



Pearson
Edexcel

Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Japanese (9JA0)
Paper 1: Translation into English, Reading
comprehension and Writing (research task)

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Introduction

Candidates appeared well prepared for all aspects of the examination. Most candidates were able to work through the entire paper in the given time.

In the research essays, the level of vocabulary (including kanji compounds) and grammar used was high. One criticism is that candidates often used the words 賛成 and 反対 (which is fine), but then went on to confuse the reader, because they seem to have mixed up the meaning of these words and the arguments they made did not support the position they claim to be taking. Please make extra sure that candidates are 100% clear on the meaning of these words. It is acceptable for candidates to write an "on one hand... on the other hand..." response in the research essays, but they need to be aware that the language competence needed to bring this off successfully within the word limit is quite high. With the confines of A level language, it is generally easier to come down on one side or the other and marshal evidence to argue one side of the case only.

Question 1

Most candidates tackled the entire passage. The first three lines were about the background to the writer's part time job and were relatively easy. A surprising number of candidates missed out the sentence "仕事終わりには毎回ケーキが一つ食べられました。" in its entirety. Please remind candidates of the importance of checking their work, to avoid careless mistakes like this. In the third paragraph, the grammar of "ならないほうがいい" was difficult.

Question 2

This was a multiple choice question about the day of the tsunami. (iv) was the most challenging, possibly because of the high proportion of kanji in the choices, or possibly because candidates were unfamiliar with the word "うわさ".

Question 3

The text was about "One piece" being staged as a kabuki. The grammar of comparative and superlative sentences in D and F appeared to cause some difficulty for candidates.

Question 4

This was the literary text, which candidates generally tackled well. "お母さんから聞きました" was often offered as an incorrect answer to (c), which was the hardest question in the set.

Question 5

Despite the vocabulary level of this text being quite challenging, most candidates answered most questions well. Again, where candidates did give incorrect answers, often these did not fit logically with the question asked on the paper. Please drill candidates into looking carefully at the question words, and to give an answer that logically fits with that

question word – for example, if the question word is “what”, to not answer “yesterday”. It may help candidates to underline or circle the question word.

Question 6

This question was about human relationships in extended families versus nuclear families. A large number of candidates did not offer any facts or figures from their own research and put forward their point of view simply from their personal experience.

Question 7

On this topic candidates had clearly done their research, and were able to give full details about various festivals. Most candidates were able to make a reasonable argument about the statement that high school students will not attend festivals unless new ideas are adopted.

Question 8

Most candidates were able to offer some data about the ageing population in Japan. Sometimes these figures were simply stated and could have been better integrated into the flow of the essay.

Question 9

This was the topic which generated the greatest number of essays which confused the reader, for example with candidates saying they agreed with the comment and then only giving examples of local initiatives, or energy saving tips appropriate for the home. Please strongly advise candidates to make an essay plan and decide how they are going to incorporate the material from their research, so that they don't accidentally offer lots of evidence against the case they claim to be arguing.

