

FOREIGN LANGUAGE JAPANESE

Paper 0519/02

Reading & Directed Writing

General comments

The standard achieved by candidates was similar to last year. Most completed all sections of the paper and some achieved good marks in all sections. Candidates were familiar with the task types and had clearly been trained to observe the rubrics, to read the questions carefully and attempt all tasks. Candidates should remember to use a black or dark blue pen, and not to use highlighter pens on the question papers. Candidates should also remember to write their answers clearly so they achieve full credit for their efforts.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Although the assessment tasks in this part of the examination are based on the Defined Content Syllabus, candidates may expect to encounter some unfamiliar vocabulary. The candidates this year appeared well prepared for this section.

Exercise 1

Most candidates received full marks in this exercise. To gain full marks, candidates need to remember to read each question carefully. A few candidates ticked the boxes instead of, as instructed, drawing circles to answer this exercise. In **Question 5** a few candidates made a mistake choosing ばいてん for りよかん, and a few candidates seemed to confuse いしや and かんごふ.

Question 1 **B**

Question 2 **A**

Question 3 **D**

Question 4 **C**

Question 5 **A**

[Total: 5]

Exercise 2

The majority of candidates gained full marks in this exercise. A small number of candidates found question 9 challenging.

Question 6 ○

Question 7 ○

Question 8 ×

Question 9 ×

Question 10 ○

[Total: 5]

Exercise 3

Candidates coped very well with this exercise, with nearly all candidates scoring all five marks. Candidates do not need to write numbers in kanji in this question. Some candidates used the wrong kanji and, unfortunately, lost marks in **Question 11**. A few candidates did not seem to understand the question **どんくらい?** (How long?) in **Question 12**. In **Question 13**, a couple of candidates did not seem to recognise the word **あさ** (morning). In **Question 14**, candidates need to write in detail about what is fun – not just write fun things.

Question 11 327,000円です。**Question 12** 11日かんです。**Question 13** えい語のべんきょうをします。**Question 14** (ごご) かんこう or かいもの or パーティーをします。1です。**Question 15** 日本語をはなします。

[Total: 5]

Exercise 4

Candidates generally performed very well, and were particularly communicative. However, some of them failed to address some questions. A lot of candidates did not manage to use an appropriate form for writing postcards. Also, candidates should be taught how to use squared writing paper – for example, not having any spaces between words.

Refer to the Mark Scheme in the syllabus booklet.

[Total: 5]

Section 2

In this part of the examination candidates are required to read a short text and write a short letter, which most candidates were able to do. In Exercise 1, overall the questions were answered very well and most candidates scored full marks on this short reading exercise. In Exercise 2, candidates attempted to address all the points required on the question paper.

Exercise 1

Candidates coped extremely well with this exercise. Responses were of a high standard and the majority of candidates achieved full, or almost full, marks. Most candidates gave complete sentences in their answers, although shorter answers (for example, appropriate words or phrases) are also accepted here. Unfortunately, several candidates wrote the wrong kanji – for example, 木よう日 for 本よう日, and consequently lost marks.

Question 17 クラシックおんがくがすきです。**Question 18** バイオリンとピアノです。**Question 19** 月よう日と水よう日と木よう日です。**Question 20** おんがくやがっきがすきなともだちにあって、とてもたのしいからです。

- Question 21** (i) きょうしつ:うるさいです。
(ii) クラブかつどう:しずかです。

Question 22 おんがくの先生になりたいです。

[Total: 10]

Exercise 2

Most candidates found the topic of this writing task very accessible and they generally scored high marks. Unfortunately, a few candidates wrote about themselves, and therefore they did not gain any points for communication. It is important for candidates to remember to address the question to be marked. However, many candidates produced a very high standard in grammar. In this exercise, candidates generally seemed to be well prepared to tackle the question.

Refer to the Mark Scheme in the syllabus booklet.

Section 3

Most candidates answered well in this section even though it is the most demanding part of this examination.

Exercise 1 Questions 24 – 32

A few candidates managed to gain full marks in this exercise, despite the challenging nature of the Extended section of the paper. Some candidates were not able to answer how long in **Question 26**. Several candidates answered in **Question 27** that it was because they played computer games, which is not the appropriate answer for this question.

Question 24 小学校2年生です。

Question 25 学校のともだちとあそびませんから。 or 学校のともだちはコンピュータをしたいですから、そとであそびません。

Question 26 十分ぐらいです。

Question 27 じてんしゃにのって こうえんへ行っていました。

Question 28 ともだちはみんなうちでコンピュータゲームをしていますから。 or はやとはコンピュータゲームをしたくありませんから。

Question 29 (i) おつさんとおかあさんがかってあげないからです。
(ii) はやとがきらいだからです。

Question 30 ともだちはコンピュータのはなしばかりしていますから。

Question 31 つりです。 or やきゅうです。 or そとであそびたいです。

Question 32 はやとはともだちとそとであそびません。それは、からだにわるいからです。

[Total: 10]

Exercise 2

This was clearly the exercise that candidates found most challenging, but, despite this, there were some very good performances, and a few candidates achieved full marks. A number of candidates received no marks for **Questions 33, 34 and 35**. In **Question 33**, a number of candidates wrote about the water being clean, which is not the expected answer; the answer is that pipes are not connected to their houses. In question 34, a lot of candidates mentioned a water pipe. However, Examiners were looking for something along the lines of how parents are busy. In **Question 35**, candidates are required to think about why it takes longer to come

back home after fetching water, and therefore, candidates had to mention the weight of answers.

