

Examiners' Report /
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

GCSE Russian (5RU01) Paper 01

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Question 1

This caused no problems for the vast majority of candidates.

Question 2

This was well done, however, a surprising number of candidates failed to recognise врач as the job required in part (ii).

Question 3

Candidates generally coped well with this question, although fewer correct answers were given for part (iv), requiring knowledge of weather vocabulary, than for other parts of this question.

Question 4

This question proved accessible to the majority of candidates, however, part (i) proved more challenging than other parts of the question.

Question 5

This question was intended to highlight candidates' ability to understand inference and as such proved a good test of this skill. Most good candidates coped well and gained marks on this.

Question 6

This provided little problem for the majority of candidates.

Question 7

This question proved surprisingly challenging, even for some good candidates, highlighting the fact that such "staples" as days of the week and times can never be revised or practised too much.

Question 8

This question was aimed at the very best candidates, again, intended to test their skills in understanding inference. Many candidates coped well. However statement G proved less accessible.

Question 9

- a) Unfortunately пятьдесят was mistaken for 15 (or other numbers) by a significant number of candidates.
- b) A good number of candidates were able to identify в Европе. Far fewer were able to correctly add "Eastern".
- c) Quite a few candidates missed the comparative быстрее and assumed the fin would allow the user to swim "fast". "Energy" and "strength" were often recognised but unfortunately candidates assumed this kind of swimming takes "energy" and "strength", rather than gives them. A number of candidates benefitted from pointing out that not only energy is given.
- d) Answers to this question were sometimes vague, costing candidates valuable marks. "Saturday" OR "Sunday" was often offered instead of "the weekend" (or "Saturday and Sunday"). A number of candidates mistook "4 часа" to mean "4 o'clock", rather than "for 4 hours" and "before (school)" was often confused with "after".
- e) Arguably the most challenging question on the paper, only the best candidates scored 2 marks on this. Many candidates failed to grasp the idea that this sport might at some point appear in the Olympic Games and assumed that Anna saw herself as a future Olympic swimmer.
- f) There were many pleasing answers to this challenging question, although the word тренер was often taken to mean "training" and a number of candidates assumed the sport would demand a lot of time rather than money.

General observations

- Candidates will not gain any credit for writing in Russian if the rubric specifies English.
- Candidates should be encouraged to attempt all questions. Again, a small number of candidates ruled themselves out of gaining marks on some questions by not even attempting multiple choice or similar questions.
- Candidates should read the questions (particularly on Question 9) carefully.
- Candidates generally responded well to this paper and produced some very pleasing results.

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