



Pearson

Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2017

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Greek (5GK03)
Paper 3: Reading and Understanding in
Greek.

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GCSE Greek

Unit 3: Reading

Examiners Report

General comments on performance

A high number of candidates demonstrated good comprehension skills and produced accurate and clear 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. The majority of candidates adhered to procedure, selected the correct number of responses and used the correct language, English, to answer question 9, although not always accurately, fully or as succinctly as required. At times, there was a large amount of unsolicited information provided which listed information extraneous to the text. This is not advisable. The rubric stipulates that answers should draw detail and fact from the source text and not from its margins. A pattern of a weak or occasionally overambitious response related to the inclusion of more information than required. Such "all inclusive" responses did not manage to score full marks, because the candidates did not identify precisely the correct detail, but left it to the examiner to choose from a host of often superfluous material. 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.

Weaker candidates found certain aspects of questions 8 and 9 challenging. With regard to question 9, some responses were unsuccessful in conveying the correct information due to poor English.

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 ought to be provided
- 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. If, for example, a sentence in the source text for question 9 contains the phrase «..Πάει πια το καλοκαιράκι... », the answer to the question "What time of the year is the blogger writing this article?" is likely to be found there
- Bear in mind that the order of the questions in question 9 follows the way information is conveyed 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

- Practice recognizing the questions/distractors that may mislead them into thinking that an answer is correct, simply because it contains a word mentioned in the source text. For example in 8(ii) C was incorrectly chosen as a response because it contained the word “εβδομάδα”, which was also mentioned in the source text. In reality, the trip in question took place “τώρα τελευταία”.

In terms of procedure, candidates are reminded that the space provided for each response corresponds to the amount of information required and there’s no reason for writing in the margins of the page or continuing on supplementary pages.

Questions 1 and 2

These questions were handled very well by the majority of candidates, with the majority of responses receiving full marks. A small number of candidates did not associate “Δουλειά στη βιβλιοθήκη” with homework or “|Βόλτα στις βιτρίνες” with window shopping in 2(i) and 2(ii) respectively.

Question 3

There was very good performance overall, with a few candidates failing to identify the correct answer in 3(v). The question invited the candidates to interpret the information in the phrase “Βαριέμαι στο μάθημα μουσικής” and link it to the student’s lack of interest in the subject.

Question 4

Most sub questions on this text about moving house proved accessible to candidates. Some weaker candidates failed to associate “electrical appliances” with “κουζίνα, πλυντήριο, ψυγείο” in 4 (iii). 4(iv) also proved to be a challenging question for the less able candidates who did not link the phrase “σχεδόν σαν καινούρια” to the fact that everything that the family was selling was “in very good condition”.

Question 5

A very good performance all round. This question asked students to identify the jobs that suited various people. A small number of candidates did not make the connection between a career in retail (5v) and the advertisement that was seeking people to work in a clothes shop (το κατάστημα ανδρικών ενδυμάτων «ΠΡΟΦΙΛ» σας χρειάζεται...).

Question 6

An excellent performance by most candidates. The majority of responses identified the constituent details of a party invitation correctly. No error pattern was detected.

Question 7

Many candidates scored full marks in this question. An occasional pattern of erroneous response emerged in relation to 7(j). Some candidates skimmed over the introduction that contained the phrase “Αν μένεις στη γειτονιά μου...” and did not associate this comment with Katerina’s requirement that her potential friend ought to live near her.

Question 8

Performance ranged from excellent to poor, reflecting the different levels of candidates’ ability. This question required good language awareness and inference skills and was handled very well by able candidates, sub questions (iv) and (v) in particular. 8(ii) and (iii) proved the most challenging subsections of the question and differentiated well between high and average ability candidates. Vocabulary that seemed to pose difficulties included: συναδέλφους, πρόσφατη and ορεινή. A fair number of less able candidates did not associate the phrase “πολυσύχναστος περιφερειακός με κίνηση” with the fact that the view from the hotel rooms was a busy road with cars.

Question 9

Levels of achievement varied in this part, as expected with questions targeted at higher tiers of ability. Sub-questions like 9(b) and 9(gi) proved accessible to a good number of candidates but a pattern of inaccurate responses emerged, especially in relation to 9 (a), (d) (e) and (f). Questions 9(c) and 9(e) required two correct details and elicited mixed responses: few candidates identified both details correctly, some identified one and several offered three or four details which may have contained the correct information mixed with inaccuracies and irrelevance. This is also where most students wrote answers that contained superfluous or extraneous to the text information, drawing from their own experience of festivals.

9 (a) yielded a good number of successful answers. Most candidates interpreted the sentences “Πάει πια το καλοκαιράκι. Άρχισαν τα πρωτοβρόγια και η δροσιά” correctly and associated them with the end of summer and the beginning of autumn. Surprisingly, a number of candidates incorrectly cited “winter” and “Christmas time”, as the time when the festival took place. A good number of responses showed inability to spell the word autumn correctly. “Otum” was not considered an acceptable response.

9 (b) gave rise to a good number of excellent, full responses.

In 9(c) many students were able to provide one correct detail, out of the two required in response to the question “How do we know that the blogger likes the festival?” Some responses offered “because he blogs about it” as an answer. Unfortunately, the fact that someone writes about something is not evidence of one’s approval, as someone could write a negative review of an event.

9 (d) proved challenging to many candidates. Very few provided the precise detail, which identified either “αποκλειστικά εγχώρια ταλέντα” or “νέους καλλιτέχνες”, as the phrases containing the correct information.

9 (e) elicited two details in response to the question “Who does this festival cater for?” Many incorrect answers owed the misinformation or ambiguity they contained to poor language skills or inability to transfer the meaning of “για όλα τα γούστα και τις ηλικίες” into English clearly. Some were distracted by the words “family” and “young people”, which were mentioned in the text but in a different context, and offered these as an incorrect response.

9 (f) provoked a fair number of successful answers. Many, however, misinterpreted the phrase “η ελεύθερη είσοδος” to mean “free tickets”. This was not a correct response as the idea of free tickets for some (and not for others) does not convey clearly and unambiguously the fact that the festival was free for all.

9 (g) yielded a good number of correct responses, especially in relation to (i). Many candidates identified “being late” as something to be avoided but there was considerable guesswork involved in relation to (ii). Many offered the fact that “there would not be any seats left” and “nowhere to park” as the incorrect reasons why someone should not be late, rather than the fact that late comers disrupt the performers and disturb the audience. Candidates ought to bear in mind that just because something may have an element of truth, it does not necessarily constitute the correct answer according to the information contained in the source text.

Respectfully Submitted, 2017, EA.

