

**GCSE**

**Turkish**

General Certificate of Secondary Education **J737**

General Certificate of Secondary Education (Short Course) **J037 J137**

**OCR Report to Centres June 2014**

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This report on the examination provides information on the performance of candidates which it is hoped will be useful to teachers in their preparation of candidates for future examinations. It is intended to be constructive and informative and to promote better understanding of the specification content, of the operation of the scheme of assessment and of the application of assessment criteria.

Reports should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and mark schemes for the examination.

OCR will not enter into any discussion or correspondence in connection with this report.

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## Unit A841 Listening

### General Comments:

Overall this was a successful and well differentiated paper. Most of the candidates attempted all of the questions with a high degree of success. Candidates should ensure that they listen carefully to extract all the necessary detail required in order to access the highest marks. The questions in Exercises 7 and 8 in particular focused on the detail to be noted.

### Comments on Individual Questions:

#### Exercise 3: Questions 13–18

Most candidates completed this exercise well.

**Q13:** Some candidates chose B as an answer and lost marks.

**Q17:** The empty fridge was the indication that there was no food at home. However some candidates chose B as an answer.

#### Exercise 4: Questions 19–24

This exercise was generally completed well by most of the candidates. However, a few candidates found it hard to answer some questions. In sentence-completion exercises Candidates should read the sentence to be completed carefully and make sure that any words they add complete the correct sense of the sentence and also ensure the grammar is not so bad as to obscure the meaning.

**Q19:** Some gave “shopping” as an answer.

**Q20:** Some wrote “easy” or “better” but did not write a verb such as “buy” or “order” and lost marks.

**Q23:** The common mistake was “on the internet”.

**Q24:** Those who wrote “yoghurt” as well as other dairy products were not awarded any marks.

#### Exercise 5: Questions 25–31

Exercise 5 was completed well.

**Q27:** Those who did not know “sandal” were not able answer the question correctly.

**Q30:** “Camp” on its own was not sufficient as an answer.

#### Exercise 6: Questions 32–37

**Q33:** A few candidates gave “indecisive”.

**Q29:** A few candidates gave “was busy”.

**Exercise 7: Questions 38–43**

These questions were answered correctly by a good number of candidates. However, the errors below were noted.

**Q38 (a and b):** A small number of candidates failed to answer the second part of the question. The commonest error was “her job is near to her house”.

**Q39 and 40:** These questions were answered correctly by most of the candidates. Unfortunately, those who had not been trained to listen for specific information failed to answer correctly.

**Q41:** Those who did not read the question carefully failed to answer the question correctly. The common mistake was “You can cook your own food”.

**Q42:** Some candidates gave “They liked her” and lost marks because *memnun kalmak* meant that her boss liked the way she worked as well.

**Exercise 8: Questions 43–48**

Most candidates attempted the questions, though not all candidates were able to provide the necessary detail to achieve full marks.

**Q43:** “Cheaper” was not accepted.

**Q45:** Some candidates lost marks because they did not mention the traffic..

**Q46:** This was a hard question. The common mistake was “He likes where he lives”.

**Q47:** This question was generally well answered. The common mistake was “If he has a government job”.

**Q48:** This question was answered correctly by only a few. The common mistake was “You should decide where you want to live”.

## Unit A842 Speaking

### General Comments:

The exam was very successful on the whole. Many candidates performed very well, and the majority of the candidates achieved very high or even full marks.

More able students managed to take part in conversations, giving information and opinions. They were able to provide points of view with reasons and justifications. They were also able to use a variety of tenses. Successful candidates were able to respond fully to all questions, whether closed or open-ended. They were able to speak confidently and continuously without hesitation. Their pronunciation was quite accurate.

Centres are reminded that OCR requires recordings to be submitted in MP3 format, and no other.

### Comments on Individual Questions/Sections:

#### Part 1 – Presentation and Discussion

The majority of the candidates were very well prepared for the Part 1 Presentation and Discussion section, and talked confidently and fluently about their chosen topic.

The most popular topics were Holidays, Home and Local Area, Life in the Home. Male candidates mainly gave their presentation on the topic of health and sport, especially football. Female candidates mainly talked about television: Turkish soap operas and contests on Turkish TV.

Very few candidates communicated only with simple and short pieces of information. They could express simple opinions and factual information. Their pronunciation was better than the other aspects of the quality of their language.

#### Part 2 – General Conversation

Candidates performed very well in this part of the exam too. However, despite the fact that candidates are assessed for quality of language separately in each part of the exam, some teachers did not give the candidates enough opportunity to display their knowledge and use of different tenses in this section.

