

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback Summer 2010

GCSE

GCSE Russian (5RU02)
Unit 2: Speaking in Russian

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Summer 2010

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A large proportion of entries this summer were native or semi-native speakers, although examiners were pleased to see some good performances from learner candidates as well.

By far the most popular choice of task for the first section of the examination was the presentation with follow-up questions. Many candidates had prepared this very effectively and were able to deliver interesting presentations on a range of topics; 'My Favourite Hobby' was a popular choice under the topic area of *Sport, Leisure and Work*. Other presentation topics included 'My Recent Holiday to....' and presentations on sporting heroes or celebrities. Only a small number of candidates chose to undertake a picture-based discussion for the first task.

While a number of good performances on this component were seen this year, many centres were not clear about the administrative arrangements for the new examination and a number were also unaware of the changes in both format and content. Centres are asked particularly to bear the following points in mind:

- Candidates giving a presentation as part of the first task should speak for 1-2 minutes. Presentations lasting longer than 2 minutes will not advantage the candidate and may disadvantage him/her by reducing the time available for follow-up questions.
- For candidates choosing a picture-based discussion for the first task, centres must send a copy of the picture used when submitting their recordings.
- While the choice of theme for task 1 is the candidate's, the chosen theme must, nonetheless, fall within one of the two prescribed topic areas: *Media, Travel and Culture* or *Sport, Leisure and Work*. Centres should note that the topic areas and suggested questions for some of the topics on the legacy examination do not readily fit into the new topic areas.
- While it is perfectly acceptable for both tasks to be based on the same general topic area, Teacher Examiners should ensure that the focus of each task is different, as credit will not be given for repeated material.
- The total time for the test must be 8 - 10 minutes, with the time divided equally between the two tasks. Excessively short or long tests are likely to disadvantage the candidate.
- Teacher Examiners should make it clear where one task ends and the next begins and should aim to use complex question forms and to elicit a range of tenses on each task.
- Some centres conducted the new examination following the format of the legacy examination. This is likely to disadvantage the candidate and centres are encouraged to ensure that Teacher Examiners are familiar with the requirements of the examination as set out in the *Specification and Instructions for the Conduct of the Examinations*.
- Centres are reminded that a Mark Record Sheet, with section A completed, should accompany each candidate's recording. Centres are encouraged to submit their recordings in mp3 format, either on CD or memory stick. Where centres still wish to submit their recordings on cassette, these should be correctly labelled and rewound to the beginning of side A.

Grade Boundaries

Grade	Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Raw mark boundary	50	42	36	30	25	21	17	13	9	0
Uniform mark scale boundary	80	72	64	56	48	40	32	24	16	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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