

Examiners' Report/  
Principal Examiner Feedback

June 2011

GCSE Russian (5RU03) Paper 1

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This was the first examination with the new specification to be taken by a full candidature and the majority of candidates coped well.

Questions 1, 2, 3 and 4 posed no major problems. The majority gained full or nearly full marks.

Question 5 proved to be challenging for all but the most able. Candidates were required to answer in English questions demanding understanding of the gist of the passage and be able to extract meaning and inference from language which may not always be familiar.

5(a) and (b) were mostly well done, but candidates need to be reminded to read the question carefully and answer clearly. TWO items of information were required for each question.

In 5(c) **элегантно** drew mixed responses. Many clearly recognised it as a cognate, others either did not recognise it or did not know the word in English. Many answers were inventive 'she did not want to look old-fashioned' 'she does not want to look chavvy'. 5(d) and (e) posed few problems, but it was surprising that many candidates for 5(f) did not know **цена** giving 'scene', 'time', 'era' or 'colour'. It was pleasing that most candidates attempted all the questions, but disappointing that some lost marks through poor handwriting or by writing answers in Russian, which gained no marks at all.

For this question candidates should be encouraged to write clearly and accurately, answering the question fully, (but not necessarily in full sentences). It can be helpful to check the mark allocation for each question.

Question 6 was a familiar question type which posed few problems except for the weakest.

Question 7 proved a good test for the middle range of candidates, where they had to read a text containing possibly unfamiliar language and extract the main points accurately.

Question 8 posed no problems for the vast majority of candidates.

Question 9, although requiring answers in Russian, posed few problems for the most able and it was encouraging that some of the apparently weaker candidates managed to gain a few marks too.

Candidates should be encouraged to read the questions carefully, answer accurately using legible handwriting in the appropriate language. However, overall the results were pleasing indicating that the majority of candidates had been well prepared.

## **Grade Boundaries**

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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