

Examiners' Report/  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2016

Pearson Edexcel GCE  
In Chinese (6CN02) Paper 01

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## **Introduction**

This paper consists of 3 sections which involve listening, reading and writing skills, with a total of 70 marks available. The time allocation, for this paper is 2 hours and 30 minutes and there is little evidence that candidates did not have sufficient time to complete all the questions.

This paper rewards candidates for their understanding of spoken and written Chinese, their ability to transfer meaning from Chinese into English and their ability to produce a continuous piece of writing in Chinese.

The question booklet is divided into traditional and simplified characters and candidates are required to specify at the beginning of the booklet their preferred option. Candidates are required to respond to questions in the booklet in either traditional or simplified characters, but not both.

## **Section A**

Section A - listening comprehension.

*Candidates will be required to listen to a range of recorded Chinese-language material and to retrieve and convey information given in the recording by responding to Chinese-language questions. Candidates will need to show understanding of both the general sense and specific details conveyed. The questions will elicit non-verbal responses and short answers in Chinese. In this section, candidates will have individual control of the recording and may stop, revisit and replay sections of the recording at will. They must undertake this section of the test within the first 45 minutes allocated to this unit.*

Candidates are suggested to make good use of the maximum of 45 minutes to complete listening questions, namely Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4.

Candidates have full control of the timing of this section and could listen to the recording of each passage, in Mandarin or in Cantonese, as many times as they like within the allowed time. Candidates should make use of this opportunity to make more certain that the answers they have written down are correct.

**Q1.** Candidates responded very well in general, only a very small number of candidates made mistakes in Q1(iii) and the correct answer for the question (B).

**Q2.** The majority of candidates responded well in general with a very small number of candidates losing marks in this question. This is a four-mark question to select four statements only and candidates should choose four correct answers, no more and no less.

**Q3.** Candidates responded well in general, with few candidates choosing 大雨 or 大雪 instead of 大雾 for Q3a and chooses 已到机场 instead of 需要退票 for Q3c.

Candidates should circle the correct answers as instructed. The correct answer is accepted in whichever form it is offered but candidates are advised to comply with the rubric.

**Q4.** This question carries the largest number of marks amongst the listening questions and candidates are required to give answers in written Chinese characters. The vast majority of candidates show good understanding of the extract. However, there are noticeable numbers of candidates who are struggling to write answers in correct characters and lose marks. Common mistakes include 历史, 历使 instead of 历史 for Q4b.

The writing characters are involved in this question is basic, daily vocabulary and many of them are from GCSE syllabus. Writing characters is a required skill in learning Chinese and candidates should keep practicing writing while preparing for this exam.

4 根据对话内容，用中文回答下面的问题。

(a) Neil 做什么工作?

英文老师

(1)

(b) 他在大学学什么?

历史

(1)

(c) 他为什么选择去非洲?

他的法文很好,非洲很多国家都说法文他想教法文。

(1)

(d) 他去中国的时候为什么觉得很难?

他不能听中文和天气很热。

(1)

(e) 谁和他一起开始在中国工作?

两个外国老师

(1)

(f) 别人走的时候,他为什么留在中国?

他想帮助学生学好英文,所以留在中国工作。

(2)

## Section B

Section B - reading comprehension.

*Candidates will be required to read Chinese-language printed materials and to retrieve and convey information by responding to a range of mainly target-language test-types. The questions will elicit non-verbal responses, target-language answers, and English answers that require a transfer of meaning from Chinese.*

*A maximum of 20 marks will be awarded for this assessment in accordance with an assessment-specific mark scheme.*

Candidates are required to read three passages and respond to Q5, Q6 and Q7 in English.

Candidates are reminded to read the rubric and to adhere to the requirements that all answers should be in **English** and all answers should be based exclusively on the information in the passage.

No credit can be given for answers written in **Chinese** and for candidates' own interpretation which have no basis in the original passages.

Lengthy answers are not required in this section. Candidates are expected to provide related, accurate answers based on the passages.

The majority of candidates were able to understand the content of the passages but not always able to express themselves in clear English. Misspelling, inadequate choice of words/phrases and grammatical mistakes were very common whilst very often details appeared glossed over.

### **Question 5**

Q5c. This question was attempted well among all candidates. Candidates demonstrated good understanding of the text and produce accurate responses in appropriate English. Common mistakes were:

- Q5a. This question requires precise understanding of the text and the key word is 'almost'. A good number of candidates lost the mark by missing out the key word.
- Q5b. The correct answer is 'to visit the film site' or 'to go to see the film scene where the film was shot / made'. Some candidates struggled to give answers in appropriate English, such as 'take a movie place' or 'record a movie site'.
- Q5d. Some candidates were unable to provide precise English meaning of 练习 (practice/ 'practise').

