

**Question 3b**

Q3 (b) This question was worth 4 marks and proved to be quite challenging for many candidates. This is quite understandable because candidates are less familiar with the question type. Some candidates failed to pay close attention to the questions and did not understand what they were expected to do. It was treated as a translation task by many candidates, who were not selective about the most important pieces of information to include in their response. There was a general sense that candidates required more practice summarising texts.

**The response achieved 3 out of 4 marks.**

**DocID: 0444000374626**

Examiner Comments:

3bi was awarded 2 marks. However, it is generally advisable not to include extraneous information, as it could detract from a correct response.

3bii was not fully successful. The candidate failed to give the actual details needed – activities people do at the festival. The additional (and superfluous) information provided by the candidate was not credited.

**The response achieved 2 out of 4 marks.**

**DocID: 0444000374677**

Examiner Comments:

3bi was awarded 1 mark, as the candidate only provided one piece of information. The date of the Lantern Festival was omitted entirely.

3bii was awarded 1 mark. The candidate only gave a single activity (the dragon boat race. Although they provided additional information about the race, they missed out all the other activities and so were not rewarded for those.

**The response achieved 1 out of 4 marks.**

**DocID: 0444000708069**

3bi was awarded 1 mark. The candidate gave a detailed answer about the lanterns, but also failed to identify the other piece of information which was key: the date of the festival.

3bii was not rewarded. The question sought the activities do at the festival. The extra detail provided by the candidate was not relevant to the question and so was not credited.

#### Examiner Tip

There is no need to include extra information, as this is not rewarded. However, candidates should always be careful to be thorough in addressing the question, as each additional piece of relevant information will carry additional marks.

### **Question 8**

Q8 The passage consisted of a short passage of Chinese to be translated into English. The Chinese text was divided into 12 discrete language elements, each worth one mark, to give an overall mark out of 12.

The lexis was relatively straightforward. Although most candidates did not struggle with vocabulary, some basic phrases seemed to present difficulties for a few candidates. These included "outside world", "experience" and "traditional culture" etc.

English grammar was usually satisfactory, although certain things proved to be problematic, for example capital letters, tenses etc.

Overall, the performance was quite encouraging and most candidates showed that they could transfer the meaning of a piece of Chinese with acceptable accuracy. I would, however, draw attention to incorporating all the details of the original text as being essential if candidates are to score for every language element.

**The response achieved 12 out of 12 marks.**

**DocID: 0444000520650**

#### Examiner Comments:

The candidate has responded very well and, correspondingly, has been credited for 12 of the 12 language elements. The translation comprises twelve separate scoring units, even if there are minor errors in English.

**The response achieved 9 out of 12 marks.**

**DocID: 0444000774532**

#### Examiner Comments:

The candidate has responded quite well and has been credited for 9 of the

12 language elements. The candidate failed to transfer the meaning of a number of words, phrases and sentences.

**The response achieved 6 out of 12 marks.**

**DocID: 0444000374696**

Examiner Comments:

The candidate has responded acceptably and has been credited for 6 of the 12 language elements. The candidate only managed to transfer the meaning of some words and phrases.

Examiner Tip

Natural English is sought, which is not always given by a word-for-word translation. As the translation comprises twelve separate scoring units, candidates should attempt to put down every element they can, even if they do not feel able to attempt a translation of certain words, phrases or even sentences. Any successful attempt at even a partial translation may be rewarded.

**8CN02**

**Question 1**

The passage consisted of a short passage of about 80 words of English to be translated into Chinese. The piece of English was divided into 20 discrete language elements each worth one mark to give an overall mark out of 20.

The lexis was relatively straightforward, so most candidates did not struggle as a result of lacking appropriate vocabulary. However, some basic words were, rather surprisingly, quite often found to be problematic. These included "愿意", "帮助" and "所以". Character formation was usually satisfactory, although some characters proved to be problematic, for example "候", "帮", "忙" etc. A range of grammatical features from grammar lists were also tested. These ranged from the relatively straightforward ("和", "都", "也"), to more sophisticated conjunctions ("但是", "因为", "如果.....就....."). As a result, this led to differentiation and the whole mark range was used.

