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Examiner's Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel GCSE  
In Japanese (1JA0)

Paper 3: Reading and understanding in Japanese  
Higher Tier

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## **Introduction**

Most candidates attempted all aspects of the paper. Please keep encouraging candidates to learn as much vocabulary as they are able, since where they lost marks generally seemed to be on the hardest vocabulary questions (as opposed to not recognising kanji, or interpreting grammatical structures incorrectly).

## **Question 1**

This question was about Miyuki cleaning the head teacher's room. (b) was the easiest, with many candidates being able to pick out the colour "white". In (c), the word はこ was often missed.

## **Question 2**

This question was about a boating holiday. It was generally well answered, although some candidates found the inference question in (ii) challenging.

## **Question 3**

This was an extract from a literary text. (a) and (b) were generally well answered, although some candidates offered "Munich" for (b). (c) was the most challenging, with some candidates picking out the word 安い but then writing things like "It wasn't cheap".

## **Question 4**

This question was about what various family members were going to do, to prepare to welcome a refugee family. (b) appeared to be quite hard – candidates may have been unfamiliar with the word かへ.

## **Question 5**

This question dealt with the interests and concerns of three high school students. In (a), the words "environment" and "pollution" were well known, although some candidates erroneously wrote "climate change". In (b) the word せんきよ was unknown to a lot of candidates. The other parts were generally well tackled.

## **Question 6**

This was the second literary text, tested through multiple choice questions. (ii) and (v) appeared to be the hardest for candidates.

## **Question 7**

This text was about the lunch arrangements at Jiyū Gakuen. Candidates were generally able to match the statements to the correct people. In the short answer questions, (e) was generally well answered, but (f) proved more problematic. It may have been that the concept of varieties of apples was unfamiliar to some candidates.

### **Question 8**

This question was about a family having no screen time from Sunday afternoon to Monday morning. This question was generally well tackled, although a surprising number of candidates got (a) correct and yet offered “they write a blog” as the answer for (e). The spelling of “salmon” in (d) proved problematic, although this was marked generously.

### **Question 9**

This question was about the town of Shimonosuwa, and the improvements the mayor has made to the town. Reading the subtleties of the text sufficiently accurately to pick out the correct answers in (i) was challenging for some candidates. In (ii), candidates sometimes mentioned general improvements the mayor had made, rather than picking out specific details about what the mayor had done for young people.

### **Question 10**

This was the translation question. Most candidates made a good attempt. The vocabulary item たまに was unknown to many and simply translated “sometimes”. The word ビル caused a lot of problems, and was often translated “beer” or “bill”. Sometimes this error compounded itself as candidates tried to translate the final sentence to fit “beer” or “bill”. A large number of candidates knew the word 建築家 and were able to make a reasonable attempt at translating the final sentence.