

Examiners' Report
June 2012

GCE Russian 6RU02 01

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Introduction

This paper has now been running since 2009 and tests candidates' understanding and written response to Russian. The tasks vary from short cloze tests to longer comprehension sections, culminating in a substantial writing task.

The paper lasts two and a half hours and contains 3 sections: listening comprehension (20 marks), reading comprehension (20 marks) and a written task (30 marks divided between 15 for content and 15 for language). Candidates require their own CD or Mp3 player and must complete the listening section within 45 minutes. This leaves approximately 45 minutes for the reading comprehension and 1 hour to complete the written task. It is important that for this last task they remain within the word limit of 150 to 165.

Material for this paper is drawn from a range of authentic sources and covers the four general topic areas as AS:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel tourism, environmental issues and the Russian-speaking world
- Education and employment

For details of the linked subtopics, please refer to page 30 of the specification.

Question 2

The majority of candidates gained full marks for this section in which they had to identify the four correct statements out of eight listed. The correct information was that Rostov on the Don is situated in southern Russia, that Empress Elizaveta had the fortress built in the 17th century, that the city was named after Dmitry Rostovsky, and that visitors are recommended to take note of the city's architecture.

Question 3

This question required candidates to complete a summary about an internet games website by selecting the four missing words from a pool of eight. The majority of candidates scored full marks. Most marks were lost where candidates selected *покупать* instead of *обсуждать* for the second gap, probably because they did not understand the Russian verb for 'to discuss' and guessed that the games were bought. Candidates with good grammatical awareness should be able to analyse the pool of words and narrow down possible answers to a minimum. For example, this pool of words contained two infinitive verbs, two third person plural verbs, two plural adjectives and two comparatives.

Question 4

Transcriptions of relevant parts of the text may be acceptable responses in this question. However, if spelling and grammar inaccuracies prevent communication or suggest that the candidate has not understood the stimulus, credit cannot be given.

Вопрос номер 4

4 ^{Spring? new new weather?} Осень. Новый режим для новой погоды

Прослушайте интервью со специалистом по питанию и здоровью и ответьте на вопросы по-русски:

(а) Что становится ^{hard} трудным с приходом осени? ^{health} (1)

стой фигуру лучше

(б) Почему осенью надо есть больше фруктов? ^{must} why ^{eat more fruit?} (1) ✓ *здоровье*

зимой он будет дороже (и надо меньше есть)

(в) Как часто рекомендуют проверять вес? ^{how often do you recommend} (1)

Один раз в неделю

month

(г) Что будет, если вы сможете худеть в течение трёх месяцев? ^{months}

~~у нас будет больше шансов~~ ^{у нас будет больше шансов} ~~Один из способов в месяц~~ ^{сохранить успех} (1)

(д) Что люди предпочитают делать в тёмные вечера? Приведите два примера. ^{do in the dark evenings?} ^{2 examples}

активнее большими ужинами
хочется быстрее идти домой (2)

(е) Почему прогулка в парке может быть полезной? ^{why} ^{walk in the park}

хорошей спорт (1)

(ж) Почему осень хорошее время, чтобы заниматься в фитнес-клубе? ^{why} ^{better time in order attend in fitness club} (1)

~~новые программы можно попробовать~~ ^{на} ~~занятия~~ ^{новое}

(Total for Question 4 = 8 marks)



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Examiner Comments

Most candidates obtained high scores for this question about how to keep fit and healthy with the onset of autumn.

In part (a) some candidates found difficulty in transcribing *держат* свою фигуру в форме convincingly enough to demonstrate that they had understood the stimulus. Parts (б) and (в) posed few problems. Part (г) was challenging for some candidates who struggled to spell *сохранить успех*. In part (д) candidates had to include the idea of quickly returning home and eating a large meal to gain credit.

This candidate has grasped most of the recorded stimulus about how to remain fit and healthy with the arrival of autumn, but part (a) (*свой фигуру форме*) is too incomplete and inaccurate an answer to suggest that comprehension has taken place. Clearly in part (е), the candidate has mistaken *хорошо спать* for *хороший спорт*. Overall this candidate gained 6 marks.



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Examiner Tip

Remember that answers to questions will follow a logical order in the text.

Full sentences are not required, but ensure all relevant detail is included. Incorrect material will not be penalised provided it does not invalidate or contradict a correct answer. However, avoid transcribing lengthy sections of the stimulus, as such 'blanket bombing' may suggest the candidate has not understood the question or text.

Question 6

This question about 'male' and 'female' occupations in post-Soviet Russia was generally tackled well and tests the candidate's ability to transfer meaning from a short Russian text into English.

The rubric states that in order to gain each mark the candidate must supply all the relevant information. For example, in part (b) two occupations had to be mentioned - there are no half marks.

Answers must relate exclusively to the passage. Any irrelevant or incorrect material may invalidate a correct answer and lead to no mark being awarded.

6 Read the passage and answer the following questions **in English**. Your answers must relate exclusively to the passage and convey all the relevant information provided.