Overall, candidates' performance was quite encouraging and most candidates showed that they could transfer the meaning of a piece of English with acceptable accuracy. I would, however, draw attention to details as being essential if candidates are to score for each language elements.

Examiners noted the following:

- The division of marks /20 allowed for most candidates to score at some point. Marks were awarded most often for translating '人们', "但是", '和孩子吃饭' and "因为".
- Many marks were lost in the certain expected places, such as language elements 6, 9, 18 and 20. Where credit was withheld in elements 6, 18 and 20, it was because of the harder characters or vocabulary. The difficulty which candidates encountered with element 9 was because of the Chinese word order.
- Common difficulties were in the last sentence. Many candidates misunderstood the meaning in English.

**This translation was very accurate. It was awarded 19 out of 20 available marks.**

**DocID: 0444000952976**

Examiner comments:

Translation is near optimal. However, the first language element is not awarded a mark. This is a good example of subtle differences in meaning between similar phrases: "现在" is not equivalent to "在现代".

**This is an example of translation where the candidate attempted the whole transfer of meaning, and it scored 16 out of 20.**

**DocID: 0444001015873**

Examiner comments:

The translation was understandable to a sympathetic native speaker, but there were a few mistakes. For example, the third language element is not awarded a mark because "每次" is not equivalent to "总是". Element 7 is not awarded a mark because the use of "的" is wrong. Element 9 is not awarded a mark because of the word order issue and the missing verb in "和家人一起多一点时间". Element 13 is not awarded a mark because the missing object after "吃".

Examiner tip:

This is an example of a candidate whose attempt was good but suffered occasional lapses in sentence structure and phrases. In order to succeed, candidates must learn to write complete sentences with clear communication at this level.

### Question 3

This task was the most popular of the questions in the literary texts section. Many candidates could have read the question more carefully and produced answers which were more focused on the bullet points. The least impressive essays tended merely to narrate the whole story sequentially and only addressed the arguments in the closing remarks.

**DocID: 0444000952982**

**The response achieved 38 out of 40. 19 in Critical response and 19 for Accuracy and Range of Grammatical Structures and Vocabulary.**

Examiner comments:

The candidate showed very good knowledge and understanding of the work and the father's relationship with the protagonist. This response is a good example of an essay which addressed all aspects of the question and followed the bullet points. The candidate managed to make arguments, express points of view and draw conclusions with appropriate evidence from the work. The use of language is accurate throughout, resulting in coherent writing.

**DocID: 0444000952990**

**The response achieved 33 out of 40. 17 in Critical response and 16 for Accuracy and arrange of grammatical structures and vocabulary.**

Examiner comments:

The candidate showed a good understanding of the work. This response is relevant to the question throughout but there are minor lapses in the use of evidence from the work. The candidate managed to make arguments, express points of view and draw conclusions accordingly. The candidate's language was accurate throughout most of the essay, which was generally coherent and pleasant to read.

Examiner tip:

In order to improve their answers, we would have liked to see candidates referring more closely to the rubric and tailoring their answers around the bullet points. An additional distinguishing feature of stronger candidates was the inclusion of their own opinions and arguments which were convincingly justified by quotations from and references to the text.

**DocID: 0444000623487**

**The response achieved 27 out of 40. 12 in Critical response and 15 for Accuracy and arrange of grammatical structures and vocabulary.**

Examiner comments:

This response has not shown the candidate's ability to respond critically and present and justify points of view. The response is too descriptive. There is also a limited evidence of the candidate's ability to construct and adequately argue a stance based on the question.

As far as language is concerned, the use of language throughout most of the essay is accurate and a good variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures are used.

Examiner tip:

The lack of critical response affected the candidate's marks. Therefore, had they presented and justified their own points of view, developed an argument and drawn conclusions based on the book, the candidate could have achieved a higher mark.