



Pearson

Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2017

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Japanese (5JA02)
Paper 2: Speaking in Japanese

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GCSE Japanese
Unit 2: Speaking
Examiners Report

Examiner's Report for GCSE Japanese Speaking component June 2015: 5JA02/02

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

For Task 1, candidates had generally covered the required areas of the specification successfully so that they were 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, 前に、後で、しか;

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, once again, 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 and thus from achieving the higher/highest marks.

For 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. There remains confusion between サッカー/作家 きれい/きれい and えいが/えいご. There was some confusion, too, around time frames with many candidates struggling to respond correctly to questions using: 将来、週末、いつ、どのぐらい

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.

