

Examiners' Report /
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

GCSE Greek (5GK03) Paper 01

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Examiner Report

General comments on performance

A high number of candidates demonstrated good comprehension skills and produced accurate and confident responses. There was evidence of satisfactory vocabulary awareness and ability to identify the information targeted by the questions. Rubric violations were very rare and we are very appreciative of this improvement. Most candidates adhered to procedure, selected the correct number of responses and used the correct language to answer Question 9, although not always as succinctly as required. Occasionally, there was a large amount of unsolicited information provided. The correct details were often contained in these lengthy responses but only after other irrelevant and often contradictory details were conveyed. These responses were not deemed correct. When 2 details are required, candidates are advised against providing three or four and leave it to the examiner to select the correct ones. In such cases, only the first two items listed are read and marked.

Candidates are reminded that the space provided for each response corresponds to the amount of information required and there is no reason for spilling into the margins of the page or continuing on supplementary pages.

Evidence of misunderstanding and inaccuracies related mainly to questions requiring inference skills.

Weaker candidates found certain aspects of Questions 4, 5, 8 and 9 challenging.

To improve their performance, candidates should:

- Read each question carefully before attempting to answer it, to ensure clear understanding of what is expected or how many details they ought to provide
- Answer the last question in English and pay attention to spelling and grammar. Full sentences are not required
- Look for signals in the form of phrases and words that introduce content which is targeted in the question. For example, if a sentence is introduced with the phrase «η επιτυχία φαίνεται από ...», information relating to the evidence of someone's success is, most likely, to be found there
- Bear in mind that the order of the questions in Question 9 follows the way information is ordered in the source text, to the extent that this is possible
- Familiarise themselves with the minimum core vocabulary and past papers before taking this examination.

Question 1

This question was handled well by the majority of candidates, with the grand majority of responses getting full marks.

Question 2

Many candidates attributed the appropriate pastime to the correct place. Surprisingly, some candidates failed to identify "bedroom" as the obvious place where one sleeps.

Question 3

Very good performance overall with some candidates failing to identify the word "excursions" in part 3(i).

Question 4

This question was handled well by most candidates. A small number of candidates failed to recognise that the word "sightseeing" related to 4C «ξεναγήσεις».

Question 5

Regarding Question 5, performance was generally satisfactory with lapses occurring in part 5(i). A number of candidates failed to link the word «επαγγελματικό μέλλον» to the sentence that referred to «κρίση στην οικονομία» and «εργασιακή πείρα». On the contrary, a large number of candidates successfully linked «δεν πρέπει να τρώμε κρέας» to «χορτοφάγος» in part 5(v).

Question 6

Excellent performance in Question 6, with few candidates showing weakness in recognising words such as «αγροικία» and «παραλιακά».

Question 7

Some of the weakest responses were found in this mostly inference based section where students were asked to interpret the information as well as identify it. If one of the dinner guests is allergic to fish, the implication is that the host will not buy fish, and yet many candidates did not tick the box "do not serve fish". Similarly, the detail that referred to the fact that it was Leonidas' birthday on the day of the gathering did not always lead to the conclusion that it would be a good idea if a birthday cake was bought.

Candidate scores ranged from 2 to 5 with a fair amount of the more able candidates achieving full marks.

Question 8

This question required good language awareness and inference skills and was handled very well by able candidates. Parts 8(b), (c) and (d) proved the most challenging sub-questions in this part of the exam. Surprisingly, a small number of candidates to link the word «ιστοσελίδα» to the word «διαδίκτυο», even though candidates seem to be very familiar with vocabulary relating to the digital landscape.

Question 9

Levels of achievement varied in this part, as expected with questions targeted at higher tiers of ability. Sub-questions, which targeted grades such as A and A*, proved accessible to a good number of candidates, although a pattern of inaccurate responses did emerge, especially in relation to parts 9(b), (c) and (e).

Part 9(a) provoked a good number of successful answers, indicating that a large number of candidates correctly identified the word «στρατό».

Part 9(b) gave rise to a pattern of incorrect responses ("four") instead of the correct "six".

Part 9(c) gave rise to a number of responses which were partially correct as many candidates identified some of the relevant information (the fact that no one in the group believed that they would have a successful career out of this) but some failed to associate what seems "interesting" to the information introduced by the phrase "το αστείο είναι" and which refers to the fact that it all started as a joke or for fun.

Part 9(d) yielded mostly correct answers.

Part 9(e) was the question that yielded rather lengthy responses, which contained a mixture of correct, incorrect and irrelevant information. There was a pattern of tautological answers ("because they were very popular"), generic information ("because they were talented"), puzzling but incorrect detail ("because they light candles"). Some candidates identified the correct information succinctly.

Parts 9(f) and (g) provoked a good number of correct responses. In part 9(f) many noticed the phrase that signalled the correct content («η επιτυχία τους φαίνεται απ' το ότι...») and identified correctly the details that prove the group's popularity

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