

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2016

Pearson Edexcel GCSE in Russian
(5RU03/01)
Paper 3: Reading and Understanding in
Russian

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**GCSE Russian
Unit 3: Reading
Examiner Report**

Foreword

In this paper candidates are asked to demonstrate their understanding of a number of short texts in a range of contexts. The question types include matching and multiple choice exercises with a mixture of verbal and visual clues as well as English language responses to one question.

Question 1

This was very well done by almost all candidates. However in part (iii) some confused train (B the example) with metro (E the correct answer).

Question 2

Question 2 was also well done with almost all candidates getting high marks.

Question 3

This provided few problems with most candidates getting good marks.

Question 4

Question 4 was more difficult as it was aimed at C candidates, but most candidates achieved good marks. Surprisingly several candidates did not know универсал and gave the answer markets.

Question 5

This was well done by the majority of candidates, which was very pleasing.

Question 6

Question 6 provided few, if any, problems for the vast majority of candidates.

Question 7

This was similarly very well done.

Question 8

Question 8 was aimed at some of the best candidates and it was encouraging to see that almost all attempted every answer, many getting good marks. It must be remembered that this question is aimed at gist understanding and will contain some unfamiliar language, but it was pleasing to see that this caused no problems for the vast majority.

Question 9

This as usual proved to be the most testing exercise as it requires accurate answers in English, thus showing how well candidates understand the gist of a text containing some unfamiliar language.

A minority of candidates (possibly native speakers) answered in Russian gaining no marks and others answered in very poor English, which was occasionally so bad, that no marks could be awarded as the answer was not clear.

Overall, however, it was impressive to see how well candidates did on these questions.

- a) This provided few problems and most candidates understood that driverless cars were being tested. Some candidates answered cars without a pilot, but this was not sufficiently accurate at this level to gain any credit.
- b) This was slightly harder but most candidates gained at least one mark. For two marks they had to get either dangerous or impossible AND either better system of public transport needed or new cars are not needed. A significant number put dangerous and impossible and gained only one mark. Some wrote unreal instead of impossible. Public transport was not known by many, but public was not targeted and if candidates had written a better system of transport, they would have gained the mark. In this they were helped by the fact that both words are cognates. Many did not understand the fact that public transport should be improved. Surprisingly many did not know нужны.
- c) The majority of candidates understood that the Ministry of Transport would continue to finance testing, the question again targeting the cognate.
- d) Many identified the two types of vehicle correctly, although some guessed bus, van or train. Credit was given for operator or driver, but not for pilot. Some candidates overcomplicated their answers, referring to remote controlled cars or robots. Полностью was also confused with полночь which caused some strange references to midnight cars. Others referred to manual cars, which gained no credit.
- e) Candidates had three options to gain the mark and it was pleasing to see that the vast majority did well. Some candidates wrote all three options and many wrote two.
- f) This question was generally well answered with most candidates understanding the difficulty of driving such cars in bad weather, many adding the detail of fog and /or snow.
- g) This proved to be the most testing question. To gain both marks, candidates had to understand the comparative more dangerous and also than usual/normal cars. It was encouraging to see that many did understand the comparative, but a good number guessed more

expensive/better/cheaper. Насколько was clearly confused with сколько or sometimes несколько which led to wrong answers. Several candidates quoted bad weather from the penultimate paragraph, again leading to no marks. The phrasing of this question clearly pointed to the last paragraph. As usual the advice is to read the text and questions carefully.

There was as expected a range of responses to all the questions, but the vast majority of candidates performed well and are clearly well trained by teachers, who are very familiar with the requirements of the examination. It was pleasing to see that most candidates attempted all questions and very few left any blanks.

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