



Examiner's Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCE

In Russian (9RU0)

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Translation

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PE Report 2025

Content of the Examination

Candidates were assessed on their understanding of spoken and written Russian from a variety of types of authentic texts and listening materials, as well as their ability to translate from Russian into English. Texts and recordings varied in length to include some extended passages. All spoken and written materials were culturally relevant to Russia and Russian-speaking countries and communities and were drawn from four themes: Развитие российского общества, Политическая и художественная культура в русскоязычном мире, Москва или Санкт-Петербург – Изменения в жизни российского города and Последние годы СССР – М. С. Горбачёв (1985-1991).

Candidates were given the opportunity to understand main points, gist and detail from spoken and written material; infer meaning from complex spoken and written material; assimilate and use information from spoken and written sources, including material from online media; summarise information from spoken sources, reporting key points and subject matter; and to translate from Russian into English.

The total assessment time was 2 hours. The assessment was out of 80 marks. Candidates had to answer all questions. The use of dictionaries was not permitted.

Listening

The listening section was made up of spoken passages covering different registers and types, including authentic communication involving one or more speakers. Sources included material from online media.

Question 1 (4 marks) used an extract about an action to help young Russians lead a healthier lifestyle. There were four multiple-choice questions, set in Russian. Candidates generally found this question accessible and performed well.

Question 2 (5 marks) used an extract discussing music and why we listen to it. There were four questions in Russian, to be answered in Russian. Full sentences were not required. Candidates responded well to this in general, although in 2a many candidates entered «почему мы это делаем» as the answer, which was unfortunately too vague and did not go far enough to answer the question.

Question 3 (nine marks) was an extract from a discussion on books about Moscow with Anastasia Chernomorskaya. Candidates had to respond in Russian to nine questions in Russian. Full sentences were not required. Candidates mostly responded very well to these questions, although some candidates either gave too little information in part e (мало туристов -1 mark- в дворце- no mark, as it was not specific enough which palace was not regularly visited), or the incorrect information- several candidates were distracted by mention of the metro station. On the whole this question was accessible and candidates performed well.

Question 4 (twelve marks) required candidates to respond to four questions in Russian and to make two brief summaries in Russian. The text was an extract from a film about the collapse of the Soviet Union and the wider implications in Eastern Europe more generally and was delivered in two sections. The questions in Section A were generally answered well, although

a number of candidates incorrectly stated «не было стратегических ресурсов», where the text stated «не было значительных стратегических ресурсов» - the nuance was missed and cost the candidate the mark.

The vast majority of candidates completed the summary task Q4(6) very well indeed. They correctly gave a number of relevant facts and thereby created a viable summary, which is what the task requires. However, a significant number of candidates offered a list of bullet points, and while they were credited for comprehension, centres must ensure that candidates are correctly prepared for this question, which is often answered in list form rather than the summary that is specified in the rubric.

On the whole this was answered well, with the majority of candidates picking up on the correct information in the extract.

Reading

The reading section was made up of texts containing both factual and abstract content and was authentic or adapted from authentic sources. The texts included contemporary, historical, literary, fiction and non-fiction, written for different purposes and audiences.

Question 5 (four marks) was an online article about the Pasternak eco-festival and required candidates to respond to four multiple choice questions set in Russian. They generally did so successfully.

Question 6 (four marks) was an extract from a text about an organisation which supports homeless people in St Petersburg. Candidates were offered a list of statements in Russian from which they had to select the four true ones. This question was done very well on the whole, with most candidates achieving three or four marks.

Question 7 (six marks) contained an extract from a literary text («Любит-не любит» by Lyudmila Krasil'nikova). There were four questions to answer in Russian. Full sentences were not required. This was generally answered well, although a significant number of candidates missed out on a mark in 7a as they did not include the two items of information that examiners were looking for.