Question 33 いえまで水のパイプがきていませんから。

Question 34 おとうさんとおかあさん／りょうしんはしごとでいそがしいからです。

Question 35 おもい水をもってかえますから。

Question 36 つかれたり時かんがなかつたりしますから。or いえのしごとをたくさんしなければなりませんから。

Question 37 かおをあらって目がわるくなったり、のんでおなかがいたくなったりします。

Question 38 いいくすりがありませんから。

Question 39 たくさんのおくにごくにおくります。or たくさんおくにごくにおてあらいをつくります。or 水のパイプをつくります。or 子どもたちがあんしんしてくらしします。

[Total: 10]

FOREIGN LANGUAGE JAPANESE

Paper 0519/03

Speaking

General comments

In general, the Speaking Test was conducted extremely well, with the candidates being able to show the full scope of their abilities. The good standard achieved was comparable to that of the previous year.

Comments on specific questions

Role Plays

Role play A (Birthday)

1. The majority of candidates responded accurately, but a few candidates said their real age.
2. The candidates responded very well. Some candidates tried to speak more than they were required to.
3. Some candidates were obviously not able to recognise some Kanji and therefore they found it difficult.
4. Many candidates managed to communicate using their imagination.
5. Many candidates were able to invite their friend with appropriate Japanese.

Role play A (Restaurant)

1. The majority of candidates were able to use the counter for people.
2. Some candidates did not seem to know the word for *outside*.
3. Many candidates managed to order hamburgers appropriately.
4. Some candidates mixed up the word order of adjectives and the counters.
5. The majority of candidates asked the question perfectly.

Role play A (Travelling)

1. Most candidates responded properly.
2. Many candidates were able to answer correctly.
3. Most candidates use the word for camping.
4. The majority of candidates answered appropriately.
5. A few candidates seemed to be confused about what the task was. Candidates are reminded to pay close attention to the instructions.

Role play B (Visiting a friend)

1. Candidates produced a range of acceptable answers.
2. Most candidates managed well in this section using words they were familiar with.
3. A very few candidates were not able to do this task or struggled to do it.
4. Many candidates responded with their ability in Japanese.
5. Most candidates were able to explain the situation and use permission form.

Role play B (Ordering Bento)

1. Most candidates managed to order Bento with correct numbers.
2. The majority of candidates responded properly. Some candidates used actual numbers from the pictures.
3. Some candidates struggled to complete the task
4. Many candidates seem to have practised directions well.

5. Most candidates produced their answers capably in their own words.

Role play B (Being ill)

1. The majority of candidates were able to say that they were ill.
2. Some candidates answered Yes here. A lot of them managed to explain very well.
3. Some candidates had difficulty in mentioning how long they had been ill and also they did not know the word *kusuri*.
4. Many candidates seemed to struggle to ask questions properly in this section.
5. Most candidates produced appropriate sentences.

Topic Conversation

It was pleasing to see some more ambitious prepared topics this year. However, candidates are reminded that the choice of an ambitious topic may disadvantage those who do not possess the linguistic skills and maturity of ideas to deal with it.

Examiners are reminded that candidates are expected to prepare and present a topic, following which the examiner will ask a variety of questions about the topic.

General Conversation

The General Conversation covered a very wide range of topic areas. Examiners are reminded to include questions which test the candidate's ability to use the past / future tense as well as closed / open questions in order to achieve higher marks for the candidates. Additionally, it is helpful for both the candidate and the Moderator if there is a clear distinction between the Topic and General Conversations.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE JAPANESE

Paper 0519/04
Continuous Writing

General comments

Most candidates managed to produce essays of a high standard in both **Section 1** and **2**. However, some candidates were unable to write beyond simple sentences. A number of candidates did not manage to use kanji much, which affected their marks for impression. A few candidates struggled to use appropriate particles. Overall, however, candidates coped very well.

Centres need to remember to use black or blue pens, and not to use a highlighter pen.

Candidates are expected to stay within the limits of 350 to 400 words in both essays – a number of candidates strayed considerably from these word limits this year.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

The majority of candidates succeeded in producing responses which addressed the task, although quite a few candidates attempted both questions (Going to university and Getting a job).

Some candidates produced an essay with a good range of vocabulary and a high standard of grammar for IGCSE.

Section 2

Most candidates performed better here than in the first section, particularly when describing seasons, when good attention to detail and good use of vocabulary were displayed.

Some candidates wrote the name of their own country or the town they live in wrongly. These are basic things that candidates should ensure they can write correctly.