

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2015

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
in English as a Second Language
(4ES0/02)
Paper 2: Listening

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International GCSE English as a Second Language Paper 2 Listening Examiner Report

Background to the paper

The listening paper is divided into three sections. In this session, the first part was a monologue by a principal of a school who talked about the arrangements for moving to new school buildings. Candidates were required to complete notes based on the information provided. In the second part, candidates listened to two friends discussing their next holiday. Candidates were required to answer five multiple choice questions and complete five sentences based on what they heard. In the third part, candidates listened to an extract from a radio programme where the presenter talked about the farms of future. They were required to complete summary sentences based on what they heard.

Generally candidates did well or very well on this paper, although each section of the paper presented challenges for the candidates.

There were two types of questions on this paper: multiple choice and text completion. Both types were well attempted, although not all candidates adhered to the word limit given in the rubric.

Multiple choice

Candidates followed the instructions given in the rubric for this type of question.

Text completion

Two issues arose out of this question type which requires candidates to provide the word or words for the answers themselves.

Spelling

This proved to be a problem for some candidates. The general rule applied during the marking was that if the answer affected communication, candidates were not awarded a mark. Candidates were not penalised for misspelling a word if it sounded like the target word. For example, Q28 (answer glass) a spelling such as "glas" was accepted. However, if the word sounded like a different word or was a different word e.g. gloss, candidates were not awarded a mark.

Grammar

In a few questions, e.g. Q20 (ornaments), candidates were required to complete a sentence using the correct grammatical form. Although these forms were given in the recording, some candidates made errors in their answers. In this instance, if a candidate wrote 'ornament', this answer was marked as incorrect.

Comments on sections of the paper

This year candidates found Part 2 to be the easiest section in the examination; they found Part 3 to be the most demanding.

Part 1

Part 1 required candidates to listen for specific information such as high-frequency vocabulary items. Generally candidates performed well although there were a number of questions which required more careful listening e.g. Q2 and Q5.

Part 2

This section required candidates to answer five multiple choice questions and five questions about the conversation they heard. Generally, candidates performed well in this part, particularly on the multiple choice questions. There were also questions in this section which required more careful listening e.g. Q16 and Q17.

Part 3

This section required candidates to complete sentences by providing the correct word or words (a maximum of three in this instance). Generally, candidates found this section the most demanding and a number of them did not adhere to the word limit. It is important for candidates to follow the instructions given in the rubric as they were not awarded a mark if they did not. Questions which required the correct grammatical fit (Q22 and Q26) were found to be more challenging for candidates.

Advice to centres

It is recommended that candidates listen to a wide range of different types of texts such as current affairs, TV and radio programmes in order to familiarise themselves with a wide range of topics.

Centres should prepare candidates for the listening examination by familiarising them with the style of the test and with the types of questions they can expect to find on the paper.

Candidates should make good use of the time before the tape is played to predict possible answers and consider the context when providing their answers.

Candidates should be advised to follow the instructions in the rubric when answering the questions and to adhere strictly to the word limit.

Candidates should consider the grammatical fit of their answers in sentence completion questions.

Candidates should consider the spelling of words when providing their answers.

Grade Boundaries

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

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