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Examiners' Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Russian (1RU0)

Paper 3F: Reading and Understanding in Russian

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## Overview

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

### Question 1.

Students were asked to read short texts identify who said what about holiday habits, using the names given.

The majority of students coped very well with this question, with many gaining full marks. However, some candidates answered in Cyrillic and therefore could not access the marks for this question.

### Question 2.

Students had to read a blog and complete 5 sentences in English using the vocabulary given in a box. Again, the majority of the students did well. The most frequently correct answers were a), b), c). Some candidates did not identify «журналы» answering 'books' for d). Some candidates did not follow the instructions on the task and chose responses which were not from the vocabulary box provided.

### Question 3.

Students were asked to read a text and answer questions in English. The question was in two parts. Part a) had 3 questions about where Sasha lives, part b) had two further questions on where he wants to live in the future.

Part a)

(i) many candidates misunderstood «восток» and usually answered with an incorrect compass point.

(ii) Most students were successful here and identified one of the three activities given. Some made their own assumptions from this and gave answers such as 'goes fishing' or 'plays football', which could not be credited.

(iii) Very few students were unsuccessful with almost all understanding one of the two possible answers.

Part b)

(i) Most candidates recognised either «магазин» or «ресторан» and therefore could infer the correct answer. Marks were also awarded for candidates who mentioned that he wanted to live in a 'big' town.

(ii) Most candidates were successful, although some thought he would find living **with** his parents difficult.

#### **Question 4.**

Students were asked to read an extract from a literary text and answer multiple choice questions in English.

#### **Question 5.**

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) Several candidates failed to recognise or 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 6.**

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 7.**

Students were asked to read a text in Russian and then complete sentences in Russian using words from the box.

Some candidates found this question challenging and frequently chose words which would not make sense grammatically. Some students did not use the words in the box and unfortunately gained no marks.

### **Question 8.**

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 9.**

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 10.**

In this question, candidates were asked to translate a short passage containing 4 sentences of varying difficulty into English. It was surprising that some students did not identify the adjective 'современная'. Many candidates also incorrectly translated 'умный' and talked about his teaching being 'nice' or 'understanding'.

### **Summary and advice.**

- Students should be aware of the need for careful reading of Russian texts and questions both in Russian and English and for the need for accurate answers.
- Students should read the question words (eg *who, what, where* or *когда, куда, где etc*) carefully in order to answer correctly.
- The question title can provide a clue for students eg *School Exchange* or *Иностранные языки*.
- Students should write answers in the appropriate language/script. No marks can be awarded for answers in the wrong language.
- Students should write clearly in both scripts. Any errors made should be crossed through and rewritten.