

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2014

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
Examiner 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 relied on general descriptions and left out essential details. Overall, evidence of misunderstanding and inaccuracies related mainly to questions requiring inference skills.

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 (Birthday presents)

This question proved straightforward to all the candidates.

Question 2 (My best friend)

This question was answered very well, but 2b proved challenging for many candidates, who failed to identify the Greek word "ξανθά μαλλιά" ("blonde hair") although it is in the minimum core vocabulary. Equally challenging was the question 2d where a number of candidates failed to identify the word "οδοντίατρος" ("dentist"). There were still a few candidates who answered the question in Greek instead of English and as a result they lost marks.

Question 3 (Directions)

The topic proved challenging, especially 3(i) and 3(ii) where even very able candidates failed to recognise the word "δυτικά" ("west") and "γέφυρα" ("bridge"). Additionally in question 3(ii) a number of candidates did not pay attention to the statement as a whole, and rushed to select the wrong answer which contained the word "δεξιά" ("right") without thinking that there was no mentioning of a square. It would be advisable to the candidates to practise the topic on directions more thoroughly.

Question 4 (Eating out)

This question was handled very well by the majority of candidates, but proved challenging for weaker candidates especially question 4(iv) possibly due to the fact that they did not make the connection between "να κλείσεις τραπέζι" and "reservations" on the question paper.

Question 5 (A news bulletin)

Very good level of performance in this question. There was some evidence of inaccuracy in questions 5(ii) and 5(v).

Question 6 (My local area)

Excellent performance in this question. The topic proved accessible and incorrect responses were infrequent and mostly in question 6(iv) where a small number of candidates failed to identify the word “κολυμβητήριο” (“swimming pool”).

Question 7 (My weekend job)

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 make the connection between “τελειώνω συνήθως αργά, στις 10 το βράδυ” and “late in the evening” on the question paper. Also, a few candidates failed to identify the word “ενδιαφέρουσα” (“interesting”).

Question 8 (Volunteering)

Performance in this question was overall very good. Question 8(i), 8(iii) and 8(iv) proved the most accessible subsections of the question, whereas 8(i) proved the most challenging and differentiated well between high and average ability students.

Question 9 (Fitness)

Performance in this question was varied, as it is expected with questions targeted at higher tiers of ability, but generally it was answered well. 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. Marks were lost where candidates' answers showed insufficient attention to the recorded text or detail of the question to be awarded marks at this level. Also, the vocabulary proved challenging to a considerable amount of candidates, resulting in misunderstanding of the recorded text or incomplete responses which were not worthy a mark. Some responses were not inclusive enough and left out essential details, especially with regard to 9(eii), where almost half of the candidates mentioned that the reason why the speaker did not like going to the gym was because he did not like sweating, but failed to identify that he did not like sweating in front of strangers. Other examples include:

9(a) This question provoked a good number of successful answers, indicating that two thirds of the candidates correctly identified the word “ηλιόλουστη” (“sunny”).

9(b) This question proved challenging to many candidates who failed to recognise the word “ταχυδρομείο” (“post-office”), although it is in the minimum core vocabulary.

9(c) This question proved challenging to almost half of the candidates who did not listen carefully to the recorded text and rushed to write the

information they heard first, which were incorrect. Also, a fair number of candidates were too vague ("she has someone to help her") or misunderstood what the speaker said and offered incorrect answers such as "she has company when she exercises" or "the best thing was having a trainer", when nothing in the text suggests that she exercised with someone else.

9(cii) This question was answered successfully by two thirds of the candidates who correctly identified the speaker's inability to plan an exercise regime herself or they pointed out that she needed someone else to organise her exercise programme for her. The mark was lost when candidates either repeated the exact information they offered in question 9(ci) or were too vague.

9(d) This question provoked a good number of successful answers, indicating that a significant number of candidates correctly identified that the speaker went to the gym 5 times.

9(ei) A significant number of candidates performed very well in this question and managed to correctly identify how the speaker felt about going to the gym.

9(f) Performance in this question was very good with a significant number of candidates scoring full marks. Marks were lost when candidates mentioned two details about the speaker's cycling activities, when one was needed, or resorted to guesswork.

9(g) This question proved challenging for a significant number of candidates who failed to recognise the word "αγώνες" in a context related to cycling and ended up stating that the speaker was going to take part in the Olympic Games or play football matches.

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