

Examiners' Report

Summer 2010

GCE

GCE Chinese (6CN01) Paper 1A Spoken Expression

Edexcel is one of the leading examining and awarding bodies in the UK and throughout the world. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers.

Through a network of UK and overseas offices, Edexcel's centres receive the support they need to help them deliver their education and training programmes to learners.

For further information, please call our GCE line on 0844 576 0025, our GCSE team on 0844 576 0027, or visit our website at www.edexcel.com.

If you have any subject specific questions about the content of this Examiners' Report that require the help of a subject specialist, you may find our **Ask The Expert** email service helpful.

Ask The Expert can be accessed online at the following link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/Aboutus/contact-us/>

Alternatively, you can speak directly to a subject specialist at Edexcel on our dedicated MFL subject specialist telephone line: 0844 576 0035

Summer 2010

Publications Code US023664

All the material in this publication is copyright
© Edexcel Ltd 2010

Summer 2010 Examiners Report

Spoken Expression and Response in Chinese 6CN01

There are eight stimuli cards which cover the following four topic areas: Leisure, Youth Interests and Chinese Festivals; Food, Diet and Health; Transport, Travel and Tourism; Education and Employment. The stimulus card must be allocated according to the confidential sequence as shown in the invigilator's handbook.

Candidates are allocated 15 minutes preparation time and they are allowed to make notes during the preparation time which must be kept by the centre until the release of results. The use of a dictionary is not permitted. Candidates must not make notes on the actual stimulus cards.

On each stimulus card, there is a picture and a short passage in English which is relevant to the topic. A brief Glossary of specialist vocabulary is provided together with Guidance in the form of a series of questions providing candidates with clues to explore their ideas.

This assessment requires candidates to speak in monologue for five to six minutes. Invigilators should NOT ask any questions in either the target language or in English.

Successful candidates need to express opinions as well as provide relevant and appropriate information.

Assessment: Content and understanding

The overall standard of students' performance was good. The majority of candidates delivered good quality performances in either Mandarin or Cantonese. Most of them managed to give a speech of over 4 minutes with structured responses and a range of vocabulary.

Giving a full or partial translation of the English stimulus is usually sufficient to provide a good start.

Successful candidates extended their speech beyond translating the English stimulus, showing good understanding of the content and the topic. Generally they covered the bullet points well and enriched the speech by providing relevant experience from their own lives.

Candidates are expected to give developed and detailed answers, stemming from the stimulus card during the preparation time. Mind mapping / brain storm chart are useful tools to prepare for the speech.

Let's take Stimulus 4 of the topic area Food, Diet and Health as an example. The topic of the stimulus is healthy eyes. The short passage in English provides the background information about eye exercises in China, who is doing them, and the reason they are doing this. Candidates are expected to cover all questions in the guidance and, most importantly, move on to the last question on 'What do you do to stay healthy'. This is a much broader question and candidate can share their experiences on keeping healthy in general, such as exercise, eating healthily and other good habits to keep healthy.

Some candidates struggled to speak for the full time allocation; some were over-reliant on pre-learnt material or repeated themselves. Quite a few candidates failed to extend their responses to the full range of guidance points, especially the last open-ended point. A small number of native speaker candidates failed to score highly because they did not use the stimulus material sufficiently and thus were unable to develop ideas and responses.

There is an increasing number of non-native speaker candidates and their performance has also improved compared with last year.

Assessment: Quality of language

Pronunciation and grammar accuracy are rewarded in this part of the assessment. The quality and variety of vocabulary is considered, as well as the range of structures used.

Successful candidates spoke beautifully and accurately in an authentic manner at native or near-native standard, a good range of vocabulary was also used. High marks of 9-10 were often awarded for performances which were not faultless, but showed clear pronunciation and good control of complex language structures.

Candidates who spoke fluently but showed simplicity in structure with restricted vocabulary were not awarded the highest band of marks.

The weakest candidates generally had problems with tones which caused difficulty in understanding their meaning. They also employed very limited, GCSE level vocabulary.

Administration

A completed OR1CN form should be attached with the recording for every candidate.

The stimulus material needs to be used in the sequence published to the invigilator: some centres appear to have allowed candidates to select a stimulus card.

Centre name and number, candidate name, candidate number and stimulus card number should be announced by the invigilator at the start of **each and every** recording.

Most centres recorded their tests on audio-cassettes, a few used audio CDs or data CDs only playable on computers. Audio-cassette recordings sometimes were unplayable on ordinary cassette machines.

The quality of recording on the whole was fair but there were instances of disturbing background noise e.g. school bells ringing.

CD and tapes should be securely wrapped to avoid damage in transit. Centres are encouraged to keep a copy of each recording in case of loss or damage to the original.

There were many examples of good practice but invigilators should be reminded to read the instructions carefully before conducting this test.

The exam is a monologue for 4-6 minutes. Invigilators/ teacher examiners should not prompt candidates by reading out questions from the stimulus card or with supplementary questions either in English or in Chinese, or reminding candidates of the remaining time: these interrupted the candidate's performance and blocked the candidates' potential to explore their own ideas.

Some invigilators allowed candidates to use several different stimulus cards instead of keeping to one.

Grade Boundaries

Unit 1: Spoken Expression

Grade	Max. Mark	A	B	C	D	E	N	U
Raw boundary mark	30	21	18	15	13	11	9	0
Uniform boundary mark	30	24	21	18	15	12	9	0

Further copies of this publication are available from
Edexcel Publications, Adamsway, Mansfield, Notts, NG18 4FN

Telephone 01623 467467
Fax 01623 450481

Email publications@linneydirect.com

Order Code US023664 Summer 2010

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit www.edexcel.com/quals

Edexcel Limited. Registered in England and Wales no.4496750
Registered Office: One90 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7BH