(a) Why are women still prohibited by law from doing certain types of work? (1)

Some types of work is too dangerous

(b) Name **two** occupations mentioned in the first paragraph which a growing number of women are choosing. (1)

Taxi drivers and directors of ministrys

(c) What happened to some of the men who lost their jobs after the collapse of the Soviet Union? (1)

They got sicological problems

(d) How is the entry of women into "male" professions described in the final paragraph? (1)

A world tendency

(e) What reason is suggested for some young women entering military college? (1)

To gain a good profession



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Parts (a), (b) and (e) presented few candidates with any problems. Some had difficulty in spelling 'psychological' accurately in part (c) and in part (d) тенденция (tendency or trend) was occasionally translated by 'tendention'.

The candidate whose answer is displayed here lost just one mark for part (b). The grammar error in part (a) and spelling error in part (c) did not prevent communication, therefore the marks were awarded.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

As many candidates who sit this paper do not have English as their native or first language, care should be taken over spelling and grammar when writing answers and the questions should be read carefully.

Question 7

This question about a boat trip along the River Moscow was generally well tackled by candidates. It should be remembered that this is the only question in both the listening and reading comprehension sections which requires the candidate to manipulate the language of the text to some degree. In some cases a minor manipulation such as changing the subject of a verb or a tense may suffice. An example of this would be in part (ж) where the text: "Я не могу..." would become "Она не могла..."

7 Ответьте на следующие вопросы, употребляя насколько возможно свои слова по-русски:

(а) В какое время года Зина путешествовала на яхте?

(1)

Она хотела ездить на яхте зимой.

(б) Почему Зине подарили билет на путешествие?

(1)

Она решила билет подарком и когда была день рождения.

(в) Что можно было делать в начале путешествия?

(1)

Можно было ~~есть~~ ~~есть~~ ~~есть~~ когда экскурсия ^{начинается}

(г) Что значит «давно»? Объясните своими словами по-русски.

(1)

давно значит в короткие промежутки времени.

(д) Почему Зине и её подруге было удобно ехать до гостиницы «Украина»?

(1)

Потому что там легче, из-за машины.

(е) Зина была очень довольна рестораном. Почему? Приведите две причины.

(2)

Была музыка

и не нужно было ждать для еды.

(ж) Что Зина не могла делать во время поездки? Почему?

(2)

Зина не могла принимать фотографии, потому что
не было достаточно времени.

(з) Что Зина сделает по-другому в следующий раз?

(1)

Зина не будет с детьми, из-за суматохи, дети не
будут поспать.

(Total for Question 7 = 10 marks)



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

Parts (a), (e), (ж) and (з) presented few problems. In part (б) some candidates misunderstood the reason for Zina making the trip, believing it was because she had never been on such a trip before. In part (в) the mark was occasionally lost through copying ужин из трёх блюд with no manipulation. There was an impressive range of acceptable definitions produced for part (г). The mark was awarded provided some reference to 'ago' or the past was present. Part (д) could be interpreted in a variety of ways, and the mark scheme allowed for this. Most candidates, however, answered that the friends found it convenient to get to the hotel because they had a car. This candidate demonstrates a good overall understanding of the text about a boat trip along the Moscow River and gains credit for most responses despite inaccuracies in spelling and grammar. Language is only penalised in this question where errors seriously impede or prevent communication. This candidate only loses marks for incorrect answers in parts (г) and (е) and gains a total of 8 out of 10 marks.



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Examiner Tip

Read the questions carefully and remember that the answers to the questions follow a logical order in the text.
Avoid copying large sections of text with no manipulation, as this cannot be given credit. In fact questions are set so that some manipulation of the text is required in the answers.
Take care with spelling and grammar, as major errors can lead to loss of credit.
Full sentences are not required, but ensure that all the relevant detail is given. The number of marks available is a guide to how much information is required.

Question 8

This question requires a written response in Russian to a short written stimulus and covering four bullet points.

This year's stimulus was a blog written by a Russian student, Nadya, who is studying in a specialist music school in Russia. She intends to continue her studies in an English secondary school and is seeking advice to inform her choice.

In order to maximise their marks for content and response (see specification mark grid) a candidate needs to cover coherently and in some detail four bullet points:

- ask Nadya several questions about her studies in Russia

In order for full credit to be given 'several' (несколько) was taken to mean a minimum of three questions. Stronger candidates ensured that these questions were relevant to Nadya's studies: weaker candidates tended to ask general questions about her life and preferences in Russia. It was legitimate to ask why Nadya wished to study in England, as this implied an evaluation of her studies in Russia.

- give their opinion of schools in England

Weaker candidates tended merely to describe their own school with or without expressing opinions. Stronger candidates generally compared and gave views on different types of school or aspects of the education system. As many candidates have studied both in Russia and this country comparisons between the two education systems were common and often well developed.

- give an account of something interesting that recently happened in their school

Stronger candidates described in some detail an event, such as a concert or a visit, which recently took place in their school, generally expressing their reaction to it. Weaker candidates often omitted reference to the past tense and merely wrote about what they thought was interesting in their school. This approach could only gain minimal credit.

