

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2016

Pearson Edexcel GCSE in Russian
(5RU01/01)
Paper 1: Listening and Understanding in
Russian

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**GCSE Russian
Unit 1: Listening
Examiner Report**

Foreword

There was a pleasing response to this paper, with the candidates showing sound preparation and the ability to do well over a range of topics.

Question 1

The majority of candidates were able to tackle this question confidently, and almost all scored full marks.

Question 2

This was generally well answered - it was pleasing to see that a large number of candidates could identify "суббота." However, the time "в одиннадцать тридцать" was rendered as "1.30" by some candidates.

As in the past, staples, such as numbers, have appeared neglected in even good candidates' vocabulary. "Hora" was also not known by a number of candidates.

Question 3

This was accessible to the majority of candidates, who seemed to be well drilled in "school" vocabulary and answering questions in this format.

Question 4

Candidates elucidated well on this question, although a small number left sections unanswered, thus failing to have any chance of gaining marks.

It was pleasing to see candidates had made use of cognates, e.g "они были в шоке" to guide them towards the correct answer.

Also, candidates showed their ability to pick key words out of longer passages - a skill also required at this level.

Question 5

Part iv proved the most challenging part of this question, perhaps indicating some candidates were not confident with drawing inference from what they had heard.

Question 6

Only the weakest of candidates experienced any difficulty in answering this question.

Question 7

Most candidates coped well with this question as a whole but "потеряла" seemed not to be known even by good candidates, who therefore were unable to score full marks on this question.

Question 8

This question was aimed at the most able candidates. It is important, therefore, that the best candidates are ready to look for inferred answers and be prepared for a number of different question styles, as prescribed for this ability.

The text, by nature of the candidates it is intended for, will include some sophisticated grammatical structures, but also a number of cognates and near-cognates, which candidates, particularly of the more able variety, should use to guide them towards the correct answer.

At this level candidates will rarely have to focus on a single word to arrive at the correct answer, but rather a concept, or series of "clues". Candidates appeared to find answers to statements a and d the most challenging to answer.

Question 9

Aimed at more able candidates and requiring written answers, candidates must read each question very carefully and give clear, detailed answers to be assured of gaining the marks available.

Some candidates showed they had some understanding of the text but answers were just too vague to be awarded marks. The question as a whole proved challenging, as was to be expected, given the level of ability it was intended for.

- a) "In which year?" is frequently tested at this level and seems to be getting practised more in preparation for the examination.
- b) A large number of candidates seemed to hear only "фильм" thus denying themselves the mark, for which "documentary (film)" was the required answer.
- c) Unfortunately, a large number of candidates ignored the word "exactly" in the question and were unable to gain the mark for answers such as "home town."
- d) This proved to be a challenging question for the ablest candidates. Many took a "common sense" guess, which was not backed up by anything in the text. However, there were some excellent answers drawn from inference, using words such as "dissemination" and "recruitment". Candidates were also given credit for using facts from what was stated in the text, by changing the 1st person singular in the text to the 3rd person singular in the answer.

- e) Perhaps the most challenging question on the paper, a number of candidates had disregarded the "NOT" in the question. Others gained only one mark as they wrote two words with similar meanings, e.g. "typical, usual." Fewer than half the candidature recognised "международный."
- f) This question was well answered, although candidates should be aware of the need for precision at this level, as answers such as "Disney characters" for "героев из мультфильмов" were not allowed.
- g) This was well answered by many candidates, with a number of good renditions, conveying what the artist had wished to express in his advice, without sticking exactly to the words in the text. Example "Don't be put off if you are not good at art. If you like it - go for it!"

Some general observations:

- o Candidates will not gain any credit for writing in Russian if the rubric specifies English.
- o Candidates should be encouraged to attempt all questions. Again, a small number of candidates ruled themselves out of gaining marks on some questions by not even attempting multiple choice or similar questions.
- o Candidates should read the questions (particularly on Question 9) carefully.
- o Questions 8 and 9 should not be treated as translation exercises. The ability to draw inference is a skill which able candidates need to practise and be prepared in order to do themselves justice in the examination.

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