

Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

1GK0 Paper 1H

Higher tier: Listening and understanding in Greek

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GCSE Greek

Listening paper

1GK0/1H (Higher tier)

2025 Examiner's report

Introduction

This unit was worth 50 marks and was divided into two sections, A and B. The first 2 questions in section A were set in the target language and the remaining 8 questions were set in English. Candidates had 40 minutes in which to complete their answers; this included five minutes of general reading time at the start of the test.

There are three questions of open-ended tasks in English worth 20 marks. Multiple-choice questions have four options and there are two questions in the target language accounting for 10 marks.

In general, most candidates performed well and managed to show evidence of their understanding of standard spoken Greek. Most candidates were prepared for the examination's test types and topics but some of the requirements proved challenging for some candidates.

The open-ended questions, requiring answers in English, proved very challenging for less successful candidates. Most of the questions proved accessible to a considerable number of candidates. There was evidence of good knowledge of vocabulary and of the ability to identify the information targeted by the questions. Although answers in this section should be in English, a small percentage of candidates answered in Greek.

More often than not marks were lost because of the candidates' inability to convey their answers in meaningful English. They may have understood what they heard, but they could not convey this in English. Increasingly this year candidates' English was so ambiguous as to not convey meaning or to convey the wrong meaning when translated from Greek.

Another problem similar to previous series was candidates giving too much information instead of the one or two points that were asked for. In order to get the mark, the correct point has to be the first one given, and not mentioned in the middle or at the end of several sentences. The skill being tested here is the candidates' ability to extract the necessary information from what they heard.

Section A

Question 1 (Μία εκδρομή)

This was the first question of section A which was in Greek. It was a 'fill-in-the-gap' type of question and candidates had to listen to the speaker talking about a school trip and fill in the gaps with a word in Greek from the box. Overall, candidates performed very well, considerably better than the foundation candidates. Likewise, most common errors occurred in 1(e), as candidates

wrote «αξιοθέατα», possibly because in English ‘success’ is used with the verb ‘to be’ not ‘to have’ as is the case here, in Greek.

Question 2 (Οι συμμαθητές μου)

This was the second question in Greek. Candidates had to listen to a speaker talking about four classmates. They had to select the names of the classmates mentioned. Candidates performed well, with over two thirds scoring full marks. Of all the parts, 2(c) caused most problems, perhaps because some candidates did not understand the word sociable in Greek («κοινωνικός») which was inferred and not directly referenced in the recording.

Section B

Question 3 (Earth Hour)

This was a multiple-choice question. Candidates were asked to identify the correct statements about an event called ‘Earth Hour’. It was answered very well overall. Part (iii) posed a slight problem to some candidates who failed to make the connection between «γραφεία», «πλατείες» and «αεροδρόμια» and public spaces that were affected.

Question 4 (Holiday)

Candidates were asked to identify three correct statements after listening to the speaker talking about his holiday. Over three quarters of the candidates scored full marks. Most common error was D “They had to call the house owners in France”, a plausible but incorrect answer.

Question 5 (At the station)

This question was answered well overall. 5(iii) was less successful for some candidates possibly because they did not recognise the Greek phrase for valuables. Instead, for this part some candidates chose D (“leave their luggage unattended”) or C (“bring oversized luggage”), because they heard the word «αποσκευές».

Question 6 (Looking for a job)

This was an open-ended question where candidates were asked to hear two friends talking about part-time jobs and answer four questions. The candidates performed considerably well and just under a third of the candidates managed to score full marks. Question 6(a) was the most successful one and the candidates understood and conveyed the correct two details. It was pleasing to see that a large percentage of the candidates knew the Greek word for ‘tips’ and managed to score full marks in 6(b). The ones that were unsuccessful focused on advantages of finding a job as a waiter rather (e.g. “there are many

restaurants at the speaker's area") rather than the advantage of working as a waiter.

