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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2018

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In English as a Second Language
(4ES0 02R)
Paper 02R

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Publications Code 4ES0_02R_1806_ER

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Background to the paper

The listening paper is divided into three sections. In this session, the first part was a monologue in which a teacher talked about the school's geography trip to Iceland. Candidates were required to complete notes based on the information provided. In the second part, candidates listened to an interview with an ocean rower. Candidates were required to answer questions based on what they heard. In the third part, candidates listened to an extract from a radio programme where the presenter talked about the history of balloons. They were required to complete summary sentences based on what they heard.

Candidate's responses

Generally, candidates fairly well on this paper; each section of the paper presented challenges for all candidates.

Detailed comments

There were two types of questions on this paper: short answer and text completion. Both types were well attempted, although not all candidates adhered to the word limit given in the rubric.

Text completion and short answer questions

One issue arose out of both question types which require candidates to provide the word or words for the answers themselves.

Spelling

This proved to be a problem for some candidates. The general rule applied during the marking was that if the answer affected communication, candidates were not awarded a mark. Candidates were not penalised for misspelling a word if it sounded like the target word. For example, Q14 (answer cabin) a spelling such as "cabbin" was accepted. However, if the word sounded like a different word or was a different word e.g. camping, candidates were not awarded a mark.

Text completion

A further issue arose out of this type of question.

Grammar

In a few questions, e.g. Q27 (blew up), candidates were required to complete a sentence using the correct grammatical form. Although these forms were given in the recording, some candidates made errors in their answers. In this instance, if a candidate wrote "blow up", this answer was marked as incorrect.

Comments on sections of the paper

This year candidates found all parts of the paper to be of equal challenge.

Part 1

Part 1 required candidates to listen for specific information such as numbers or high-frequency vocabulary items. Generally, candidates performed fairly well in this part. However, there were also a number of questions which required more careful listening e.g. Q3 and Q5.

Part 2

This section required candidates to answer questions about the conversation they heard. Generally, candidates performed fairly well in this part. However, there were a number of candidates who did not adhere to the word limit (three words maximum in this instance). It is important for candidates to follow these instructions as they were not awarded a mark if they did not. There were a number of questions in this part which required more careful listening e.g. Q15 and Q16.

Part 3

This section required candidates to complete sentences by providing the correct word or words (a maximum of three in this instance). Generally, candidates performed fairly well in this part. Again, a number of candidates did not adhere to the word limit. Questions which required the correct grammatical fit (Q25 and Q27) were found to be more challenging for candidates. There were also a number of questions in this part which required more careful listening e.g. Q22 and Q23.

Advice to centres

It is recommended that candidates listen to a wide range of different types of texts such as current affairs, TV and radio programmes in order to familiarise themselves with a wide range of topics. Centres should prepare candidates for the listening examination by familiarising them with the style of the test and with the types of questions they can expect to find on the paper.

Candidates should make good use of the time before the tape is played to predict possible answers and consider the context when providing their answers.

Candidates should be advised to follow the instructions in the rubric when answering the questions and to adhere strictly to the word limit.

Candidates should consider the grammatical fit of their answers in sentence completion questions.

Candidates should consider the spelling of words when providing their answers.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>