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Examiners' Report June 2010

GCE Chinese 6CN03

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Introduction

In this, the first sitting of the new A2 examination, candidates were required to complete 4 questions in 2 hours 45 minutes. There was little evidence that candidates did not have sufficient time to finish all four questions. However, some candidates were unaware of the changes to the specification, for the research based essay section in particular and some continued to use the topics and texts prescribed for the legacy specification (6262) and some continued to write 1000 characters - as was permissible for the 6262 examination. It is important that centres are aware of the new topics and texts list which is provided in the specification and is available to download from the Edexcel website.

Centres should advise candidates who need to write drafts for their answers to use any blank space in the answer book, for example, they can take advantage of the pages for the alternative version of characters. But they should remember to cross out any unwanted materials and give clear indication that they are only drafts or notes.

Section 1 - Reading

Question 1. Total marks for the reading section is 10. Almost all candidates achieved full marks. Only a few had lost one or two marks on part (d). Some candidates did not realise the need to include 'of different tastes' and some were not aware of the significance of 'Chinese styled'. Mistakes were also found occasionally on (e), (f) or (g). Evidence showed that the problem was more likely caused by a lack of focus or inadequate reading rather than understanding. Students are advised to always check through their answers before the end of the examination.

Section 2 - Translation

Most candidates were familiar with this test type. However, it was still surprising to see that there were still some candidates who did not take advantage of the vocabulary support provided in Passage 1, for example, a favourite cook.

There were two sentences that were more frequently mistranslated than others. For the first sentence of the passage. Some candidates misinterpreted 'a favourite cook' as the name of a TV programme. Secondly the last sentence in the second paragraph. A considerable number of candidates made the mistake connecting Delia's decision to learn how to cook with her getting a job in a restaurant. These candidates appeared to have been confused by punctuation (comma) as well as the structural function of the two words 'but' and 'only' in the sentence.

Students are advised not to add in extra details or personal opinions. These are not credited and may lead to distortion.

Section 3 - Writing

This test type is new to A2 but not unfamiliar to candidates. The majority of candidates had been well trained at the AS level to respond to bullet points in the continuous writing.

Albeit similar in form, 'writing' for this section at A2 level is more of a discursive essay involving discussion and giving opinions. Answers that gave too much attention to the first bullet point but showed no intention to develop the last two bullets would not be able to score high marks.

Section 4 - Research-based essay

Examiners were disappointed by the standard of the answers in general. Many of the essays were not given enough time or attention during the process of writing. Too frequently they relied on only one source, which was hardly the spirit or the aim of this exercise. The most worrying feature was that candidates did not use paraphrasing in a proper way.

Students need to be more careful at choosing their title, for example, 'binding feet' is not an appropriate title for the topic 'Chinese tradition'. Although it was once a custom, it, as a way of acting, was broken and has not continued.

Centres are reminded of the availability of the Research Based Essay Guide which includes exemplar material and is available to download from the Edexcel website.

Question 2

三十多年前，史密斯已經成為英國電視最受歡迎的廚師。

史密斯在十六歲時便離開學校。她曾試過很多不同的工作。在她二十一歲那年，她開始在餐廳工作。她學習廚藝是因為她的男朋友說她做的菜不好吃。

史密斯很想知道全部有關英式廚藝的知識，於是她便到圖書館去借書看書。



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Examiner Comments

The second paragraph shows a correct and competent transfer of meaning, but the candidate has mistaken 'for over 30 years' as '30 years ago' in the first paragraph. One whole sentence is missing in the translation in the third paragraph.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates should read the passage carefully and highlight (underline) key phrases and words before starting to translate. Do not translate the sentences piecemeal. Read the whole paragraph.

Question 2

Delia ~~史密斯~~ ^{史密斯} 是过去 30 年英国电视上最热门的厨师。

Delia 16 岁离开学校，她也厌倦了各种不同的工作，在 21 岁时，她得到了一份在饭店的 ~~工作~~ 工作，但她开始学习做饭而是因为她的男朋友曾说她做饭不好。



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Examiner Comments

This translation changes the original text from 'has been.... for over 30 years' to 'in the last 30 years'. The candidate possibly misread the word 'tried' as 'tired' and has completely changed the meaning of a simple sentence. The candidate understands the last two sentences but tends to be careless with the choice of words, for example, 'decided' and the conjunction word '而是'.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates should carefully read the original text before starting to translate, and pay attention to individual words. It is advisable to carefully read your own work to check if the piece makes sense in Chinese and by doing so candidates are more likely to pick out the words that have been wrongly translated.

