



Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2025

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 town in Latvia and answer questions in English.

Part a) was answered well by most candidates, with most able to identify either 'недалеко от столицы' or 'на берегу (Балтийского) моря'. Some candidates thought that 'столица' was the 'centre'.

Part b) was answered well by most candidates. Some candidates missed 'especially like' in the question and mentioned the events rather than the beaches or clean air.

Part c) most candidates were able to identify 'вокзал', although some mistook this for an underground station, or suggested that you would find information 'on the train' rather than at the station.

Question 2

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

a) most candidates answered correctly and were able to identify either студенты or учителя in the text.

b) most candidates managed to identify 'рубашка', although some incorrectly translated this as t-shirt.

c) most candidates were able to identify that Fyodor was upset about exam results. Some candidates incorrectly inferred that Fyodor was sitting the test rather than his students.

d) most candidates were able to identify either вкусный or весёлый, although 'funny' wasn't accepted as a response.

Question 3

Students were asked to read a text on a school exchange 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. Marks were occasionally missed through misreading of the questions.

a) most candidates were successful and understood that the family helped him to learn the language. Some candidates mentioned simply that the family was friendly which didn't explain 'how' they were helpful.

b) most candidates identified культура and were able to use an appropriate verb to give the correct answer.

c) most candidates recognised обед, but some didn't recognise бесплатный and so gave answers such as 'the lunches were tasty'. Some candidates confused ученики and учителя and suggested that teachers got free lunches rather than the pupils.

d) it was pleasing to see that most candidates were able to correctly identify that there was less stress in Estonian schools. Some candidates confused меньше and больше and suggested that there was more stress in Estonian schools.

e) not all candidates recognised обязательный, and some candidates were not able to express this well enough in English. Some candidates also suggested that Max wasn't good at maths, although this is not mentioned in the text.

Question 4

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

Most parts of the question were answered well by most candidates. Question 4(v) was the most challenging part of the question, with some candidates opting for option 'B – get angry' rather than 'C – stay calm'.

Question 5

Students were asked to read people's opinions on holidays.

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 were able to identify that there were no Russian channels. Some candidates answered 'there were no programmes on Russian' which created ambiguity with their answer.

For question f) most candidates were able to identify оптимист, although some did not realise that the term 'optimist' also exists in English and so found other ways to express the answer.

Question 6

Students were asked to read an article on air pollution in Moscow 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 were able to identify one of the main reasons for traffic in Moscow. Some responses suggested that 'nobody uses public transport' or that 'transport was not good' which is not explicitly said in the text. Other candidates mentioned the morning commute, which is only when the problem is at its worst. Some answers such as 'people drive cars' were not developed sufficiently.

iii) Some responses were not specific enough to achieve a mark for this question. Some candidates wrote 'people use transport there' or 'it's an example of transport'. Candidates were expected to show that they understood that more people were using public transport in Germany or that it was a successful example of how people use public transport.

Question 7

Students were asked to read an email about a festival and answer multiple choice questions by crossing a box. Most students were successful with many gaining full marks for parts (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv).

Question 8

Students had to read a text about opinions on work 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 a singer 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.

- a) most candidates gave a correct answer, although some candidates lifted наша семья from the text, which rendered the answer incorrect. Others lifted 'двоюродная сестра' which was an incorrect answer.
- b) most candidates were able to give the correct answer. Some candidates responded simply with 'старший брат' which did not provide enough detail.
- c) was answered well by most candidates. Candidates should be reminded that they are able to use the vocabulary from the text in their responses. Some candidates chose to answer using their own words, and in some cases the response was not clearly describing Kira's height.
- d) was answered successfully by most candidates. Some candidates misunderstood the text and answered 'она играла в школьной команде.'
- e) most candidates were able to respond appropriately. Some candidates incorrectly answered 'как поэзия', which did not answer the question 'О чём песни?'

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 summarised parts of the translation which often resulted in missing words.

Candidates must be careful not to omit words - 'слишком' was often omitted in responses. Some words provided more challenging for candidates, such as 'способны' and 'общаться'. There was also confusion with some items of vocabulary, 'экран' was sometimes confused with 'экзамен', and 'другой' was often confused with 'друг'. It was pleasing to see that some candidates used inferencing skills when they didn't recognise a word.

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.

