



Examiner's Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2019

Pearson Edexcel GCE

In Japanese (6JA0) Paper 1

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Introduction

The examination consists of three sections: section A, reading comprehension, worth 35 marks; section B, translation, worth 9 marks; and section C, continuous writing task, worth 46 marks. The total mark for this paper is 90 marks.

Question 1

Candidates were required to find synonyms for given words in the text. Candidates were familiar with the question type. Candidates were generally able to answer (v), present. Some candidates erroneously wrote 'theme park' for (i).

Question 2

Candidates were asked to choose 5 correct statements from a set of 8 statements. The vast majority of candidates choose 5 boxes as was required. Some candidates were unable to correctly interpret the negative statement G and thus failed to tick it.

Question 3

Candidates were required to write the pronunciation of kanji. Most candidates knew (iii), ひかり. Some candidates found (i) difficult: sometimes candidates failed to write the ゆ smaller than the other letters. Sometimes め was offered instead of the correct もく.

Question 4

Candidates were required to choose words to complete a passage with gaps in it. Most candidates were able to correctly choose 外国 to fit into (i). Some candidates chose 悪くて instead of 悪かった for (iv).

Question 5

Candidates were required to answer short answer questions in Japanese. 5 additional marks were available for the quality of language used in the answers. Most candidates were able to answer (i). Some candidates erroneously put 'Canada' for (a). Some candidates found (d) difficult and erroneously wrote that Mr. Takeuchi wanted his daughter to learn English.

The majority of candidates were aware that they had to write in full sentences using accurate grammar in order to score the quality of language marks.

Question 6

Candidates were required to translate a short passage about gymnastics into English. Most candidates understood the words 'autumn', 'season' and 'sports days' in the first sentence, but expressing it using an appropriate tense in English proved harder. The second and last sentences addressed the reader: in general, candidates found it hard to capture this tone.

Most candidates understood the gist of the second paragraph that schools were trying to make higher and higher pyramids resulting in injuries, but the translation of 段 proved difficult for candidates, with 'floors' or 'storeys' often offered as incorrect translations.

The reading of the name 内田 proved difficult for many candidates, although they did better at understanding what his job was and what his comment was.

Question 7

Candidates were required to produce a school newspaper article on the subject of young people and fashion. Most were aware that they needed to use ambitious grammatical structures and kanji.

In terms of content, most candidates addressed all four bullet points successfully, although some failed to plan their pieces and thus ran out of space for the final bullet point(s). In general the second bullet point about what character the candidate would adopt in cosplay and the last bullet point about the importance of fashion for young people were well answered. In addressing the last bullet point candidates demonstrated their ability to put forward and justify their own opinions. Some candidates did not clearly address the first bullet point as to whether their image of Japan was 'kimonos' or 'cosplay': or sometimes they tried to say 'both' but did not have the language skills necessary to successfully articulate this point. The third bullet point about favourite clothes was sometimes addressed too simplistically as a list of clothes. The conjugation of the verb 着る, which was essential in answering this task, caused problems for some candidates.

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