

Examiners' Report /  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

GCSE Japanese (5JA01) Paper 01

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## Examiner Report

This unit draws on vocabulary and structures from across the four specified common topic areas. The examination consisted of a number of passages or interactions in Japanese with a variety of question types. Candidates were tested on their ability to understand spoken Japanese through a variety of tasks which require a response, written or non-verbal, to demonstrate their understanding.

In general, candidates coped well with the exam format. However, it was felt that many candidates would benefit from familiarising themselves with the multiple choice 'x' answering method. Teachers should encourage them to follow strategies which will prevent duplicate answers in one row and no answers in another row. Candidates also need to be reminded to listen to the whole conversation before selecting their correct answers.

When confronted with spaces to be filled in, such as in questions 2, 6 and 9, it was felt that many candidates did not read the questions properly and failed to notice that some of the answer boxes were already filled in. Similarly, in the new specification all written responses are required to be answered in English. However, some candidates were unaware of this change and attempted to answer them in Japanese. Teachers need to be aware that it is increasingly important for candidates to write their answers fully and clearly.

Overall, the paper followed 'peaks and troughs' of difficulty pattern which was spread out throughout the paper. Teachers should remind candidates that more difficult questions no longer appear towards the end of the paper and more accessible ones at the beginning. Candidates must be encouraged to attempt to answer all questions throughout the paper.

Candidates were familiar with the topics in questions 1, 2 and 3 most candidates performed well. Although a surprising number of candidates failed to recognise words such as 田舎 and 小学校, question 4 was generally well answered. Although most candidates scored 3 marks or above in question 5, not many achieved full marks. Some candidates did not look at the mark allocation carefully and did not indicate correct number of answers.

All candidates recognised 広島 correctly in question 6(i). However, many candidates found the rest of question 6 challenging. A surprisingly large number of candidates failed to recognise date, time and price.

Generally, candidates performed well in question 7. Some candidates failed to recognise 下着 in 7(v). Question 8 was accessible to most candidates. However, there was evidence of candidates not listening to the whole conversation before selecting their answer.

In the final question, many candidates fabricated answers based on hearing a single word correctly and did not appear to consider whether the given answer

might fit the context of previous answers. There was also evidence of candidates not listening to the whole conversation before selecting their correct answer. Some candidates failed to write their answers fully and lost marks. For instance, for question (d) some wrote 'computer' as supposed to 'pink and large computer in a red bag'. Teachers should encourage candidates to provide full answers where the question asks them to describe them in detail. A surprising number of candidates did not knowすぐ.

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