(a) According to Dawei (大衛), how often does his family travel?

(1)

*A few times every year. during spring.*

(b) What makes the trip to America special to Xiaomin (小敏)?

(1)

*Ever since he was young, he liked cinemas.*

(c) (i) What does Mading (馬丁) feel about school trips?

(1)

*They are not ~~useful~~ meaningful.*

(ii) What is the reason that he goes on school trips?

(1)

*Compared to school, it is more fun.*

(d) According to Chen Juan (陳娟), what is the benefit of her trips to China?

(1)

*It is beneficial for ~~learn~~ revising Chinese.*

## Question 6

Q6b and Q6c are attempted well among most candidates.

Q6a. The majority of candidates lost marks in this question, demonstrating that the usage of the key word, “等” was challenging.

Q6d. Some candidates missed out “两张” and some were unable to use appropriate English to express 上传(照片).

Q6e. A detailed answer is expected for this question and the correct answer is “winning photos will be published in September in (KanZhongguo) Magazine.”

(a) According to Dawei (大衛), how often does his family travel?

(1)

*A few times every year. during spring.*

(b) What makes the trip to America special to Xiaomin (小敏)?

(1)

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(1)

*Compared to school, it is more fun.*

(d) According to Chen Juan (陳娟), what is the benefit of her trips to China?

(1)

*It is beneficial for ~~learn~~ revising Chinese.*

## Question 7

Most candidates had a good understanding of text and answered the questions correctly. Q7b Q7c, Q7d, Q6e and Q6g were attempted well among most candidates.

Common mistakes were:

Q7a. Some candidates were unable to provide the correct name of the Dragon Boat Festival in English.

Q7f. Some candidates were unable to tell the difference of “乐趣” as “兴趣”, “兴奋” in English.

In general, the majority of candidates had room to improve in this section. It is important that candidates answer the questions in English as requested. Candidates also need to read the texts carefully and select the most relevant information and give precise answers.

Candidates for whom English is not the mother tongue, it is important to improve English quality by checking grammar and spelling after finishing the questions.

TRADITIONAL/ FOLK CHARACTERS

(a) What festival takes place on the 5th day of the 5th month in the Chinese lunar calendar?

(1)

Autumn Festival

(b) What are the problems when the weather is getting warm? Give **two** details.

(2)

More people getting sick and more toxic insects will come up and bite someone.

(c) Why do people like to carry herb bags? Give **two** details.

(2)

Keep our body healthy and the good smells will keep people relax.

(d) Where do people place herb bags? Give **one** detail.

(1)

Hanging inside the car.

(e) How can people learn to make herb bags?

(1)

Many shops will organise the learning class for people to learn how to make herb bags.

(f) What are the advantages of making your own herb bag? Give **two** details.

(2)

It can be used by yourself and experience the process of making herb bag.

(g) What can people do with the completed herb bags?

(1)

It can be used by ourself and act as gift for family and friends.

(Total for Question 7 = 10 marks)

## **Section C**

Section C is a continuous writing task.

### **Q8**

*Candidates will be required to write 180–200 characters of Chinese in the form of a letter, report or article based on a short printed Chinese-language stimulus. Candidates must respond to four to six bullet points based on the stimulus text and demonstrate their ability to communicate accurately in Chinese using correct grammar and syntax.*

The task included four bullet points inviting candidates to share their experience of learning Chinese, the expectations of the study tour in terms of language and culture and weekend excursions. The majority of candidates did well in covering all bullet points and adhered to the word limit which was 180-200.

Some candidates wrote too much on the first two points and left very little room for the development of remaining points which are equally, if not, more important as the first two. Some candidates did not structure the writing well and there were no clear differences and logical developments from one point to another with points muddle up.

A good plan and well balanced writing could help to score higher marks.

Candidates should read the rubrics carefully, then organise their ideas into each bullet points/ paragraph. To achieve high marks candidates are encouraged to use a variety of expressions and structures but should avoid unnecessarily flamboyant style.

### **General comments:**

Section B is a listening assessment with a maximum of 20 marks. Majority of the candidates did well in Section A. In Q4, answers that require a short written response in Chinese characters and answers are based on the information provided in the passage. No credit could be given for answers written in English and for those which are not based on the stimulus.

Section B is a reading assessment with a maximum of 20 marks. Candidates are required to read three passages in Chinese and answer questions in English. Overall candidates made good attempts but precise understanding and accurate English are essential to score higher marks in this section.

Section C is a writing assessment with a maximum of 30 marks. Candidates were required to write 180-200 characters in Chinese, based on a short Chinese-language stimulus. It is important that candidates covered all the bullet points given in the question within the specified word limit. A good plan and well balanced writing could help to score higher marks.

Candidates are reminded of the importance of reading the rubrics and instructions carefully before answering the questions.

