

SQA Higher Russian External Assessment Report 2014

General comments

- There was a slight increase in the number of candidates presented this year (52) from 2013 (36).
- Candidates generally displayed a competent performance this year.
- The vast majority of candidates were able to gain an award A-C.

Reading and Directed Writing

- With the exception of Qs 1(b) and 2(a), candidates performed well in reading comprehension.
- Some candidates did not provide sufficient detail in their answers to access the marks in in Qs 1(b) and 2(a).
- Some candidates had difficulty rendering their answers in competent English.
- Handwriting proved difficult to discern in some cases.
- Generally, many candidates lost marks in the DW due to their failure to address all Bullet Points, or to address them fully enough to gain the available marks.

Listening and personal response essay

- Some reasonably straightforward vocabulary caused candidates some problems.
- In the Essay, some candidates were unable to form verbs successfully, and some were prone to inappropriate phonetic spelling.

Advice to centres on the preparation of future candidates

General

- Centres must ensure that all candidates know fully what the requirements of the papers will demand of them.
- Candidates should be reminded that answers should be legible at all times and in all papers.

Directed Writing

- All Bullet Points must be **fully** prepared for.
- Centres should ensure that candidates have enough opportunity to apply dictionary skills in preparation for the exam as these can be weak at times.