

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2010

GCSE

GCSE Greek (5GK04)

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Unit 4 - Writing in Greek

General comments on performance

This was the first year in which the new GCSE in Greek specification was offered, running alongside the legacy specification (1776) which was available for the time. The majority of candidates were entered for the legacy Greek (1776) and only a small number completed the new GCSE units.

Many candidates demonstrated good writing skills and produced fairly accurate and pertinent responses. There was evidence of ability to narrate and evaluate in response to the questions set and many candidates displayed high levels of accuracy. On certain occasions, misunderstanding of the question and hasty reading of the bullet points led to significant omissions and irrelevance, especially in the case of question 2(a) in Section B.

A small number of candidates ignored the rules of the Greek alphabet and the conventions of the stress system and consequently they were penalised. Candidates are reminded that the position of the stress ought to be indicated, where appropriate.

Candidates are also reminded that untidy writing and carelessness regarding the presentation of their responses ultimately work to their disadvantage. Moreover, it is essential to respond to the questions within the framework of the bullet points mentioned and the word limit imposed.

SECTION A

Questions 1(a) and 1(d) proved by far the most popular with the small number of candidates who entered for the new GCSE specification. Responses stayed within the parameters of the prescribed framework, with some candidates producing essays that were lengthier than required. A noticeable pattern regarding application of language related to the absence of indication of the position of stress.

SECTION B

Questions 2(a) and 2(d) were preferred by the majority of candidates who entered for the new specification. Of these, the most successful responses were those addressing question 2(d) as they were wholly relevant and well articulated.

Section B, just like Section A, contains directed exercises and responses to the questions ought to stay within the word limit prescribed and to the point, as prescribed by the bullets. Unaccountable digression often leads to errors and is counterproductive. Candidates ought to read the bullet points carefully and respond by writing the required information.

It was clear that there had been a misunderstanding when many responses failed to respond to the prompt eliciting information about holidays *in your country* and instead provided accounts of summer holidays in Greece or Cyprus, containing a fair amount of unsolicited information. A good response ought to have indicated a

country specific holiday, provide few details about country specific characteristics and then proceed to describe how the candidate celebrated it or plans to celebrate it.

Grade Boundaries

Raw Mark boundaries

Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
50	44	39	34	30	24	19	14	9

Uniform Mark Scale boundaries

Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
80	72	64	56	48	40	32	24	16

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