



Written component

GENERAL COMMENTS

The results of all sections of the 2010 Russian examination were pleasing. Most students demonstrated well-developed aural and writing skills. Many students attempted imaginative writing in Section 3 quite successfully.

Teachers should work on improving students' comprehension skills and students' ability to express themselves in writing. Limited written expression often hinders students' ability to express ideas and opinions clearly, and this can jeopardise their overall performance.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Section 1 – Listening and Responding Part A – Answer in English

Question 1a.

Coffee became popular (either of):

- after Peter the First visited Holland and fell in love with it
- because it energises people.

Question 1b.

Any three of the following:

- it is drunk by 83 per cent of the people
- two billion cups
- fourth place
- second most popular.

Question 2a.

Either of:

- clothes protect us emotionally
- we use clothes to communicate with the world.

Question 2b.

- Cheerful: yellow
- Businesslike: black
- Domineering: red
- Calm: beige

The majority of students managed to get full marks for this question.

Question 3a.

The purpose of the harvest festival is to:

- glorify hard work
- praise nature for abundant crops.

Question 3b.

Winter activities (three of):

- farewell winter/welcome spring
- burn an effigy
- sled riding
- snowballs.



Autumn activities (three of):

- singing
- dancing
- playing games
- eating pirogi
- preserving fruit and vegetables
- harvesting crops.

Most students achieved full marks for this question.

Part B – Answer in Russian

Question 4a.

He was given a set of stamps as a gift.

This year a multiple-choice question was introduced into the examination for the first time and students coped well with it.

Question 4b.

- the Soviet-American Apollo-Soyuz spaceflight
- the launch of the International Space Station

Many students did not address this question correctly.

Question 5

Food

- Australians take into account the number of guests so that everyone has enough and no food is wasted.
- Russians prepare more food than guests can possibly eat.
- Russians serve a large platter with meat, chicken or fish, and a side dish. Each person helps themselves; the hostess can only recommend this or that dish.
- Russians don't serve alcohol before meals.

Topics for discussion

- Australians avoid discussing politics or religion.
- Russians discuss anything.

Dessert

- Australians usually serve a big, tasty cake after dinner.
- Russians serve various desserts like homemade sweet pirogi, cakes, jams and chocolates.

Most students received full marks for this question.

Question 6a.

Any four of the following:

- there is no need to travel
- the helpline is free of charge
- professional psychologists are available
- there is no time limit on counselling
- a caller can remain anonymous
- various problems can be discussed
- the helpline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Many students scored full marks for this question.

Section 2 – Reading and Responding

Part A – Answer in English

Question 7a.

Kind of theatre	Features of the performance
Folk theatre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• action• dialogue Skomorokhs who: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• danced• sang• depicted people and animals• played different musical instruments.
Royal court theatre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• expensive costumes and settings• musical instruments• dances• Western-style performance

Question 7b.

The church:

- was opposed to the Skomorokhs
- created its own theatre.

Question 7c.

Any two of the following:

- many theatres were opened
- love and respect for the theatre grew in the society
- going to the theatre became a habit
- there was no town that did not have its own theatre.

Question 7d.

Folk traditions and customs

Few students addressed this question correctly.

Question 8a.

- Pharmacists are unhappy.
- Utility services workers are happy.

Question 8b.

Beauticians because:

- they make people feel beautiful
- they have good relationships with their clients
- their work is valued.

Question 8c.

IT professionals/lawyers/pharmacists because their work is only to support others.

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).



All students addressed the task successfully. Students structured their answers correctly in the form of an informal letter.

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
- the capacity to use conventions of the text type.

Question 10

Students were required to write an article for a metropolitan newspaper evaluating the advantages and challenges of cycling in the city. The few students who attempted this question wrote very well.

Question 11

Students were given the following statement, 'Some people state that you should only be friends with important people who can be useful to you – friendship should be beneficial'. They were required to write the text of a persuasive speech and present their opinion on this statement for a school meeting. This was the most popular question, with many students scoring high marks.

Question 12

Students were required to write an informative report for the school community on the seminar topic 'The Internet as a Source of Information for Studies and Research. Facts and Unverified Information, How to Distinguish between Them'. Few students attempted this question.

Question 13

Students were given the following scenario, 'After the ice had melted as a result of climate change, a group of scientists working in the Antarctic discovered strange creatures unknown to science'. They were required to write an imaginative story for a science fiction writing competition about the meeting between the scientists and those creatures. This was the second most popular question. Students demonstrated a creative approach to the task.