

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2016

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
in Greek (5GK01/01)
Paper 1: Listening and Understanding
in Greek

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GCSE Greek

Unit 1 Listening and Understanding in Greek

Examiners' Report

General comments on performance

In general candidates' performance on this paper was of a high standard. Most of the questions proved accessible to a considerable number of candidates. There was evidence of satisfactory vocabulary awareness and an ability to identify the information targeted by the questions. However, there were some responses which lacked precision and left out essential details. Also, due to poor English, some candidates failed to score full marks. Overall, evidence of misunderstanding and inaccuracies related mainly to questions requiring inference skills.

Occasionally there was a large amount of unsolicited information provided in response to question 9. The correct details were often part of those lengthy responses but only after other irrelevant and often contradictory details were conveyed. These responses were not considered correct. When two details are required, for example, candidates are advised against providing three or four and leaving it to the examiner to select the correct ones. In such cases, only the first two items listed are read and marked.

Weaker candidates found parts of questions 2, 5, 8 and 9 challenging and failed to score full marks.

Candidates are reminded to make use of the space provided for each response and not to write in the margins of the page or use supplementary pages.

Question 1 (At the market)

This question proved straightforward to all the candidates with the exception of question 1(ii), as some of the candidates found the Greek word for "melon" challenging.

Question 2 (Renting accommodation)

This question was answered very well, although 2a proved challenging for some candidates, as they failed to specify the type of the accommodation advertised and simply wrote "a house" instead of "a flat/apartment". Equally challenging was question 2c where a number of candidates failed to identify the word "κέντρο της πόλης" ("town/city centre") and simply wrote "εμπορικό κέντρο", ("shopping centre"). There was an increasing number of candidates who answered the question in Greek instead of English, and as a result they lost marks.

Question 3 (Yellow pages)

This question was handled very well by the majority of candidates and the topic proved accessible to most of them.

Question 4 (Going to the cinema)

This question was handled very well by the majority of candidates, but proved challenging for weaker candidates especially questions 4(ii) possibly due to the fact that they found the vocabulary challenging (“είσοδος”). Also in question 4(iv) some candidates failed to make the connection between the statement “I read a lot about the film, but it was not as good as I expected” and the word “film review” on the question paper.

Question 5 (Weather forecast)

As in past examinations the topic about the weather proved challenging for a number of candidates, but on the whole it was answered well. Errors were rather frequent in question 5(a), 5(c) and 5(d).

Question 6 (At the seaside)

Excellent performance in this question. The topic proved very accessible and the majority of candidates managed to score full marks.

Question 7 (At the hotel reception)

This question was handled very well by the majority of candidates and the topic proved accessible to most of them. Errors were rather frequent in question 7(ii) where a number of candidates failed to identify the word “δύο μονά” (“two single rooms”) and ticked the option “double room” on the question paper.

Question 8 (Digital detox)

This question required good language awareness and inference skills and was handled well by able candidates. Question 8(i), 8(ii) and 8(v) proved the most challenging subsections of the question and differentiated well between high and average ability candidates. Vocabulary that seemed to pose difficulties included “δεκαπενθήμερο” and “απαγορευμένη”. Almost half of the candidates failed to answer question 8(v) correctly, as they did not pay attention to the detail “ξαναθυμήθηκα μια παλιά ασχολία” (“I remembered an old hobby”) and simply chose the option “start a new hobby”.

Question 9 (Visiting Athens)

Performance in this question was varied, as expected with questions targeted at higher tiers of ability. Many candidates were able to extract some relevant information and successfully identify the details that contributed to a full answer in some of the questions. It must be noted that there is a worryingly increasing trend of spelling mistakes that sometimes make the word/s unrecognisable, and in those cases the response is not awarded a mark. Marks were also lost where candidates’ answers showed insufficient attention to the recorded text or detail of the question to be awarded marks at this level. Finally, the vocabulary proved challenging to a

considerable number of candidates, resulting in misunderstanding of the recorded text or incomplete responses which were not worthy of a mark. Some responses were not inclusive enough and left out essential details, especially with regard to 9(d), where almost half of the candidates failed to mention that the hotel sent a bus, and instead they stated that they travelled by bus without any further detail. Other examples include:

9(a) provoked a good number of successful answers, indicating that more than two thirds of the candidates correctly identified the time of the trip as three weeks before the speaker's exams. Frequent erroneous answers included "three weeks ago".

9(b) was the best answered subsection of question 9, as a large majority of the candidates gave the correct answer. Few erroneous answers included "all of the children" or "anyone who knew Greek".

9(c) proved challenging to some candidates who failed to score any marks, either due to insufficient detail (i.e. responses like "there was a delay" without stating that there was a five hours flight delay) or due to random responses.

9(e) proved challenging to most, except to A* candidates. Very few recognised the word "πεζόδρομος" (pedestrianised road) and often mistook it for the Greek word for pavement ("πεζοδρόμιο") or the word for playground ("παιδότοπος"). A third of the candidates managed to score one out of two marks for stating that the walks were safer and more pleasant. Marks were lost when sufficient details were missed from the answer such as the word walks/walking etc.

In 9(f) a third of the candidates failed to mention that the speaker went to his cousin's wedding and not just to a wedding, and as a result they did not score a mark.

9(g) proved challenging to almost a half of the candidates who failed to score two marks due to the lack of precision. For example, some candidates stated that the speaker was going back to Athens the following year to become an English teacher, wrongly suggesting that he was going to be trained there, whereas the correct answer was that he was going to work as an English teacher in Athens. As a result they scored only one out of the two marks.

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