史密斯在一家英国电视台做“最爱烹饪”节目已经超过30年了。

史密斯16岁离开学校。她尝试过许多不同的工作。在她

21岁时，她找到一份~~工作~~是在一家餐厅工作的，但是她仅仅只是

想去学习怎样做饭，因为她男朋友曾经有一次说过她的烹饪不是很好。



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Examiner Comments

This candidate has misinterpreted 'a favourite cook' as the name of a TV programme. By adding the Chinese word 'jinjin (simply)' the candidate clearly makes 'learning to cook' as the reason why Delia accepted the job 'to work in a restaurant'.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates should not translate phrases piecemeal. It is advisable to read the whole sentence and even paragraph through carefully at least twice before setting pen to paper. Candidates should always remember the difference in word order between English and Chinese.

Question 3

Section 3 - writing

In this section, candidates were required to respond to four bullet points in order to produce a piece of writing. They were expected to pay attention to the structural link between the bullets and go beyond simply giving answer dutifully point by point.

The first bullet point is best used as an introduction to the piece.

Essays should then proceed to the second bullet which should include both explanation and discussion. Candidates are required to give their views as well as their friends. This provides candidates with the opportunity to expand or to give different and contrasting views. Some candidates misunderstood this bullet point and thought that it was about 'inviting friends home to eat'.

The third and fourth bullets provide candidates with the best opportunity to demonstrate their skills of presenting clearly different opinions and ideas. The third bullet is about the health issue. Cleanliness can be a factor for discussion but cannot use it to replace the word 'health'. It is also not appropriate when some candidates turned the health issue into whether it is 'good or not' to eat out.

SECTION C: Writing

3 依照下面的內容與提示，用中文寫一封250至500字的信：

你收到中國筆友王小東的電郵，他說剛看完了一個電視烹飪節目，很有興趣學做飯；他還問了幾個問題，現在你就答覆他的問題：

- 你家裡誰做飯？你會幫忙嗎？
- 你和你的朋友喜歡在家裡吃飯嗎？為什麼？
- 一般都說在外面吃飯不夠健康，你覺得呢？
- 你認為學校裡應該有烹飪課嗎？為什麼？

小東：																				
		你	好	嗎	？	我	很	好	啊	。	在	我								
	的	家	裡	我	的	媽	媽	是	每	晚	都	做	飯	的						
	因	為	我	爸	爸	要	工	作	所	以	他	沒	有	時						
	間	做	飯	和	幫	我	媽	媽	做	飯	。									
	有	時	候	如	果	我	媽	媽	要	我	的	幫	忙	我	都					
	會	去	幫	她	一	點	，	不	過	因	為	我	不	是	很					
	明	白	如	可	做	飯	我	都	不	會	幫	她	做	飯	，					
	在	我	不	幫	我	的	媽	媽	做	飯	的	時	候	，						
	我	會	叫	我	的	妹	妹	去	幫	助	她	，	因	為						
	我	的	妹	妹	她	很	喜	愛	烹	食	和	吃	食	物	，					
	所	以	如	果	我	媽	媽	做	飯	的	時	候	她	也	會					
	去	幫	她	，	我	的	妹	妹	也	可	以	一	邊							
	幫	媽	媽	做	飯	一	邊	學	什	麼	烹	到	很	美	味					



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Examiner Comments

This candidate has written about 400 characters. All the bullet points are dutifully addressed but there is a misjudgement on the emphasis. There is too much repetition for the first bullet. This shortcoming has an effect on the language as well. The candidate makes valid points for the other three bullet points but needs to show some intention to develop them in greater detail.



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Examiner Tip

Candidates are recommended to think about the bullet points and plan what they are going to write before setting pen to paper. Quality rather than length is the key to high marks.

SECTION C: Writing

3 依照下面的內容與提示，用中文寫一封250至500字的信：

你收到中國筆友王小東的電郵，他說剛看完了一個電視烹飪節目，很有興趣學做飯；他還問了幾個問題，現在你就答覆他的問題：

- 你家裡誰做飯？你會幫忙嗎？
- 你和你的朋友喜歡在家裡吃飯嗎？為什麼？
- 一般都說在外面吃飯不夠健康，你覺得呢？
- 你認為學校裡應該有烹飪課嗎？為什麼？

致	王	小	東	：															
		在	我	家	裏	做	飯	的	是	我	，	父	母	因					
工	作	的	關	係	很	晚	才	回	家	，	所	以	都	是					
我	做	好	飯	菜	等	他	們	的	。										
		我	和	我	的	朋	友	都	比	較	喜	歡	在	家					
裏	吃	飯	，	我	們	都	一	致	認	為	家	裏	做	的					
菜	吃	起	來	更	有	特	色	和	親	切	感	。	最	重					
要	的	是	在	家	裏	吃	不	是	更	能	讓	人	享	受					
到	天	倫	之	樂	嗎	？													
		除	了	在	家	裏	吃	的	好	處	外	，	一	般					
在	外	面	吃	飯	都	不	夠	健	康	。	在	街	上	的					
餐	廳	為	了	吸	引	客	人	，	經	常	會	在	食	物					
上	加	入	不	必	要	的	雜	件	碟	和	不	健	康						
的	食	材	。	原	因	是	餐	廳	視	利	益	比	客	人					

