially unusual as all candidates should have had access to a dictionary.

A response to the question about an ideal holiday. Candiadates should give full justification about what constitutes an ideal hoilday.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new task with a cross ☒.

Chosen task:	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
	☒	☒	☒	☒

Я люблю каникулы на кемпинге в деревне. Это лучше чем каникулы в гостинице потому что кемпинге вы на воздухе. Я тоже люблю каникулы в долше зороды когда это жарко и можно лежат в солнце. Я люблю жаркой погоду.

В прошлом году я ехала на каникулы в Россию. Мы ехали в Москву и санкт Петербурге с школой. Была

холодно но очень хорошо. Ты были жили в два гостиницах, гостиница в санкт Петербурге бы удобная. Гостиница бы центре городе около станция метро. каждому день бы когда экскурсию городу, мы нили все достопримечательности. Это хорошо но я бы предпочёл каникулы на Мадиру, когда это в солнцой.

Question 2 (c)

This question was the second most popular in section B. Candidates were required to discuss what they do to keep fit and what they intended to do to keep fit in the future.

Stronger candidates dealt fully with the demands of the task and showed evidence of using a wide range of tenses and vocabulary to justify their responses.

A number of candidates gave general healthy living advice to the reader instead of writing about what they actually did themselves to keep fit and have a healthy lifestyle. In this case, they were scored less for communication and content. The majority of candidates who attempted this task were very knowledgeable about this subject and had some great ways of leading a healthy life. This topic is evidently well taught in centres.

a required response on how the candidate keeps fit and how the candiadte intends to do so in the future.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new task with a cross ☒.

Chosen task:	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
	☒	☒	☒	☒

Дорогие читатели!

Сегодня в своём блоге я напишу вам как оставаться в хорошей форме, и что нужно для этого делать.

Для того чтобы оставаться в хорошей форме вам нужно будет регулярно заниматься спортом. Лично я, каждый день хожу в бассейн и проплываю по одному километру, а вечером регулярно хожу в спортивный зал.

Очень важно правильно питаться, под словом правильно я имею в виду есть по меньше не здоровой еды. Например, в обед вы должны съесть салат из свежих фруктов.

Спасибо что читаете!

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Examiner Comments

this candidate is clearly at ease in producing and manipulating the Russian language. there is clear evidence of highly accurate spelling and manipulation as well as competent usage of more complex structures and tenses. the candidate scores 12/15 for not producing a very detailed response. the response is slightly short and would have been more detailed with greater emphasis on the future intentions. the candidate has some competent ideas which lack some development.

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Examiner Tip

ensure all elements of the task are answered with equal emphasis on each part. do a word count as a point of reference, it is less likely to have sufficient detal in a short response.

Question 2 (d)

This question was not as widely answered as questions 2b or c. Candidates were required to describe a school sports day giving their opinions about what they and their friends had done.

Stronger candidates gave full responses emplying a wide range of appropriate vocabulary and impressed with their knowledge of athletics vocabulary. These candidates had been well prepared for the task with reference to whether they would like to take part in a similar sporting event in the future with relevant reasons.There was an impressive use of the past tense in the answers to this question. Many candidates attempted to manipulate more unfamiliar language using a dictionary to their advantage.

Some candidates seemed more unsure as to what a school sports day actually is and scored less for communication and content by describing an activity in school. This activity may or may not have been related to sport.

Weaker candidates failed to address all parts of the question. Some forgot to mention their friends in their writing and others moved away from the sports day and talked in general terms about which sports they like/dislike doing.

the requirement of the task was to describe a school sports day with opinions and feelings given. there was a requirement to discuss the opinions of friends as well.

Я играл очень плоха он Играло
но он конец, я был играть очень
хорошо и мой команда выиграл
и получение он прого ето. Я
считаю сень он спортом е это
было очень хорошо и весело это
связме с тем, что это дела очень
хорошая радоса и я играл мой
самое любимой спорт с моими
друзами. Однако мой самое
друг времтб сам время играть
я в теннис, зато был очень
классно, затематично и замедлтно сень.

Section A

section A responses were those where candidates had not indicated which question they had attempted in section A.

For comments see individaul questions 1a, b, c or d.

Section B

section B responses were those where candidates had not indicated which question they had attempted in section B.

For comments see individaul questions 2a, b, c or d.

Paper Summary

The general feeling from this exam was that candidates were well prepared. There were some highly impressive performances from candidates at the top end of the ability range, not only in terms of the range of grammatical structures and vocabulary produced, but also in the sophistication of their opinions and points of view. The introduction of the dictionary on the whole allowed candidates to give impressive and fluent answers although there is some need to ensure sufficient practice in language manipulation.

It was pleasing to note the high performance from many candidates. The majority of candidates were obviously prepared and clear of the requirements for this specification.

The level of candidate performance on this paper was promising this year and candidates showed good awareness of the importance of employing past, present and future tenses as well as the requirement to give and justify opinions in order to access the full range of marks.

Stronger candidates performed especially well in section A by responding fully to both of the targeted bullet points and by writing close to the word limit. The majority of candidates did take on board the need to respond to the bullet points but a large number also wrote a number of words which far exceeded the word limit. This did not adversely affect the communication and content mark but it did lead to some cases of irrelevance.

There was evidence of efficient and effective use of the dictionary to support the content though less convincing responses showed a less secure ability to manipulate vocabulary into the correct grammatical forms andsone incorrect items selected from the dictionary.

ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

• Read all rubric carefully

• Ensure answering all required questions. Some candidates wrire resonses which incorporate elements from each of the questions.

• Candidates must include past and future tenses in their answer to access the higher mark bands

• Check verbs endings carefully

• Check spellings carefully

Consider handwritten form of letters

In secton A make sure that both bullet points are addressed

Beware writing a generic essay which does not fully address the question in section B

Remember that a mark of zero for communication and content will mean a mark of zero for knowledge and application of language and for accuracy.

Avoid spending too long writing an excessively long answer for section A

Make sure that the answer to section B is at least 90 words. A shorter answer will result in less marks being awarded for knowledge and application of language and for accuracy

Make sure that the dictionary is employed appropriately

Make sure to cross the correct "question answered" box

Stronger candidates performed especially well in section B by responding fully to the stimulus and reading to respond to the exact requirements of the tasks. The appropriate register was invariably employed. As in section A there was much evidence of efficient and

effective use of the dictionary to support the content though less convincing responses showed a less secure ability to manipulate vocabulary into the correct grammatical forms.

There was some evidence of candidates who have some knowledge of Russian but whose main language is another Slavonic language. Often their written work is highly influenced by these languages and accuracy suffers as a result. Spelling shows evidence of being more phonetic and inaccurate.

There continues to be confusion with certain Cyrillic letters such as "*у* and *и*" and mixing up *э*, *е* and the Ukrainian *є*. «*ето*» featured in many scripts. One script was written entirely in Serbian with no attempt to Russify and there were cases of candidates writing in transliteration. Candidates need to be aware of the need to write in Russian Cyrillic.

A small number of answers showed evidence of misreading/misunderstanding the questions. Centres are encouraged to ensure that candidates have a sufficient grasp of written Russian to enable them to perform to their best in this paper as well as giving candidates sufficient practice in responding to task types.

The past tense seems to be the most successfully used tense by candidates. The future is well recognised and fromed with я буду + present tense, as opposed to the perfective future. Also, я formed in the present tense was successful, but 2nd and 3rd person forms were often problematic.

Nominative adjectival agreements were often incorrect, especially in plural form. the adjective is less secure in case endings.

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