



Examiner's Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Japanese (1JA0)

Paper 3F: Reading and Understanding in
Japanese

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Introduction

Most candidates made a good effort to answer all aspects of the paper, including questions that required a short-written answer in English.

Question 1

This question was about holidays and tested the recognition of single words written in hiragana and katakana. Most candidates attempted all six parts of this question and did well.

Question 2

This question was about an emergency drill in Japanese schools. Most candidates attempted this question and generally did well. (d) was perhaps the hardest of these questions.

Question 3

This question required short written answers in response to a text about Kaori's volunteering. The days of the week were known and well answered. However, the specific types of rubbish – bottles and cans – were less well recognised. Some candidates missed the "Why" in (iii) and answered, "It makes her sad." In the second half of the question, many candidates were able to read the word "Europe", but fewer picked up the point that the coin had two colours.

Question 4

This was one of the two literary texts. Most candidates were able to answer (i) and (ii) well. (iii) and (iv) proved harder for some candidates.

Question 5

This question was about a student who had produced a blog on the subject of school rules in Japan. Most candidates attempted this question and picked up at least the mark for (a).

Question 6

This question was a film review, with one or two rather different ideas. Being multiple choice questions, most candidates attempted all of these questions. (v) was the most challenging.

Question 7

This question was generally very well answered. Candidates needed to complete sentences picking out words from a bank of given words. The text was about spending time at the airport whilst waiting to pick up an international visitor.

Question 8

This was an extract from a literary text. It was pleasing that most candidates understood not only the words but also the nuance of ちょっと, tested in (b). Many candidates were also able to answer (d) successfully. "He was on holiday" was often given as an incorrect answer in (a).

Question 9

This question was about what various young people had bought. (c) proved to be the hardest – candidates may have been unfamiliar with the word for "fireworks".

Question 10

This was the translation. Some candidates left the page blank, but those who did write something were generally able to pick out the words teacher / pizza / ate. The word "won" was known by fewer candidates. Getting a "because" clause the wrong way round continues to cause problems for candidates.