

Examiners' Report/  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2013

GCE Chinese (6CN01)  
Unit 1 Spoken Expression and Response

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## General overview

The Unit 1 speaking assessment requires candidates to speak in monologue for five to six minutes, based on an assigned English stimulus card with guidance questions. Invigilators/examiners should NOT ask any questions in either the target language or in English.

Candidates have 15 minutes preparation time and they are allowed to make notes during the preparation time which may be referred to during the speaking assessment.

There are 8 stimuli cards which cover the following four topic areas:

- **Food, diet and health**
- **Transport, travel and tourism**
- **Education and employment**
- **Leisure, youth interests and Chinese festivals**

On each stimulus card, there is a picture and a short passage in English which is relevant to the topic. The guidance in the form of a series of questions provides students with clues to explore their ideas. Candidates are expected to refer to both English stimulus and the guidance questions so that they can communicate effectively in Chinese about the stimulus topic. Candidates need to express opinions as well as provide relevant and appropriate information. (*Edexcel GCE Chinese specification page 4*)

### Assessment: Content and understanding

The majority of candidates gave good quality performances, showing they were familiar with the exam setting and were well prepared. Some gave developed and detailed answers, demonstrating thorough consideration on the issues relating to the stimulus.

Most candidates started the speaking assessment with a full or partial translation of the English stimulus. This was usually sufficient to provide a good start. Candidates who aimed at a good result should use the English stimulus thoroughly and properly; cover the guidance points well and enrich the speech by providing developed ideas in depth. Top candidates were those who spoke logically and accurately in an authentic manner at native or near-native standard.

Candidates were unable to gain high marks if they struggled to speak for the full time allocation; or became repetitive or they were over-reliant on pre-learnt material. Candidates received lower marks if they failed to extend their responses to the full range of guidance points, especially to the last open-ended question.

Although a **full** summary of the English stimulus is not required, it will be unwise to ignore it completely and go for a free-style speech. Guidance questions were important for this assessment and candidates were encouraged to respond to those questions in their speech.

### Assessment: Quality of language

Quality of language marks were awarded based on pronunciation and grammar accuracy, as well as the range of lexical items and variety of structures and expressions.

The majority of candidates received good marks for quality of language. 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.

The weaker candidates tended to demonstrate problems with tones which sometimes caused misunderstanding. Some candidates spoke fluently, but simplicity of language expressions or structures or limited vocabulary affected their quality of language marks.

## **Administration**

### **OR1CN oral form**

A completed OR1CN form should be attached with the recording for every candidate. The latest version of the oral form can be found in the '**Oral Examinations – Handbook of Instructions for Centres**', which can be downloaded from the Chinese qualification page of the Edexcel website.

<http://www.edexcel.com/migrationdocuments/GCE%20New%20GCE/Chinese-handbook-for-centres-2013.pdf>

### **Recording on CD or USB**

Most of the centres now recorded the exam digitally and sent recordings on CD or USB. Preferred formats are: .mp3 or .wma or .wav. They are encouraged to continue to do so in the future.

*Centres are reminded of the Edexcel Notice to Centres on the website to inform them that audio cassettes will no longer be accepted for assessment after September 2014.*

The Centre name/number, candidate name, candidate number and stimulus card number should be announced at the start of each and every recording. Please make sure the students' information matches the registration form.

Centres are reminded to check thoroughly that the recordings on CD and cassette are complete and of a good audible quality before sending for assessment to the Edexcel examiner.

Centres are also reminded that CDs/USBs should be packaged carefully with appropriate wrapping in order to prevent damage to the recordings.

Centres **must keep back-up files of the recording** and resend the recording upon request in case of faulty or missing originals.

### **Invigilation**

The invigilators should be reminded to read the instructions carefully before conducting the exam. It is important for the integrity of the examination that invigilators accurately follow the sequence of oral stimulus, as specified in the exam oral booklet. **Candidates must NOT be allowed to choose their own stimulus card.**

Full instructions regarding the conduct of oral assessments can be found in the 'Oral Training Guide' on the Chinese qualification page of the Edexcel website.

<http://www.edexcel.com/migrationdocuments/GCE%20New%20GCE/GCE-2008-Chinese-OTG.pdf>

Centres should keep the students work produced during the 15 minutes preparation time till the last date for Enquiry About Results (EARs).

Last and important issue, **invigilators MUST NOT prompt candidates** by reading out questions from the stimulus card, or by asking supplementary questions either in English or in Chinese. The assessment requires the candidates to produce a **monologue** and additional support by the invigilator could disadvantage the candidates' performance.

## **Conclusion**

The stimulus material in this assessment proved accessible to all candidates.

The examination requires students to give complex, well-structured and extended answers based on the stimulus material provided by the examination board. In preparation for this assessment, teachers should ensure that candidates are given proper training and experience of the expectations of the assessment prior to the examination.

## **Grade Boundaries**

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwant to/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

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