

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2013

GCSE Russian (5RU03)
Paper 1 Reading and Understanding in
Russian

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GCSE Russian
Unit 3 Reading and Understanding in Russian
Examiner Report

In general there was a pleasing response with the majority of students showing that they were well prepared for this paper.

Q1 proved accessible to the vast majority of students.

Q2 was accessible to the majority of students, although it was surprising that a significant number did not know **в квартире**, guessing **in the town, in Russia** or other feasible locations. Q2(iv) caused some problems with several students unaware of **на фабрике**, tending to answer fabric.

Q3 was accessible to the majority of students, with the best identifying the main points accurately.

Q4 proved accessible to all but the weakest students.

Q5, Q6 and Q7 were accessible to the majority of students.

Q8 was aimed at the most able students and the majority of those coped well, which was pleasing.

Q9 proved to be one of the most testing questions, requiring students to understand some unfamiliar language, draw conclusions and infer meaning.

Q9(a) was accessible to most students at this level. However, a precise answer was required and **at work** was not accepted. The best students gave a full answer such as **at business meetings**, although **in the office** was accepted. Many students did not understand **деловые**, guessing important.

Q9(b) was generally answered well, although a surprising majority of students answered **bright** or **colourful** instead of **light**. This could have been a direct translation from the Russian by native speakers or confusion with **цвет**. There were some wild guesses such as **short suits** and **suits without trousers** which gained no marks.

Q9(c) caused some difficulty. The majority answered **skirts and shorts**; others misunderstood the question, thinking **summer dress** meant an individual garment. They then described its length, comfort etc, gaining no marks. Others guessed, but gained no marks for **when it is hot, men feel it more** or **because girls are girls**.

Q9(d) differentiated well between the good and the very best students. To gain both marks they had to understand the contrast between women making a choice/thinking about what to wear and men having an easier choice. The most able students answered well, but many others displayed gender stereotypes, writing that female workers should always look good, pretty or took a long time to get ready. Some made the mistake of writing that women need to wear something new or different every day. This was not in the text. Some students

were very imaginative, but gained no marks for answers like **women's outfits are a pain to put on, female workers are skinnier, women need to look good, men do not.**

Q9(e) caused very few problems even for the weaker students

Q9(f) differentiated well with the most able gaining both marks and understanding the detail of WANTING **to wear what he wants** and HAVING (должен) **to wear a uniform.** The weaker students invented answers describing a typical electrician's outfit or made up answers around the word uniform.

Q9(g) did not cause many problems. The majority of students gained the mark without any difficulty, answering that **work was more important than clothes** or that **the question was not important.** There were very few guesses, but **work is easier without clothes** gained no marks.

On the whole questions were well answered. There is still a minority of native speaking Russian students who answer in Russian and therefore gain no marks. Unfortunately, many answers were written in poor English or in poor handwriting. Students should be encouraged to write clearly and accurately and to read the question carefully. Several lost marks, especially on question c, because they misunderstood the question.

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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