- say what they think about a musical career

The best responses gave detailed views about the perceived advantages and pitfalls of a career in music, often giving specific advice to Nadya as to how to pursue this or, perhaps, consider alternatives. A number of candidates chose to discuss whether they personally wished to pursue such a career. This approach was entirely legitimate and candidates often gained full credit where they explained their views in some detail.

It was not necessary for candidates to give equal coverage to all four bullets in order to potentially gain full marks for content and response. However, candidates were required to show they had clearly understood all the bullets and develop them all to some degree.

The quality of language of the response is assessed according to the specification mark grid.

The vast majority of candidates tackled this question well and it was pleasing to note a reduction in the number of answers which exceeded the word limit as compared with previous years. Many candidates gained maximum marks for fluent responses demonstrating excellent communication, a high level of accuracy, and a wide variety of appropriate lexis and structures.

This is an example of a candidate who attempts the task with limited success across the four bullets. This is in part due to a failure to fully understand the task, but also because of the candidate's weaknesses in Russian grammar and syntax.

Вопрос номер 8

Прочитайте этот блог, который написала русская девушка о школе:

Здравствуйте!

I am special music school But future →
Сейчас я учусь в специальной музыкальной школе, а в будущем году
я хочу учиться в Англии. ^{England}
Говорят, что учиться в школе в Англии очень трудно. Это правда?
^{read that very hard true?}
Что есть интересного в вашей школе? Как среднее образование в
Англии поможет мне в будущем? Я хочу музыкальную карьеру.

Надя

8 Представьте, что вы читали этот блог в интернете и вы решили ответить Наде. Напишите ей ответ **по-русски (150-165 слов)**.

Вы должны включить в ваш ответ следующие пункты:

- ✓ задайте Наде несколько вопросов о её учёбе в России
- ✓ дайте ваше мнение о школах в Англии
- расскажите что-то интересное о том, что случилось недавно в вашей школе
- что вы думаете о музыкальной карьере

Привет!

~~Како ты школа~~ как школа зовут? Куда ты
не любишь? ~~Дайте~~ Дайте мне больше информации!
Товорит, что ^{учиться} школа в России ~~даёт~~ ~~хорошо~~ не
очень хорошо, это правда? В Русских
класс, мы смотрели фильм о ~~школах~~ школах
в России, ~~и это~~ так как она меня
очень интересует.

В Англии некоторые школы имеют
огра ~~огра~~ огромная и позитивная
влияют на молодых людей жизнь,
Хотя в России где много людей не имеют
много денег, ~~и школы~~ учителя не

чтобы ~~не~~ проводить на детей,
давать много денег и ~~поэтому~~ поэтому,
образование ~~очень плохое~~ детей очень плохое.
В ~~моей~~ школе я ~~тратить~~ тратю
много время ~~на~~ на творчеством и спортом
~~на~~ в прошлом я ~~проводила~~ любила ~~своими~~
~~то~~ тратить время с друзьями, хотя ~~на~~ потом
~~редко~~ я разговаривала с родителями, и они
сказали мне, что ~~я~~ мне надо работать больше.
Трудно сказать если я ~~тратить~~ провожаю меньше
времени с друзьями, однако я думаю, что ~~я~~
я помогаю языку легче, чем ~~я~~ в ~~прошлом~~
прошлом.

~~поэтому~~

8 Представьте, что вы читали этот блог в интернете и вы решили ответить Наде. Напишите ей ответ **по-русски (150-165 слов)**.

Вы должны включить в ваш ответ следующие пункты:

- ask Nada some questions about her studies in Russian.
- 1 • задайте Наде несколько вопросов о её учёбе в России
- 1 • ^{give your opinion on schools in England.} дайте ваше мнение о школах в Англии
- 1 • ^{tell about something interesting which you heard about recently in your school.} расскажите что-то интересное о том, что случилось недавно в вашей школе
- 1 • ^{what do you think about musical career.} что вы думаете о музыкальной карьере

1. В прошлом, где вы ^{учитесь} учились? Хорошо ли было?

2. Хорошо, Отлично - особенно музыкальные школы

3. Музыкальный фестиваль - каждый год.

4. Прудная карьера - много людей хотят стать музыкантом.

Привет!

Я очень интересуюсь вашим образованием в России - у меня несколько вопросов. До того, что вы решили изучать

учиться в музыкальной школе, вы где вы учились? В государственной школе или в частной школе? Также, в России, надо платить чтобы поступить в музыкальную школу? ~~Платите, что в Англии это обязательно.~~

английском образовании ~~и Англии~~ является отлично. Вообще, что касается меня, образование в Англии - отлично.

Особенно музыкальные школы, я ^{знаю} знаю, что можно получить ^{музыкальное} замечательное образование из ^{них} этих школ. Конечно,

среди государственных школ, существуют некоторые ~~или~~ не очень хорошие школы, и к сожалению ^{этих} жизнь труднее для ~~этих~~ ^{студентов} студентов, которые ~~не~~ ^{некоторые} учатся в этих школах

Paper Summary

As in previous years, the paper was tackled well by the majority of candidates most of whom displayed an impressive understanding of spoken and written Russian. The quality of language produced for the written question, both in terms of content and language, showed that candidates had been well prepared for the topics set at AS level.

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