

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2013

GCSE Russian (5RU01)
Paper 1 Listening and Understanding in
Russian

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There was a pleasing response to this paper, with the students showing sound preparation and the ability to do well over a range of specific topics.

Q 1

The majority of students were able to tackle this question confidently, although "религия" did prove to be beyond some students.

Q 2

This was generally well answered although, as in previous years, some students stumbled over the use of a number in Q2(i).

Q 3

This was accessible to the majority of students, although "домашнее задание" was not recognised by a significant number.

Q 4

Again, students answered well on this question - few problems were posed apart from the recognition of the word "весело" which was needed to answer Q4(iv). It was pleasing to note that "по субботам" was recognised by the majority of students, as days of the week have been one basic topic area which students have not always been confident with in the past.

Q 5

This was very well answered.

Q 6

Only the weakest of students experienced any difficulty in answering this question.

Q 7

This was well answered, although the word "фотоаппарат" was not recognised by a surprising number of students.

Q 8

Part A was very well answered and many students were able to score full marks on this. This question is aimed at the most able students and Part B proved a very good discriminator, with a large number of good students failing to grasp the inference that Andrei was determined and Irina dissatisfied.

Q 9

Q9(a) Many students were able to recognise "тридцать" in reference to DJ Smash's age.

Q9(b) A pleasing number of students were able to recognise the use of "самый" to indicate the use of a superlative.

Q9(c) A fairly large number of students focussed on the fact that DJ Smash was talented, which of course, would not be a valid reason for his parents' disappointment. Many more gathered that there had been a problem with his attitude to school but did not understand that it was that he failed to finish. Precision was required here.

Q9(d) Some students misunderstood here, suggesting that D J Smash was received with enthusiasm at first. Others suggested that it was the audience that was cold, rather than their reaction to the music. "Cool", an ambiguous word, also caused problems. There was a feeling amongst some that DJ Smash was cool. Only the best students understood the reaction to be cold, or, perhaps even better in this context, "negative".

Q9(e) Many students answered that DJ Smash worked in a café but significantly fewer were able to be as precise as the question required by recognising the word "официант".

Q9(f) A pleasing number of students were able to recognise "Европа" as the key to this answer and many were able to supplement this with "all", "all over" or "throughout".

Q9(g) Quite a few students managed to score all three points here. There were few who wrote nothing. A few paid no attention to the text and wrote about DJ Smash's talent. Some missed the fact that we were looking for **free** concerts in Q9(g) (ii) and some answered this question with "charity concerts" which was not rewarded with a mark. Some, in Q9(g) (iii), missed the idea of D J Smash being a good or nice person and focused on his prowess in music. This part of the question required students to sift information and find the relevant material and proved effective to this end.

Some general observations

- Students will not gain any credit for writing in Russian if the rubric specifies English.
- Students should be encouraged to attempt all questions. Again, a small number of students ruled themselves out of gaining marks on some questions by not even attempting multiple choice or similar questions.
- Students should read the questions (particularly on Q9) carefully.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

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