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Edexcel

Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback
Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Japanese (9JA0)
Paper 3: Listening, reading and writing

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Introduction

Most candidates appeared well prepared for all aspects of the examination, although some candidates failed to understand how to approach the final question.

Question 1

This was a set of multiple choice questions about a mother who was preparing a bento lunch for her son. These questions were generally well answered, with (iv) being the hardest.

Question 2

This was another set of multiple choice questions about Mari learning to programme. These questions were generally well answered despite the historical character Nobunaga Oda appearing in the script, presumably as an previously unfamiliar name to candidates.

Question 3

This question was about volunteers using technology to restore photographs which were damaged in the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Candidates were generally able to pick out the correct information in the short answer questions, although some candidates lost the mark in (a) (ii) as they simply wrote "volunteers", and did not give sufficient information that it was volunteers who wanted to help but could not travel to the affected zones. (b) required a guided summary: (ii) was generally better answered than (i). In (i), the problem seemed to be that sometimes candidates wrote the correct answer but on the wrong line – and then they ran out of information to write on the other lines.

Question 4

This question was about a pet robot. The short answer questions were generally well answered. The hardest part was (b), which had 2 marks but candidates did not give sufficient detail for 2 marks. Please remind candidates that if a question carry 2 marks, they will need to make a minimum of 2 points to score full marks.

Question 5

This question was about finding a job and living abroad. Candidates were first required to extract the speaker's attitude / opinions from a spoken passage and a written passage. Please remind candidates that they need to extract the speaker's opinions, and not simply facts.

Candidates then have to evaluate both speaker's opinions. Again, please remind candidates that they are not being asked to write a piece from scratch about the topic under discussion – rather they need to refer to both the written passage and the spoken passage, and say whether or not they agree with the points made in those. Some of the best responses were where candidates took Akira's final comment that "If one is going to live abroad, one should do this when one is young" and evaluated this using evidence from both the spoken and written passages.