## Unit A843 Reading

### General Comments:

The majority of the candidates performed very well and managed to achieve almost the top marks. Candidates appeared to be familiar with the topic areas and coped with the rubrics and task types with ease and confidence. However, some candidates struggled in questions that required answers in English. Students should be given practice in this type of question, as English is the carrier language for every part of the scheme of assessment in this specification.

### Comments on Individual Questions:

#### Exercise 1: Questions 1-5

Q1 was unfortunate in its phrasing but this did not trouble candidates who almost all got the correct answer: “bike”.

Only a few candidates answered *Ayse* instead of *Canan* in Q4.

#### Exercise 2: Questions 6-12

Most of the candidates answered these questions very well.

#### Exercise 3: Questions 13-18

Only a few candidates answered ‘C’ instead of ‘A’ in Q18.

#### Exercise 5: Questions 25-30

Q25 required a full sentence including a verb and a noun, such as “Eat plenty of watermelon or salad”, to earn the mark.

In Q27 some candidates struggled to find the right word for “starter”. However, the mark scheme was not harsh in this question.

In Q28 a few candidates wrote “freezer” instead of “fridge” and lost the mark.

#### Exercise 6: Questions 31-36

These questions were achieved well by a considerable number of candidates.

#### Exercise 7: Questions 37-42

Some candidates failed to gain full marks for this section, as they struggled to find the right set of words for the right answer.

In Q38, some candidates focused on “city centre” rather than “road” or “street” and lost the mark.

In Q40, some candidates failed to specify the area as a “green area”, “park” or “field” and lost the mark.

In Q42 some candidates chose to answer according to their opinions, rather than the text, and lost the mark.

**Exercise 8: Questions 43-47**

Only a few candidates answered this exercise in English instead of Turkish. Centres are reminded that candidates who answer in the wrong language cannot be awarded any marks.



## Unit A844 Writing

### General Comments:

Overall this paper was successful. Some candidates scored a very high Communication mark by developing their ideas, giving detailed reasons and clearly expressed justifications. It is vital that centres encourage the candidates to demonstrate their communication skills by using well developed reasons and clear justifications.

This year only a few candidates did not follow the instructions carefully (Answer **two** questions only) and answered all five questions. This might have affected the quality of their writing, and will certainly mean they had too little time to spend on the two required pieces.. High marks for quality of language were scored by Candidates who confidently and accurately used a variety of clause types, vocabulary, idiom and structures, including verbs. Those who give very short answers are unlikely to qualify for full marks because they do not write enough to score well on the Quality of Language mark. Candidates are advised to make sure that they adhere closely to the recommended word count. Some candidates appeared to have had no training in this skill and as a result they wrote in everyday spoken language, which tends to bring errors into their work.

The prompts provided in the question paper are no longer mandatory in nature, so any material relevant to the subject set was acceptable.

Repeated structures and opinions do not score except first time round.

Candidates who express their opinions and points of view and give reasons, explanations and justifications for them are likely to gain high marks for communication. Therefore teachers are advised to use the widest possible range of teaching methods to develop such techniques.

The most popular formats were magazine articles, letters and e-mails.

### Comments on Individual Questions:

#### Question 1 – Home and local area

A large number of candidates chose this topic for one of their two options. They could relate to it well, and most candidates enjoyed writing about the places they go with their friends and family at the weekend.

High marks for communication were available to those who managed to express their opinions about what needs to be built for young people in their neighbourhood and why such places are necessary.

#### Question 2 – Health and sport

This option was a popular second topic. High marks for communication were scored by those who wrote about their sporting activities in detail and gave their opinions about these events.

### **Question 3 – Leisure and entertainment**

This was also a very popular question. Some candidates enjoyed writing about music. The candidates who not only explained what type of music they listen to but also said why they like it scored high marks in communication. Some candidates wrote in detail about their dream concert. Others wrote about their favourite singers and bands, explaining why they are so good and how they feel when they listen to them.

### **Question 4 – Travel and the wider world**

This question was attempted by many candidates as well. Some candidates wrote about their holidays with their families in Turkey. Some wrote about the countries that they would like to see and explained why. Most candidates suggested that people should go away from home and do things that they do not normally do.

### **Question 5 – Education and work**

This question was also very popular. Most of the candidates wrote about their favourite subjects and why they like them. They also explained why education was important for people, giving reasons. The most important reason cited was to get a good job and earn money for the family.

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