

RUSSIAN

Exam board: Edexcel

Assessment methods: 100% exams, no coursework.

Length of exams: Paper 1 (Listening, reading and translation 40% of A level) 2 hours; Paper 2 (writing, 30% of A level) - 2 hours 40 minutes; Paper 3 (speaking, 30% of A level) - 21–23 minutes.

Breakdown of units:

Paper 1 (listening, reading and translation): This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all four themes which are based on the society and culture of the language being studied. It includes a listening assessment, a reading assessment and a translation section (from Russian into English). Total marks 80. No access to a dictionary during the assessment.

Paper 2 (Written response to works and translation): This paper includes a translation exercise (from English into Russian) and two essays on either two literary texts or one literary text and one film. The works must be taken from the list provided by the exam board. The literary texts listed include novels, a play and short stories. The six films are all feature length. Total marks 120. No access to texts or films during the assessment. No access to a dictionary during the assessment. Students are advised to write approximately 215//250 words per essay.

Paper 3 (speaking): Students complete two speaking tasks:

Task 1 is a discussion on a theme from the list of themes provided by the exam board, featuring a stimulus statement and followed by a student-examiner debate/discussion on the theme.

Task 2 is a presentation and a discussion on an independent research project carried out by the student. The research may be based on one of the themes or on the student's own subject of interest related to Russian-speaking society and culture.

No access to a dictionary during the assessment (including 5 minutes preparation). Students may take the assessment only once before certification. Total marks 72.

Main Themes:

Theme 1 – The Development of Russian society (Russian Youth, Education, World of Work)

Theme 2 - Political and artistic culture in the Russian-speaking world (Mass Media; Mass Culture; Holidays, Festivals and Traditions)

Theme 3 – Moscow or St Petersburg – changes in the life of a major Russian city: (Population Changes, Social Problems, the Environment)

Theme 4 – The Last Years of the USSR – M. S. Gorbachev 1985-1991: (Perestroika, Glasnost', the Events of 1991)

Updated 10/06/19