

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2014

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
in Russian (5RU01/01)
Paper 1: Listening and Understanding
in Russian

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GCSE Russian
Unit 1 Listening and Understanding in Russian
Examiner Report

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

Question 1

The majority of candidates were able to tackle this question confidently, and almost all scored full marks.

Question 2

This was generally well answered although some candidates were unable to identify Scotland as where Jim lived.

Question 3

This was accessible to the majority of candidates, who seemed to be well drilled in "free time" vocabulary.

Question 4

Candidates answered this question well, although a number failed to recognise спина and таблетки as keys to the correct answer in part (ii).

Question 5

Part (v) proved the most challenging part of this question, indicating some candidates were not confident with expressions of weather.

Question 6

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

Question 7

Most candidates coped well with parts (i) and (ii) but failed to recognise 160 as the correct number for part (iii). Гид and номер were not universally recognised in spite of the mention of душ to support the latter.

Question 8

This question was aimed at the most able candidates - b and g proved the most challenging for candidates to choose correctly.

Question 9

a) There was some confusion over numbers here. Some candidates heard, it would seem, only the first part of the first figure двадцать and missed the second part пять. Not all were aware that this figure was a percentage. The word ninety (девяносто) was known by most candidates, but not all. Candidates should be encouraged to take considered, educated guesses where they are not entirely sure of an answer, rather than wild guesses - suggestions of people living to 200 or even 900 were wasted. Some figures were unclear and candidates should be reminded of the need to present their work legibly at all times. Sadly some candidates did not read the question carefully and failed to offer a statistic at all.

b) A large number of candidates were able to pick out по телевизору from the longer text.

c) A surprising number of candidates failed to register the cognate эксперты to answer this correctly.

d) "Yoga" and "aerobics" were popular responses to this question - some candidates picked out "музыку" and wrongly assumed the pensioners listened to music.

e) Most, but not all candidates were able to convey the idea that Alla had difficulty walking; a few thought that not working was the problem. Accuracy was required here. She could walk, but only with difficulty. Most were able to answer the second part of the question successfully. Quite a few candidates, often those supplying irrelevant information, wrote in and outside the space provided although it is clearly stated under the instructions that only the space provided should be used. It was encouraging to see that only a few wrote no answer at all. A surprising number of candidates heard the word легче and assumed the answer had something to do with attending a lecture.

f) A pleasing number of candidates were able to recognise were able to recognise the number here.

g) There were many who wrote "good humour" as opposed to "a good sense of humour" which was not accepted as this has a different meaning. Relatively few candidates offered "fresh air" as part of their answer, with "family". Sadly, some candidates only supplied one factor, and a few wrote the answer, or at least part of it, in Russian.

Some 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.

Grade Boundaries

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

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