的健康更重要。當然也有好的餐廳，但為數不多。

對於支持一家人吃飯的我，當然支持學校應有烹飪課。學生學到烹飪可以分擔到父母的一點工作，作為家庭的一分子去幫忙。唯一的問題是在學校有烹飪課必須大量的空間和工具，而讓學生受傷的話也是學校負全責。到頭來都是取決於學校。



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Examiner Comments

This essay is well-structured. It grabs the reader's interest in the first lines. The ideas are logically planned, effectively developed and skilfully controlled. All the points made are sensible. The use of the word '一致' in the 2nd paragraph is a good choice. It shows that the candidate understands the prompt correctly and has a clear plan of what to focus on. Examiners find the last point about school at the end of the essay original and convincing. But the way that the recipient is addressed needs amendment.



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Examiner Tip

The word 'to' is not needed when addressing the recipient of the letter.

SECTION C: Writing

3 依照下面的內容與提示，用中文寫一封250至500字的信：

你收到中國筆友王小東的電郵，他說剛看完了一個電視烹飪節目，很有興趣學做飯；他還問了幾個問題，現在你就答覆他的問題：

- 你家裡誰做飯？你會幫忙嗎？
- 你和你的朋友喜歡在家裡吃飯嗎？為什麼？
- 一般都說在外面吃飯不夠健康，你覺得呢？
- 你認為學校裡應該有烹飪課嗎？為什麼？

王	小	東	:																
		你	好	嗎	?	最	近	我	忙	於	溫	習	,	都					
沒	有	回	覆	你	的	電	郵	,	真	對	不	起	!	幸					
好	我	終	於	也	在	昨	天	完	成	所	有	的	考	試					
,	心	情	也	立	刻	輕	鬆	了	!										
		我	平	日	最	喜	歡	做	的	除	了								
彈	鋼琴	之	外	,	就	是	烹	飪	下	廚	的	了	!						
真	的	很	高	興	得	知	小	東	你	對	做	飯	也	有					
興	趣	,	成	了	我	的	知	音	人	!									
		平	日	在	家	裡	,	因	媽	媽	的	廚	藝	超					
超	卓	,	晚	飯	都	是	由	她	來	準	備	的	,						
當	然	我	也	會	幫	忙	準	備	食	材	,	更	可	以					
觀	看	媽	媽	做	飯	的	技	巧	,	向	她	「偷	師	」					

媽媽的雙手就好像有魔法般，可讓

所有烹調出來的食物都鮮令人吃得
 津津有味，因此我漸漸地他們
 一家都很喜歡留在家中吃飯，有時
 更會邀請朋友到家裡一起吃飯，所
 有吃過媽媽做的菜的客人都對媽媽
 的廚藝讚不絕口。
 媽媽更常說在家中吃飯往往會
 比在外面的餐廳吃健康得多，因為
 外面的餐廳做菜時很多時也會加很
 多油或味精，多吃對身健自然有害
 。~~然而~~媽媽做的飯不但不會加任何
 味精，所用的食材也是精挑細選的
 ，確保新鮮，既健康，又美味，讓
~~我們~~吃飯成了我
 們一家最享受的樂事。你呢？



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Examiner Comments

This essay uses the full 500 characters. All the bullet points are covered and given equal attention. However, it appears that the candidate is only responding to the prompts dutifully. The first two paragraphs do not actually contribute to the content. They are just padding. The candidate misunderstands the second bullet. The language is strong but inappropriate conjunctions or missing words exist.



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Examiner Tip

It is advisable for candidates to write only 2 or 3 lines for the opening paragraph of the letter. Always read the bullet points and the title in great detail and decide the body of the essay and if there is a need to prioritise the bullet points. Pay attention to the syntax when reading the bullet points to enable a correct understanding of them. Read through your response once or twice to check any errors.

Grade Boundaries:

Grade	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	N	U
Raw boundary mark	80	59	54	49	44	40	36	32	0
Uniform mark scale boundary	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	0

a* is only used in conversion from raw to uniform marks. It is not a published unit grade.

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