



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2018

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In English as a Second Language
(4ES0 02)
Paper 02

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Background to the paper

The listening paper is divided into three sections. In this session, the first part was a monologue in which a teacher talked about the arrangements for the school's activities week. Candidates were required to complete notes based on the information provided. In the second part, candidates listened to an interview with a journalist. Candidates were required to answer questions based on what they heard. In the third part, candidates listened to an extract from a radio programme where the presenter talked about the colour indigo. They were required to complete summary sentences based on what they heard.

Candidate's responses

Generally, candidates did well, although some found the paper quite challenging overall. Each part of the paper presented challenges for candidates.

Detailed comments

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

Text completion and short answer questions

One issue arose out of both question types which require candidates to provide the word or words for the answers themselves.

Spelling

This proved to be a problem for many 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, Q2 (answer sailing (course)) a spelling such as "sayling" was accepted. However, if the word sounded like a different word or was a different word e.g. "selling", candidates were not awarded a mark.

Text completion

A further issue arose out of this type of question.

Grammar

In a few questions, e.g. Q27 (military uniforms), 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 "military uniform", this answer was marked as incorrect.

Comments on sections of the paper

This year candidates found Part 1 to be slightly easier than the other sections. Part 2 and Part 3 were of equal level of difficulty.

Part 1

Part 1 required candidates to listen for specific information such as numbers or high-frequency vocabulary items. Generally, candidates performed well in this part. However, there were also a number of questions which required more careful listening e.g. Q6 and Q8.

Part 2

This section required candidates to answer questions about the conversation they heard. Generally, candidates performed quite well in this part. However, a number of candidates did not adhere to the word limit (three words maximum in this instance). It is important for candidates to follow these instructions as they were not awarded a mark if they did not. There were a number of questions in this part which required more careful listening e.g. Q16 and Q18.

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 performed quite well in this part. Again, a number of candidates did not adhere to the word limit. Questions which required the correct grammatical fit (Q21 and Q27) were found to be more challenging for candidates. There were also a number of questions in this part which required more careful listening e.g. Q23 and Q24.

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:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>