

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2015

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
in Japanese (5JA02/01)
Paper 1: Speaking in Japanese

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GCSE Japanese
Unit 2 Speaking in Japanese
Examiner Report

The Speaking exam is divided into two, equally weighted parts.

In Task 1, candidates had generally covered the required areas of the specification successfully so that they were well able to construct a grammatically accurate and interesting presentation or picture based discussion. It is impressive that so many candidates are able to talk about a topic that interests them for 2 minutes. Candidates achieving the highest grades were able to include, for example, *くて、くない* and *かった* with adjectives; *たり たり*; different tenses accurately; adverbs of frequency; and *と 思います*.

It is disappointing to note that numerous teacher examiners either asked a few closed questions or failed to ask any questions. Clearly, this prevented those candidates from demonstrating their true ability.

Task 2, the general conversation, was most successful when teacher examiners were able to elicit the widest range of Japanese vocabulary and structures. Candidates still need to be encouraged to attempt to give more elaborate answers – answering the question and then providing more information. Often candidates were able to respond well to questions in different tenses. Some candidates struggled to use both *i*-adjectives and *na*-adjectives in the past tense.

Many candidates struggled to respond well to questions starting *いつから、どのぐらい* and *どうして*. There remains confusion between *きれい / きれい* and *えいが / えいご*.

Candidates clearly felt most confident where the teacher examiner was acting as a sympathetic native speaker and trying to encourage candidates to produce as much information as possible. Candidates need to be taught phrases such as *もういちどいってください* or even *わかりません* to aid communication both in their GCSE speaking exam and in real life situations.

A further observation worth noting is that a significant minority of Teacher-Examiners still seem unaware of the requirements of the GCSE Japanese Speaking Exam. It is clearly stated that both Task 1 and Task 2 should last between 4 and 5 minutes. Naturally, candidates cannot expect to achieve the highest grades if they do not fulfil these requirements.

Grade Boundaries

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