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## Examiners' Report June 2010

### GCSE Russian Unit 1: Listening and Understanding in Russian (5RU01)

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## Unit 1: Listening and Understanding in Russian (5RU01)

The new style examination with questions and instructions in English proved not to be an issue with the majority of candidates.

A very small number of candidates lost marks through illegible handwriting, as examiners could not read the answer. These candidates should be encouraged to write clearly. Candidates should ensure they read the questions carefully before answering. A small number of candidates lost marks through answering in the wrong language.

The less able candidates coped well with questions 1, 2 and 5, with the majority of candidates gaining full marks.

Question 8 in particular proved to be a good discriminator for those aiming at the C grade, where a variety of structures, including the past tense, needed to be understood. Some candidates lacked the specific vocabulary on asking the way or places in a town required to do themselves justice on question 3 but coped well with the demands of question 6, picking out familiar words and structures in unfamiliar contexts.

A pleasing number of candidates scored well on questions 4 and 7, which used formats familiar to one used on the old syllabus papers (but with statements now appearing in English.) Candidates appeared well prepared for this type of activity, which requires students to recognise inference and draw conclusions, and a number of candidates scored highly on these questions.

Question 9 elicited a range of responses covering the full mark range. Candidates should ensure they read the questions carefully and answer in clear English. As in previous years, a small number of native speaker candidates answered in Russian or were unable to attempt this question because of their limited English.

The results overall were pleasing with the majority of candidates gaining the higher grades and displaying the ability to extract the main points from language used in unfamiliar contexts and showing ability to draw conclusions.

## Grade Boundaries

Grade	Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Raw mark boundary	50	40	35	30	25	21	17	13	9	0
Uniform mark scale boundary	70	63	56	49	42	35	28	21	14	0

The modern foreign languages specifications share a common design, but the assessments in different languages are not identical. Grade boundaries at unit level reflect these differences in assessments, ensuring that candidate outcomes across these specifications are comparable at specification level.

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