

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2013

GCSE Japanese (5JA02)
Paper 1 Speaking

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GCSE Japanese Unit 2 Speaking Examiner Report

The speaking exam is divided into two separate, equally weighted, parts. The first part is the picture based discussion or presentation, with follow up questions. Most teachers had successfully covered the required areas of the specification in such a way that enabled students to construct a grammatically accurate and interesting presentation and were then able to answer a range of questions that related to the presentation. However, it is of some concern to note that some teacher examiners either did not ask any questions or possibly asked a few, closed questions – preventing students from demonstrating their true ability.

The second part, the general conversation, was most successful when teacher examiners tried to elicit the widest range of Japanese vocabulary and structures; gave students opportunities to respond in the past, present and future tenses; asked students to express, and justify, opinions; responded to student requests for repetition by rewording questions; and allowed the student numerous opportunities to take the initiative and develop responses.

Students were familiar with the format of this part of the exam. Students were confident at expressing positive opinions in the present tense. There were some inaccuracies with past tense and negative opinions. More able students were able to use, for example, *くて*, *かった*, *くない*, *と思います* and *たりたり* with confidence.

It would have been preferable, therefore, if a significant minority of teacher examiners either had asked open ended questions; or had allowed students the time to expand on their initial response; or had not translated key questions words (*いつ*, *どんな*, *どう*, *どうして*) into English; or had allowed Part 1 and/or Part 2 to continue for the required 4-5 minutes.

Teacher examiners must ensure that they read both the Specification and the booklet entitled Instructions for the Conduct of the Examinations with care. Some students were not able to achieve higher marks because the requirements of the exam were not met.

Summary

- Teacher examiners must ensure both task 1 and task 2 last for 4-5 minutes.
- Teacher examiners need to be clear about the Themes that are permitted.

- Teacher examiners should, where necessary, reword questions without using English.
- Teacher examiners must ensure they give their students opportunities to give detailed responses.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

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