



Examiner's Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2025

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.

Question 1

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

Question 2

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 3

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 4

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 5

This question was about what various young people like about their schools. Candidates found the vocabulary item tested in (d) difficult, but in contrast (e) was very well answered with many candidates getting to the concept of using snow to melt the ice, despite the Japanese not explicitly stating that in the text.

Question 6

This was the second literary text, tested through multiple choice questions. (i) proved to be the easiest, and (iii) the hardest.

Question 7

This text was about how various people use (or plan to use) their Japanese. Ali's contribution about becoming a doctor and living on Okinawa in the future to enjoy surfing whilst also helping tackle the shortage of doctors on small islands was generally well understood. Candidates found understanding the precise nuance of Ben's contribution about litter picking on Mt. Fuji more challenging.

Question 8

This question was about finding a pile of her grandparents' love letters when clearing out her grandmother's possessions. Whilst many candidates seem to have understood the gist of the text, giving the precise details required in answer to the questions was trickier. For example, in (a) many candidates wrote "She was rich" rather than the more precise "She was the daughter of a rich family". Again, many candidates simply wrote "She got a present" for (e), rather than explaining that this was a present for her heart / soul.

Question 9

This question was about a family going on holiday to an inn where there was no mains electricity. Again, many candidates seem to have understood the gist of the text, whilst possibly missing out on some of the details. For example, in (ii), some candidates wrote "There were no lights", when in fact there were oil lamps.

Question 10

This was the translation question. The grammar of the text was relatively easy this year, but there was a lot of higher tier vocabulary such as "luxurious", "rare", "mysterious". Candidates sometimes failed to convey the sense of the passage as a whole as they did not know these words.