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Examiner's Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE  
In Japanese (1JA0)

Paper 3H: Reading and understanding in  
Japanese

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## **Introduction**

Most candidates attempted all aspects of the paper. Please continue to encourage them to do so, as they may pick up some marks even on questions which they find hard. For example, in question 5, (e) was quite easy, even though the preceding questions were difficult. Please also encourage candidates to read the questions carefully and think about the precise details from the text required to give an answer: simply the overall idea is sometimes insufficient, and they need to extract the exact detail from the text which will address the detail required by the question.

## **Question 1**

This question was about celebrating new year in Scotland. Most candidates coped well with this question, including the idea in (c) that they ended up drinking sake as there was no whiskey available.

## **Question 2**

This question was about a school trip to France. Most candidates did well on this question. The hardest part was (e), possibly because it required inference or possibly because the English words in the options were a little harder.

## **Question 3**

This was an extract from a literary text, which proved extremely difficult for candidates. It may have been the unusual idea of someone narrating a dream in which strange things happened that put candidates off. The easiest part was (c), about why he wanted to show his test to his mother.

## **Question 4**

This question was about what various young people like about their school. This question was generally well answered, with no part appearing to be particularly difficult.

## **Question 5**

This question dealt with future jobs, but each one had a slight twist – for example a dentist who was going to work in a costume so that children would not be scared. In (a), some candidates missed the “on the phone” in the question, and therefore wrote “run around”. This meant that they struggled to answer (b). In (c), getting the precise details that the factory did not use much energy proved challenging. Some candidates wrote that the factory used no energy.

### **Question 6**

This was the second literary text, tested through multiple choice questions. Despite the fact that the idea of finding a baby was rather strange, the stronger candidates managed this question well.

### **Question 7**

This text was about the various people a group of young people admire. The weaker candidates struggled to match the correct statement with who made the statement, presumably because they had to read through a lot of detail and understand it, in order to be able to complete this successfully. In (e), some candidates erroneously wrote why the writer admired Richard. In (f), the correct answer was either "children's diseases" or "healthy living in the jungle", but many candidates got sections of each answer, and so answers such as "diseases of the jungle" were frequent.

### **Question 8**

This question was about the food culture of Osaka. (a) required precise details to be given, and many candidates struggled to give the details with enough precision. In contrast, (b) was very easy. Candidates needed to have recognised the superlative to be awarded the mark in (c). Once again in (e), precise details were required – 'there were lots of people' was insufficient, as the question stem told the candidates that the café was popular, and presumably if a café is popular there will be lots of people there.

### **Question 9**

This question was about Akira describing his grandad, and thinking up ways of getting him to come to live with his family. The stronger candidates were able to correctly select the three correct answers from the statement bank. There were quite a lot of guesses for (ii) stating that he bought something at the convenience store. Once again precise details were required for (iii) 'he could play with Akira' was insufficient, as this response by itself does not explain how this would help Akira's mum.

### **Question 10**

This was the translation question. Candidates clearly knew their environmental vocabulary, which was impressive. Even the weaker candidates were able to pick out "global warming" 自動車 was often mistranslated as "bicycle".