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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Russian (1RU0)

Paper 3H: Reading and Understanding in Russian

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Overview

This paper was worth 50 marks and was divided into 3 sections. Section A was worth 28 marks and required answers in English. Section B was worth 15 marks and required answers in Russian. Section C was worth 7 marks and was the translation into English. Students had 1 hour and 5 minutes to complete the paper.

Question 1.

Students were asked to read a text about a new theatre and answer questions in English.

Part a) was answered well by most candidates, with the majority able to identify one of the comparatives.

Part b) was answered well by most candidates. Candidates on the whole were able to identify one of the two types of performances. Some candidates answered with 'music' or 'dance' shows, which was not specific enough to achieve the mark.

Part c) was answered well by most candidates. Some candidates failed to find a suitable way of expressing *касса* in English, but answers which suggested that tickets should be bought from the theatre were accepted. Other common errors were 'buy from tour agencies' or 'buy on the internet'.

Question 2.

Students were asked to read a short literary text and answer four questions in English.

a) most candidates answered correctly. Some unsuccessful candidates mentioned that the author eats fruit or drinks kefir, which didn't answer the question.

b) most candidates answered this part of the question correctly. Some candidates translated 'по утрам' with 'in the evenings'. Others had misread the question and wrote 'why' the author did sport.

c) was again successfully answered by most candidates, with most identifying 'бассейн' if they didn't understand 'купаться'.

d) this part of the question was answered well by most candidates. 'Clothes' was frequently misspelled, and in some cases the spelling was too inaccurate to be credited.

Question 3.

Students were asked to read a text on school clubs and answer questions in English. With examples of higher-tier vocabulary, the emphasis of the question was on inferring the correct answer, rather than translating each word. Vocabulary used which does not appear in the specification was provided in a glossary. Marks were occasionally missed through misreading of the questions.

a) most candidates were successful and understood that the question related to Vasya. Some candidates mentioned that he 'wanted to learn the trombone' without any further details about why he didn't take part in school clubs and therefore did not get the mark.

b) most candidate answered this part of the question successfully, although some thought that Ira wanted to 'be with her friends' rather than suggesting that clubs are good for 'making new friends'.

- c) Some candidates were unable to understand 'чемпионат', with some transliterating the Russian word. Some candidates failed to notice the future tense and suggested that she had already won the championship.
- d) some candidates found this part of the question challenging, as they did not recognise 'хор' or know how to translate it into English.
- e) most candidates answered this part of the question correctly, although some failed to understand the general context and concluded that he attended a school club because he wanted to take part in the new year show.

Question 4.

Students were asked to read a literary text and answer multiple choice questions by crossing a box.

All parts of the question were answered well by most candidates.

Question 5.

Students were asked to read an article about work experience.

- a) – d) required a name from a given list.
- e) and f) required fuller answers in English.

A small minority of candidates answered parts (a) to (d) in Cyrillic script and therefore could not gain the marks for this section. Parts (a), (b) and (d) required candidates to interpret the context rather than look for individual vocabulary items. Despite this, many candidates gave successful responses to these questions. Questions e) and f) required fuller answers and were therefore more challenging.

For question e) most candidates identified команда and used good inferencing skills to come up with the correct response. Some candidates mistook с другими with с друзьями and therefore were unable to achieve the mark.

For question f) some responses did not give enough detail, with responses such as 'they didn't like it' not accepted. Despite the title of the question, several candidates were unsure what 'трудовая практика' was, with some thinking it was 'difficult work'.

Question 6.

Students were asked to read an article on holiday habits and in part (i) tick 3 correct statements from a list. In parts (ii) and (iii) students had to answer questions in English. Vocabulary used which does not appear in the specification was provided in a glossary.

ii) Most candidates managed to respond with one of the possible answers to this question. Some candidates did not fully understand the text and assumed that tour agencies provided the most reasonably priced holidays. Several responses were also not expressed clearly in English and were therefore unable to achieve a mark.

iii) Most candidates managed to respond with one of the possible answers to this question. Some candidates made assumptions based on what they had read which were not explicitly true, such as 'there are more destinations.'

Others mentioned that holiday makers liked European culture and food, although this is not what the 'experts' suggest, as required by the question.

Question 7.

Students were asked to read a blog about a foreign language school and answer multiple choice questions by crossing a box. Most students were successful with many gaining full marks for parts (i), (ii), (iii) and (v).

Question 8.

Students had to read a text about opinions on environmental issues and identify who thought what, using the names given in the rubric.

This question was answered well by most candidates, although part (e) was occasionally answered incorrectly. Some candidates answered this question using Latin script and should be reminded to answer in Russian to avoid being penalised.

Question 9.

Students were asked to read a website about online lessons during the pandemic and answer questions in Russian. This question was challenging, but several students were successful in their answers. Students at this level are expected not only to understand the language, but also to infer meaning from a text containing words which may not necessarily be familiar. Recognition of question words often gave candidates a greater chance of accessing the correct answers. In this series, any vocabulary used beyond the published lists in the specification was provided in a glossary.

a) most candidates gave a correct answer, although some candidates lifted об этих уроках from the text, which didn't provide enough information to gain a mark.

b) most candidates were able to give one of the acceptable answers to this part of the question. 'Большинство' was not recognised by some candidates. Others frequently did not always supply sufficient information, with answers such as 'им не понравилось' when it was not clear what they didn't like.

c) was answered well by most candidates. Some candidates managed to achieve a mark by lifting the correct segment of text. Others lifted too much and forgot to change their response from first to third person.

d) was answered successfully by most candidates. It was also pleasing to see that many candidates gave responses using their own words, e.g. 'она не любит работать в большой группе'.

e) most candidates were able to respond appropriately. Some candidates failed to identify 'чаще всего' and therefore failed to mention the most serious problem, as required by the question.

Question 10.

Students were asked to translate a passage of 4 sentences of varying length and difficulty into English.

Many candidates scored at least 4 marks out of 7 with some achieving full marks. It should be noted that minor spelling or syntactical errors did not prevent this as long as the meaning was fully conveyed and communicated

clearly in English. Some non-learner or heritage students had some difficulty expressing themselves clearly in idiomatic English, with frequent errors in verb forms. Some candidates also offered a summary rather than a translation.

Candidates must be careful not to omit words - 'для них' and 'всегда' were often omitted in responses. Some candidates had difficulty with topic-specific vocabulary from the specification and often failed to translate vocabulary items such as 'праздник' correctly. Several candidates incorrectly translated 'о прошлом' into 'about the future', and some were unable to identify 'днём'.

Summary.

- Students will be expected to use the new skills of inference and interpretation of written Russian.
- In the translation question full marks can be gained despite minor errors, as long as the meaning of the passage is conveyed clearly.
- Students are advised to read the questions carefully, paying particular attention to which question word is used (in both Russian and English).
- Students should remember to write neatly and clearly. Marks cannot be awarded for illegible answers.
- Students should be careful to respond in the appropriate language. No marks are given for answers in Russian where English is required or vice versa.
- Where students provide multiple answers to a question, only their first response is credited.
- Vocabulary which does not appear in the specification has been glossed for this series.