

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

International GCSE Modern Greek
(4MG0) Paper 01

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General Comments

The majority of candidates who sat the June 2012 examination in Modern Greek performed very well and provided competent translations, both from English into Greek and vice versa. Question 3 provoked relevant and interesting accounts and there was evidence of good language awareness, appropriate application of structures and a broad range of vocabulary. There was also a noticeable improvement regarding rubric and wordage restrictions, as the vast majority of candidates adhered to the rubric. However, a small number of candidates did not adhere to the conventions of orderly and clear presentation and produced essays which were not legible. There were some essays that were lengthier than necessary and candidates are reminded to follow rubric instructions. Exceeding the prescribed word limit is a rubric infringement and content produced beyond the prescribed word count will not contribute to the overall marks. Candidates are also reminded to follow the rubric, choose only one essay question and write their response in Greek.

Question 1

Many candidates gained good marks in this section. They produced competent translations, with few grammatical inaccuracies. Despite evidence of occasional errors, the translations usually read well and communicated the sense of the source text correctly. The challenges which confronted a small number of candidates were mainly restricted to a few words, amongst them some phrasal verbs (calories, consume, put on weight, comes to, end up) and did not affect the communicative efficiency of the translations seriously.

Some linguistic structures which candidates had difficulty with were those that related to the translation of the imperatives which were sometimes inconsistently translated within the same scripts, with a second person singular and a second person plural: φάε, διαλέξτε.

The phrase 'still get into our clothes' was often inaccurately rendered as «να μας φοράνε τα ρούχα μας» instead of the correct (among others) 'να μας μπαινουν τα ρούχα μας/να μας χωράνε τα ρούχα μας'.

Questions 2a and 2b

Many answers showed evidence of fluency and satisfactory awareness of grammar and syntax. Many responses to questions 2(a) and 2 (b) showed fluent command of vocabulary and idiom, good language awareness and consistently good application of the grammatical system.

With regard to syntax, vocabulary and structures, the following items posed candidates with a few issues:

- A number of candidates were challenged by words such as 'ιστοσελίδα', 'μαζεύονται', 'σημειώσεις', 'έρευνα' and 'εφηβεία', in 2(a). A few candidates managed to convey communication efficiently by using periphrasis. However, the following words caused some

difficulties: 'webpage', 'gather' 'notes', 'research' and 'adolescence'. Moreover, the phrase 'που ενδιαφέρουν όλους μας' was sometimes rendered as 'who are interested in all of us'.

- Question 2(b) did not seem to contain such lexical challenges and where inability to produce an accurate translation occurred, it frequently related to the use of prepositions in the opening sentence: 'Lying **on** my towel **on** the sand, book **in** hand'. Syntactically, there were lapses when literal translations of 'Είναι που την ησυχία μου την ταραζει συνεχώς ο ήχος ενός κινητού που χτυπάει' did not take into account that English syntax does not allow for objects to appear before subjects and produced 'my peace disturbs the sound of a mobile' instead of 'my peace is disturbed/ or /the sound of a mobile disturbs'.

Certain prepositions were often used incorrectly: 'για' was translated as **for** instead of **about** in the sentence 'μιλάνε δυνατά **για** την προσωπική τους ζωή, **για** τα μυστικά τους'.

Frequent misspellings occurred in relation to the following:

- Blog (block)
- Lying (lieing)
- Towel (touel)
- Beach (bitch)
- Hobbys.

Question 3

Candidates used a wide range of vocabulary and employed complex structures and idiom in order to respond to the question. There seemed to be a preference for the topics of Friendship and Best Present, as well as for the creative topic about a surprise (3e). A small number of candidates were not able to justify their answer in 3(a) and wrote personal accounts of betrayal by a friend that did not address the question in an entirely purposeful and appropriate manner. Other cases where the question was sometimes misunderstood related to 3(e). Many candidates wrote about social issues (drugs, divorce) instead of environmental threats. Such essays failed to score many marks.

Responses to 3(c) and 3(d) and 3(e) were generally successful. However, candidates did lose a few marks when using pre-learned introductions not entirely relevant to the topic, especially when it came to 3(d) or 3(e). It must be noted that there was a noticeable pattern of candidates sticking to the prescribed word limit; this was very welcome.

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