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Examiner's Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Greek (1GK0)
Paper: 3F (Reading)

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Principal Examiner's Report

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Specification 1GK0

Paper 3F: Reading and Understanding in Greek

Introduction

Candidates in this paper were assessed on their understanding of written Greek across a range of different genres and by responding to question types comprising multiple-response, short-answer, open response questions and one translation into English. This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all themes and topics of the specification. The total marks awarded for 3F is 50.

There are three sections to this paper, A, B and C.

Section A has six questions and all instructions to students, comprehension questions and required responses are in English. The mark total for Section A is 28.

Section B has 3 questions and all instructions to students, comprehension questions and required responses are in Greek. The mark total for section B is 15.

Section C has one question, a short translation from Greek into English. The mark total for section C is 7.

Paper Summary

This year was the first iteration of this examination in post-pandemic conditions and the entry was rather small.

Performance across the range of abilities demonstrated that most candidates had been well prepared for the examination. Many entrants at this level achieved good or even full marks on questions with English prompts which required the recall of familiar vocabulary. Those who attempted the translation question were able to transfer meaning with moderate success. A small number of candidates were less successful in questions which required cognitive skills such as processing or inferring meaning and although the literary texts and questions with rubrics in Greek proved accessible to many, they were a challenge for weaker candidates. In addition, questions with rubrics in English proved a challenge for some overseas candidates who did not have the necessary competence to construct short answers in English without ambiguities obstructing meaning.

Question 1

This question required that candidates provide the correct name that does a specific job on Saturdays. The rubric required that candidates write these names in **English**, which they choose from a list provided. The question was worth 6 marks. Most candidates found this question accessible as it contained very familiar vocabulary items. There were no evident patterns of errors. Bad spelling or changing the word from English into Greek (even though it was supposed to have

been copied verbatim from a word pool) was a regular feature of many weak responses. Filling in the gaps with names in Greek constituted a rubric violation. This practice should be avoided at all cost.

Question 2

This question was about a music festival and required that candidates choose the correct English word from a word bank, in order to complete sentences. The question was worth 5 marks.

Performance was good with no distinctive patterns of errors. Some were unable to associate Οκτώβριος with autumn. Bad spelling and illegible writing (even though the word was supposed to have been copied) was a regular feature of weaker responses.

Question 3

This question related to the topic of weekend pastimes. It required that candidates provide short answers in English. This question was worth 5 marks.

There was generally good performance with some patterns of errors and weak performance evident in 3 a (i) and (ii) – where candidates failed to provide the distinguishing detail ('they study') and referred to 'clean air' instead of 'outside'.

Question 4

This question related to the topic of 'travel experiences. It was based on an adapted literary text and tested comprehension through multiple choice questions. This question was worth 5 marks.

Most candidates performed well with no discernible patterns of errors.

Question 5

This question related to the topic of 'school trips' and it was about a visit to the dance museum. It elicited short answers in English and it was worth 3 marks. Performance in this question ranged from good to average. Insecure language skills in both Greek and English marred performance for weaker candidates, especially in relation to (a) and (b). Common words like θέα and ηλεκτρονικό μήνυμα posed a challenge to some.

Question 6

This question was on the topic of 'everyday life and customs' and focused on a Cypriot refugee's journal during the holiday period. It was based on a literary text and elicited short responses in English. It was worth 4 marks.

Candidates performed with moderate success. Insecure language skills in both Greek and English marred performance for weaker candidates, especially in relation to (a), which required two details and (b). Even though candidates are not required to write in full sentences, single word responses like 'food', 'homeless' were too

ambiguous to be deemed correct in (a). In (b) many candidates confused 'σχέδια' with 'drawings'. Candidates are advised to consider the context in which the word appears, when they try to access its meaning.

Question 7

This question was on the topic of 'Summer School'. It was worth 5 marks. Candidates were asked to complete a sentence by choosing from a list of Greek words. This question proved challenging for many students. There was a noticeable pattern of misspelling, to the point of unrecognizability, even though the word was supposed to have been copied from the given pool. Common errors included responses to 7(c) and (d) These questions served as a good discriminator for distinguishing between various levels of achievement.

Question 8

This question related to the topic of 'holiday and travel/places to see'. It was worth 5 marks. Candidates were asked to select the correct Greek word(s) in a multiple-choice comprehension exercise that was in Greek. There was a pattern of frequent errors in (iv), as the candidates who spotted the word 'fishing' in the text, assumed that 'fish' was the correct option in the multiple-choice question.

Question 9

This question was on the topic of 'school rules' and it was worth 5 marks. Candidates were asked to select the correct Greek name, in order to complete a sentence that linked the name to a certain perception or behaviour in relation to school rules. Performance was generally good, with an occasional pattern of misspelling the names from the given pool or transliterating them into English. This violated the rubric, it often impacted the clarity of the response and caused loss of marks. Names should be copied as they are given.

Question 10

This question related to the topic of 'Being Green' and involved the translation of a short passage from Greek into English. Total marks awarded for this exercise were 7.

Most candidates were able to achieve 3 marks and above, which indicates that the meaning of the passage was communicated with degrees of success: from partially to fully.

There were some patterns of lexical challenges that emerged from samples of candidate performance. Errors were mostly in relation to the phrase Δεν αφήνουμε τα

φώτα ανοιχτά for obvious reasons that had to do with mother tongue interference, as it was often translated as 'we don't let the lights open'. Other errors that

affected the flow of the translation were in relation to individual words, such as 'προσπαθούμε' and 'συνήθειες'.

Conclusion

Based on their performance in this paper, candidates are asked to consider the following:

- read all questions carefully, paying particular attention to the language that they must respond in, which is mostly English **not** Greek, unless a word needs to be copied from a pool
- remember that there is only ONE correct response in the multiple-choice questions. Often, the closest distractors, i.e., the incorrect options, may contain some words from the text (or cognate words), precisely in order to "distract" and differentiate between levels of achievement
- ensure that their translation reads naturally in English. It is sometimes preferable to convey meaning by not adhering to word-for-word literal translation. There will probably be unknown words in the translation. Candidates should not omit words and they should try to make educated guesses.
- remember the importance of clear presentation and legible writing
- write in the space provided and try not to continue in additional paper. Lengthy answers give rise to ambiguity and inaccuracies
- check their answers if they have time at the end.

Thank you for choosing to study this specification.