Question 8 (eight marks) contained seven questions to be answered in Russian. The text was an article about opportunities for young people. Although full sentences were not required, candidates were expected to give all information that was relevant to a full answer. This question proved to be a demanding one.

In 8a, many candidates overgeneralised and stated that «молодые люди не стремятся получать высшее образование», missing out the vital word *некоторые*, which cost the mark. In 8b, many candidates wrote that it was parents who made their children get a higher education, whilst the text had «мама мне сказала.» Moreover, many candidates lifted the quotation from the text, which also was rejected by examiners. There was also a lot of lifting from the text in 8b. The following questions posed less of a challenge, but part ж, again, was one where many candidates homed in on the information preceding the one that examiners were looking for, i.e the main problem is **where** young people are to get experience (given that their free time is restricted by parents as it states in the text).

Question 9 (eight marks) was an extract from an interview with Askar Akayev, ex-President of Kyrgyzstan, about the fall of the Soviet Union. It contained seven questions to be answered in Russian. This question was generally answered well, although 9ж proved to be tricky, with candidates missing vital words and thus rendering their answers incorrect. Examiners were looking for «то, что у студентов из обычных бедных семей нет шанса получить хорошее высшее образование» but candidates who missed out either хорошее or высшее (or on occasions, both) forfeited the mark.

Translation into English

Question 10 was a translation task whose content dealt with the dangers of mass media. The text was divided into twenty sections, each worth one mark. A translation was regarded as successful if an English speaker could understand it without having understood the text in its original language. Variants on the acceptable answers proposed in the mark scheme were accepted if they conveyed the same intended meaning. Many candidates found this a challenging task, and only very few achieved full marks. Most scored between 10 and 16 marks.

Candidates sometimes got close to the correct meaning, but then wrote the incorrect tense, or wrote a plural instead of a singular, or misspelled a word in such a way that its meaning became ambiguous, or else words were omitted. The majority of vocabulary and structures contained within the text appeared to be generally accessible, with only a few particular words causing problems for candidates. Some candidates gave alternative variants of translations for particular words. Candidates missed marks if they did not translate “little” words such as recently, more, even, almost, also: candidates should ensure that they read the text carefully and translate the complete sense of it. A missed small word can render the translation incorrect. Candidates also transliterated СМИ which does not work as there is no such acronym in English. In the rubric it was clearly stated that the text was about mass media- candidates should ensure that they read the rubric as it gives vital information about the content of the extract.

Summary

Based on performance in this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Ensure you use a decent black pen and make your handwriting as legible as possible. Examiners commented on the difficulty of reading some of the handwriting. You should make sure that you are forming letters clearly; again, a word that looks to be spelt in two different ways may render an answer ambiguous and deny you a mark.
- You may do rough work on the blank pages of the question paper, or in the white spaces. Rough work must be crossed out, so that there is no ambiguity about what needs to be marked and what needs to be ignored.
- Time your work carefully, ensuring that you leave enough time to do the Translation.
- For Q2, Q3 and Q4, you may respond using single words, short phrases or sentences.

- For Q7, Q8 and Q9, you may respond using short phrases or sentences. You may use words from the texts, but you must not copy whole sections. Sometimes, phrases from the text need to be manipulated from first person to third person.
- Even though full sentences are not required, you are expected to give all information that is relevant to a full answer. Be aware that sometimes what you hear or read first is not necessarily the correct answer. Make sure that you respond to both parts of two-mark questions, and give all the information required.
- For the Translation (Q10), avoid omitting words. Similarly, avoid adding to the text. Do not leave gaps, since no marks are awarded for blank spaces. Read the rubric carefully, as it gives a hint as to the content of the text. Check that your English is grammatically correct and that each sentence makes sense. Be very careful about details such as tenses, singulars and plurals.
- Avoid giving alternative variants of answers; select the one which you wish the examiner to consider.
 - Never leave blank spaces, as no marks are awarded for blank spaces. Have a go at everything

