



# Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE  
In Russian (1RU0)

Paper 1F: Listening and Understanding in  
Russian

## **Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications**

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications are awarded by Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at [www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com) or [www.btec.co.uk](http://www.btec.co.uk). Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at [www.edexcel.com/contactus](http://www.edexcel.com/contactus).

## **Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere**

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: [www.pearson.com/uk](http://www.pearson.com/uk)

Summer 2025

Publications Code 1RU0\_1F\_2506\_ER

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd 2025

## **Introduction**

This Foundation Tier examination is made up of 14 questions with a total of 50 marks. The exam is 30 minutes long with 5 minutes reading time. The paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all themes and topics covered in this qualification specification.

Candidates are assessed on their understanding of standard spoken Russian by one or more speakers in a range of public and social settings. Candidates will respond to multiple choice response and open response questions based on a recording featuring Russian speakers.

The paper is divided into two sections, A and B. Section A consists of 12 questions, all set in English and candidates in this section are required to respond in English. Section B consists of two questions with instructions and texts set in Russian. Candidates in this section are required to respond in the target language.

The paper is based on five themes as per first teaching 2017 specification:

- 1) Identity and culture
- 2) Local area, holiday, travel
- 3) School
- 4) Future aspirations, study and work
- 5) International and global dimension.

All themes and related topics must be studied in the context of both the students' home country and that of countries and communities where Russian is spoken. The vocabulary list must be studied extensively to enable candidates to understand and express themselves with themes, reading and listening to authentic material. Teachers should present and exploit a range of vocabulary relevant to the themes and topics in the specification. This Foundation Tier paper targets grades 1 to 5: - questions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 target lower grades 1-3, - questions 6, 7 and 8 target the mid-grade 3 - questions 9 to 14 target the higher grades 4 and 5. Questions 9, 11, 13 and 14 are crossover questions with the Higher Tier question paper.

### **Question 1**

A straightforward multiple-choice question, testing single vocabulary items on jobs. Well answered responses.

### **Question 2**

A second multiple choice question, on the topic of personal appearances and descriptions. Well answered responses.

### **Question 3**

Multiple choice question on volunteering. This was well answered, except for a small number of responses with more than three boxes crossed and so lost marks as a result (one mark lost for each additional box crossed).

### **Question 4**

Similar to question 3, this time on the topic of charities. Largely well answered responses.

### **Question 5**

This was the first open-response question and aimed at grades 1-3. Candidates were asked to listen to someone talking about their geography lessons. The answers were unambiguous, and candidates generally did well on this question. A few responses wrote 'good/interesting' instead of 'positive' for question d); the mark was not awarded as candidates were expected to recognise позитивный.

### **Question 6**

A gap-fill question, with a bank of words to choose from. Most candidates understood what they had to do in this question. However, a small number wrote answers in their own words, such as 'not a problem' or 'no trouble' and as such did not gain the mark. It would be useful for candidates to practice this style of question and reminded that they must use the phrases in the box.

### **Question 7**

Multiple choice question aimed at mid-Grade 3 level on the topic of hotels. Most candidates answered this well.

### **Question 8**

An open-response question aimed at Grade 3. Some candidates did not get the mark for part a) because they answered 'film' instead of 'series' or 'TV'. Candidates should be reminded about being as precise as they can in their answers. For part b) the correct answer was 'gymnastics' (на гимнастику) not going to the gym (в спортзал). The difference is quite distinct but if candidates omitted the article (going to gym), it was allowed for one mark. For part c) rain or weather, generally this was well-answered, although some candidates who did not know дождь attempted a guess (e.g. church).

### **Question 9**

This was a cross-over question with the Higher paper, aimed at Grade 4 level. Candidates were asked to listen to a text on school and select the correct multiple-choice answer by crossing a box. This question was generally well answered except for part iii) which caused difficulty for some candidates, requiring a more overall understanding of the text, rather than a single vocabulary item.

### **Question 10**

This was an open-response question aimed at Grade 4 level. Most candidates scored a mark for answering 'August' in part a). Many wrote a specific date in August but they were not penalised if they got this wrong as long as they got the month correct. Part b) was straightforward and mostly well-answered. There were a range of answers for part c) but anything conveying the idea that they did not have to pay was fine. Part d) was more challenging for some candidates, as a number focused on who they went with or when, rather than the location. A few candidates were unfamiliar with the words пляж or экран and therefore made guesses such as 'in the town'.

### **Question 11**

This was a cross-over question with the Higher paper, targeted at Grade 5. Students were asked to listen to a text about a day out and answer multiple choice questions by crossing a box. Most responses were successful with many gaining full marks for choosing the correct three answers.

### **Question 12**

This was an open response question and, as such, candidates offered a range of responses. Part a) was generally well-answered, with most responses understanding that they wanted to work in tourism.

Part b) was a little more mixed: a significant number of responses answered 'go to university' but with no mention of studying languages, which was key to their choice of career, and therefore did not score the point.

Part c) caused the most difficulties: a number of responses simply wrote 'no stress' without linking it to exams so did not gain that mark. There was also the requirement to mention that they could earn money as the second benefit so if there was just 'get a job' mentioned this did not gain a mark.

Candidates are advised to read the questions carefully and to answer what is asked, as many did not notice the 'not' in bold and answered the opposite, i.e. lots of stress.

### Question 13

Students were asked to listen to a text about a new restaurant and to fill the gaps with the correct Russian word chosen from the box. There were several opposite pairs of words in the box to choose from.

- a) most responses answered this correctly. Some wrote the adjective французский as used in the recording but, as this was not an option in the box, and did not complete the sentence correctly, this was disallowed.
- b) most responses answered this correctly and, of those that did not, many identified that a time phrase was required but picked the wrong one, ie утром
- c) again of those that got this wrong, many chose открыт, indicating some level of understanding of what was needed here.
- d) generally well-answered
- e) as above, many of those that answered incorrectly chose дорого so they clearly understood the question but may have misunderstood the recording.

### Question 14

Students were asked to listen to a text about first jobs and select one of four names to complete the sentences. This was generally well-answered, with most responses correctly transcribing the names in Russian. Only a few translated the names into English, and therefore gained no points and candidates are reminded to double check which language is required, and to look at the example if they are still unsure.

### Summary

- Candidates had been well-prepared and coped well with some difficult vocabulary and syntax, as well as showing a good understanding of how to approach the different styles of questions.
- Fewer candidates are using the incorrect language to answer questions but there are still some occasions when marks are lost because answers are in the wrong language. Students are advised to check on the front of the paper, at the top of the question, or the example if unsure of which language to use.
- In some cases, the quality of English made it difficult to award a mark. Heritage learners should be reminded that around 80% of this paper requires answers in English.
- For open response questions, particularly those at the more challenging level (10 and 12), candidates must be aware of the need for precision and clarity in their answers.
- Candidates should ensure that they do not tick more boxes than required in the multiple-choice questions as they will lose marks for additional boxes ticked.
- Students should remember to write neatly and clearly. Marks cannot be awarded for illegible answers.
- Where students provide multiple answers to a question, only their first response is credited.