In 6(c) the word «βράδια» was challenging for many either because they did not know the word or because they did not differentiate between evenings and nights and gave wrong answers in English. For example the rejected response given by many "working nights" means working night shifts (all night).

In 6(d) those who lost marks did so because they simply wrote that the speaker will help/work with football teams, a response that does not fully convey the meaning of helping with coaching.

Question 7 (Mobile phones)

This was an open-ended question where candidates were asked to listen to a programme about mobile phones on the radio and answer four questions about it. A third of candidates managed to score 4 marks and just under two thirds full marks (5). Question 7(d) was the most successful followed by 7(c) and proved that the topic of mobile phones is very popular and the vocabulary associated with it (e.g. the Greek word for 'charge a mobile phone') is familiar to the majority of candidates. In 7(a) a substantial number of candidates wrote that mobile sales were down, which didn't address the detail of 'trend'. In 7(b) the confusion was between what was considered by the candidate to be a new phone and what to be an old phone, since the old (technology) phone became Maria's new phone. However, many candidates identified at least one correct detail in this question by writing that the speaker was tired of spending too much time on her phone and scored.

Question 8 (An event)

This was a multiple-choice question where candidates were asked to complete six statements after hearing a radio announcement about an event organised by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Most candidates performed very well. The most challenging part was part (b) (iii) where a quarter of the candidates gave the wrong answer and chose (D) "appetite" because they heard the word «όρεξη» and disregarded the remaining information. In part (a)(i) some candidates selected a random answer (usually D – "run 5 kilometres") because they did not make the connection between «βραδινό» and night.

Question 9 (Become a volunteer)

This was an open-ended question where candidates were asked to hear an announcement about becoming a volunteer at the National Marine Park in the Greek island of Allonisos. There were 10 marks in total for this question and it was divided in two parts. As per the results, this question proved to be challenging for a considerable number of candidates. High marks (7 out of 10 marks) were only achieved by under a quarter of the candidates. The main problem with this question was not paying attention to the details given and the questions asked. For example, many thought that 'being over 18' or 'know English well or have good computer skills' were character traits and offered these responses in b(ii) instead of b(i).

9a(i) was answered very well, apart from a few who put two months instead of two weeks. 9a(ii) was challenging for many candidates, who resulted in guesses as to how someone might help there. The word «ενημερώσουν» caused problems for some, conveyed wrongly as 'remind, alert or warn'.

In 9a(iii) the detail of being able to use the library was the most successfully used. Only a few mentioned data base. Of the candidates who mentioned "research" some did not mention the locality of this. Those who simply wrote that the students could study there did not get the mark.

As mentioned previously, 9b(i) and 9b(ii) were two parts often mistakenly interchanged, because candidates did not differentiate between 'requirements' and 'character traits' in the questions. In 9b(ii) some candidates lost one mark when they focused on the ability to 'talk' and not 'communicate' with people from other cultures.

In 9b(iii) the majority of candidates answered this successfully. Most of those who were not successful gave the incomplete (in English) answer of "The volunteer programme".

Question 10 (Theatre with a difference)

This question had two parts and candidates were asked to hear a podcast about a new theatre initiative and tick two boxes in each part. This was a challenging question for some possibly due to the content vocabulary and the candidates' unfamiliarity with the topic.

Part one was less successfully answered: almost half of the candidates managed to score one out of the two marks. Common distractors were E ("She thought of it when she became the theatre's director") and B ("It attracts more people to visit the theatre").

Part two was answered better than part one with more than two thirds of the candidates scoring full marks. Although (D) was selected by the majority of the successful candidates, (B) was less so possibly because some candidates did not know the word for 'director' in Greek.

For this paper, candidates need to:

- carefully read the questions
- have good knowledge of core vocabulary
- recognise the use of tenses and time indicators
- pay attention to detail, give full rather than partial answers
- express themselves clearly and unambiguously when writing in English and relate their answers to what is heard in the extract
- read over and edit their answers if needed.