



Written component

GENERAL COMMENTS

Students' results on the 2012 Russian written examination were impressive. Students performed strongly; they were well prepared and confident. They demonstrated good comprehension skills and were able to answer questions and fulfil the tasks quite well by identifying specific details and descriptive language.

Students should work on improving their ability to write complex sentences and structures, avoiding constructions like *мой папа старался меня как большие рас ехать в зоопарк*.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

This report provides sample answers or an indication of what the answers may have included. Unless otherwise stated, these are not intended to be exemplary or complete responses.

Section 1 – Listening and responding

Part A – Answer in English

Text 1

Most students received full marks for the questions on Text 1.

Question 1a.

Any two of

- because he knows that she makes beautiful pancakes
- Peter wants a recipe
- Peter wants to make them tonight.

Question 1b.

It can feed a family of five.

Question 1c.

Red caviar

Text 2

Question 2

Khokhloma craft	Palekh craft
Products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wooden dishes • Russian dolls 	Products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • icons • brooches • small chests • jewellery boxes
Colours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a combination of gold and black colours 	Colours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • black lacquer • a golden colour is produced from golden sheets
Drawings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fish • fire-birds • herbs • leaves • berries 	Drawings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • miniatures on Russian fairy tales

The majority of students achieved full marks for this question, although a few became confused with identifying different craft items.

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Text 3

Question 3

Positive aspects (any two)

- following in her father's footsteps (he is a military man)
- dream come true
- discipline
- order in the army
- strong character
- her husband and son are positive about her profession
- her husband teases her about her profession

Negative aspects (any two)

- sometimes she wants something quiet (library job)
- disruption of her family life
- sometimes she is fed up with her job

Most students answered this question correctly.

Text 4

Question 4

Advantages (any three)

- communication skills
- independence
- confidence
- younger siblings feel protected/older siblings look after younger ones
- older siblings teach younger ones to read and write
- children from large families are happier

Disadvantages (any three)

- lack of parental attention
- younger siblings 'inherit' used clothes from older siblings, which does not facilitate a friendly relationship between them
- there is no personal space; big families resemble communal living

Most students were able to identify advantages and disadvantages of a big family.

Part B – Answer in Russian

Text 5

Question 5

Most students received high marks for this question. They were able to outline the differences between Russian and Australian schools.

Russia	Australia
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• school marks 1–5• exams from primary school• university entrance exams• compulsory subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• school marks A–E• exams in high school only• no university entrance exams (VCE)• limited compulsory subjects

Text 6

Students demonstrated knowledge of a wide range of vocabulary which helped them to comprehend texts on a variety of topics, including this text which contained historical information.

Question 6a.

- Two German booksellers invented the postcard.
- Dr German invented a 20-word postcard.
- During the war a lot of postcards were sent by soldiers.



- e-cards have become popular.

Question 6b.

Any two of

- cost
- brief
- convenient
- collectable.

Section 2 – Reading and responding Part A – Answer in English

Text 7

This text was quite challenging for some students.

Question 7a.

Any eight of

- masculinity
- wealth
- resistance
- power
- hides flaws in appearance
- symbol of time and fashion
- belonging to a social class
- religious affiliation
- element of mystery.

Question 7b.

A clean-shaven face is associated with honesty and openness.

Question 7c.

As long as you are alive, you can always grow a(nother) beard/If there is a head there is a beard.

Only a few students were able to explain the meaning of this proverb correctly. Students should learn and use Russian proverbs and sayings.

Text 8

Students managed this task well. They were able to identify the differences between the two cities, demonstrating accuracy and appropriateness in their answers.



Question 8a.

	St Petersburg	Moscow
Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high society • aristocratic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wealthy • flexible • democratic • rich
Key people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lawyers • professors • military officers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bankers • journalists • millionaires
Places where discussions take place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • famous St Petersburg balls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • saunas/banyas • tennis courts
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fountains • royal residences • art • architecture • theatre • tourists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • magnificent buildings • monasteries • churches • more money, more chances, influence • banks • theatres • newspapers

Question 8b.

Moscow: the heart of Russia; a financial, political and business centre

St Petersburg: the head of Russia; provides sense, order and culture

Part B – Answer in Russian

The criteria to assess students' performance in this section are

- understand general and specific aspects of a text by identifying, analysing and responding to information
- convey information coherently (structure, sequence, accuracy and variety of vocabulary, sentence structure) and appropriately (relevance, use of conventions of the text type).

Students were asked to write the text of a speech to their fellow classmates, evaluating their career aspirations and choice of profession. Students addressed the task successfully, correctly structuring their answers in the form of a speech. However, students should work on

- accuracy
- sentence structure
- knowledge of text types
- variety of vocabulary.

Section 3 – Writing in Russian

The criteria to assess students' performance in this section are

- relevance and depth of treatment of ideas, information, or opinions
- accuracy and range of vocabulary and sentence structures
- the capacity to structure and sequence responses and capacity to use conventions of the text type.

Question 10

Students were asked to write a letter to their friend, persuading them of the advantages of living overseas to learn the language and experience the culture. Students generally addressed the task successfully and demonstrated an ability to support their opinion with strong arguments. Some letters contained language structures of high semantic and grammatical quality; for example, *как добиться своей цели, определила свои интересы, сделаете правильный выбор, разрушают наш мир, дополняют твою жизнь, это не смущает.*

Typical mistakes included anglicisms such as *забуквали билеты.*

Question 11

This question asked students to describe the events of the first three days at a new job in their diary. Students managed the task well. It was evident that students' previous work experience assisted them in fulfilling the task. Typical

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mistakes included using the introductory phrase *дорогой дневник* and using anglicisms such as *я имел тяжелый день*. These are not appropriate for a Russian diary. In some cases, the layout of the diary was not quite authentic. Some students did not use the date and a place name.

Question 12

Students were asked to write an imaginative story for a school magazine. Unlike in previous years, this was the most popular question and many students attempted it quite successfully. Some work produced was outstanding, with correctly structured responses in the form of an imaginative story and showing a good understanding of register and style.

Question 13

For this question, students had to write a report for their school's newspaper, informing readers about the highlights of the annual Russian Film Festival in Melbourne. This was the least popular question. However, those students who attempted it demonstrated excellent knowledge of the topic, including in their work all the necessary features of the text type; for example, names, a web address and film titles. The reports were informative, well-structured and contained sufficient details and formal language.