

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

June 2011

GCSE Russian (5RU01) Paper 1

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Unit 1 – Listening and Understanding in Russian

A very small number of candidates lost marks through illegible handwriting and 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.

Almost all candidates coped well with questions 1 and 2, with the majority of candidates gaining full marks.

Question 3 was generally well answered although a large number of candidates were not able to determine Victor's views on the restaurant prices (part v).

Similarly, good candidates were able to deal well with most of question 4, apart from statement H, which fewer understood to be linked with the words **чистый** and **грязный**

Question 5, which was aimed at most abilities, posed problems for a large number of candidates, with many candidates seeming not to know **цирк** and to a lesser degree, **пляж**

Most candidates were able to pick up some marks on question 6, although it was evident that some were not confident in their knowledge of weather phrases, causing them to answer the first two questions wrongly.

Question 7 proved a challenging question – this was aimed at A* ability candidates and a pleasing number scored well on this, although, not surprisingly, a significant number were unable to even guess successfully and scored nothing.

Question 8 in particular proved to be a good discriminator for those aiming at the C grade, where a variety of activities involving the past tense needed to be understood. A number of candidates who lacked the specific vocabulary on weather required to do themselves justice on question 6, coped very well with the demands of this question, picking out familiar words and structures in unfamiliar contexts.

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 something from this question, with a significant number gaining high marks and displaying the ability to extract the main points from language used in unfamiliar contexts and showing ability to draw conclusions.

Part 9a was not well answered and some candidates mistook **пятое** for **пятница**, concluding that the competition was starting on Friday. However, for 9b the majority of candidates were able to pick out **телевизионная компания** from the text to provide them with the correct answer.

Part 9c was attempted by almost all the candidates. Sadly, some overlooked the fact that it was worth 2 marks and supplied only one piece of information. (See note on the exam paper "The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets".) Very few were completely at a loss and offered something by way of an answer and so picked up one mark. Some learners thought she (Alyona Bayeva) was a he but were not penalised for this. **Юных** (earlier in the text) was considered by some as suggesting a June concert and a small number of other candidates answered that the youngster had played in 5 concerts, again perhaps referring back to something they had heard at the beginning of the text. (Numbers and dates cannot be mentioned too often in class!) Only a few thought singing had been included in the programme.

A large number of candidates again proved their ability to successfully pick out cognates by answering 9d correctly and a pleasing number were able to name at least one if not two countries for 9e (Greece and Austria being the most popular), although a number did get confused between Switzerland and Sweden.

Part 9f - here good candidates managed to score the mark by offering something which suggested a positive impression, and the majority of native speakers mentioned the unforgettable evening aspect, though a few thought it had been in the morning. This error did not, however, compromise the mark as we were on the lookout for "unforgettable".

Part 9g. Generally speaking the answers were good with many scoring the two marks. Again very few answers were in Russian. Some learner Candidates confused "composers" and "composing" which cost the mark, others were giving rather than taking signatures, and native speakers talked about "compositors" which did not deprive them of the mark.

A small number of queries were received about the duration of the recording. Edexcel will be offering guidance for this on the front cover of the examination paper and on the recording to provide more clarity.

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