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Examiners' Report

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GCE Chinese 2 6CN02 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.

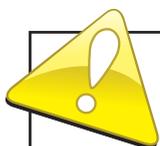
Section A – listening comprehension

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 advised 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 sure that the answers they have written down are correct.

Q3. The vast majority of the candidates responded very well to this question, with few candidates handwriting an answer of 七天, 一个星期/一個星期 or 一個禮拜 for Q3(a) instead of circling the 一周, which were accepted.



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Examiner Tip

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.

Question 4

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 the incorrect writing of the traditional characters “歲” for Q4(e), “機” for Q4(f). In terms of Q4(c), some candidates missed the meaning of “half”, instead of writing “两年半” or “2.5年”, they wrote “两年” or “2年”; others missed the meaning of “以前”. No mark was awarded for substituting “两” with “二” or mixing Chinese characters with Arabic numbers: no marks for “二年半以前” or “2年半以前”. Some candidates also missed the meaning of “half” for Q4(e), instead of writing “十八（岁/歲）以上” or “超过/满十八（岁/歲）”, they wrote 十八（岁/歲）, which is awarded no marks.

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 practising writing while preparing for this exam.



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Examiner Tip

The candidates need to pay attention to the descriptive terms associated with numbers, such as “about”, “over”, “below”, “near”, “almost”, “approximately” etc.

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 texts. 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

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

Q5(a). This question requires precise understanding of the text and the key word is 'bad mood'. A good number of candidates lost the mark by mistakenly using 'sad', 'depressed', 'boring', 'dull' or 'upset' instead of 'bad mood' or 'unhappy'.

Q5(b). The correct answer is 'addicted to computer games' or 'cannot stop playing computer games' or 'playing computer games affect their study'. Some candidates didn't mention the key word 'computer games'.

Q5(c). The key information is 'helpful for her son's study/learning', but a small number of candidates failed to indicate 'study or learning'.

Q5(d-i). Some candidates were unable to provide precise English meaning of 教育游戏/教育遊戲(educational games).

Q5(d-ii). The correct answer is one of the following: "reduce teachers' preparation time for lessons"; "to make lessons/learning more interesting"; or "attract students to learn". Some candidates were unable to provide a precise English translation of "准备/準備"(preparation/ to prepare).

Question 6

Q6(a) attempted well by most candidates.

Q6(b). The majority of candidates lost marks in this question, demonstrating that the usage of the key word, “附近” was challenging.

Candidates can score marks if their answer indicates ‘close to China Town’; ‘nearby / near China Town’ are also acceptable. Unfortunately, a small number of candidates wrote ‘nearly China Town’, therefore lost one mark.

Q6(c). Some candidates did not use adverb “近” , therefore they only wrote ‘40 years’.

Q6(d). Some candidates did not score here, because they did not include “characters” in their answer, and wrote the answer as “there are simplified and traditional books in this library”, which conveys a different meaning and is therefore not the correct answer.

Q6(e). Only a small number of candidates answered this question correctly. The key information is ‘proof of address in the UK’. A large number of candidates did not write ‘proof’; answers like ‘prove’, ‘provement’, ‘approve’, ‘approval’, ‘certificate’ or ‘qualification’ are not accepted.



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Examiner Tip

Accurate and precise expressions in English are required in this section. Candidates should think carefully and choose the most appropriate phrases in English.

Question 7

Most candidates had a good understanding of text and answered the questions correctly. Q7c, Q7e, and Q7f were attempted well by most candidates.

Common mistakes were:

Q7(a). Marks were deducted due to the following main reasons: some candidates wrote 'interviewer' instead of 'reporter', some candidates simply misspelt the key word, instead of 'journalist', they wrote 'journal'.

Q7(b). Many candidates scored one mark for this question. The answer encompasses two parts, 'his passports had been stolen; he lost his luggage', some candidates lost one mark by writing 'he lost passport and luggage'.

Q7(d). Some candidates were unable to provide the correct meaning of '旅行让他的人生更丰富' in English.

Q7(g). A lot of candidates were able to score at least one mark for this question as they wrote 'speak other languages' or 'speak English' albeit misspelling the word 'language'.

Q7(h). The correct answer is 'Young people in Japan and South Korea have the same idea as those in Hong Kong' or 'Young people in Japan and South Korea would like to stop working and go travelling'. Some candidates did not mention the key information '和香港年轻人一样' or '放下工作去旅行'.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

In general, candidates need to read the texts carefully and select the most relevant information and give precise answers. For candidates for whom English is not their mother tongue, it is important for them to improve the quality of their English by checking their spelling and grammar after finishing the questions.

Section C

Section C is a continuous writing task.

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.

Question 8

The task included four bullet points inviting candidates to share their future plans. The majority of candidates did well in covering all bullet points and adhered to the word limit which was 180-200. There were a few candidates who scored the full marks for either content or language or both of them. Their answers were wholly convincing and well developed. Their language was always fluent and varied.

However, it is disappointing to see some candidates who understood the task and developed the points successfully, but did not respond to all the bullet points. Equally, some candidates did not pay closer attention to the word limit, although the passage was well written, because when it reached to the word limit (200 characters), the remaining part of the short essay could not be taken into consideration, hence the four-bullet-point requirements were not fully met.

Some candidates were able to cover all bullet points, but the essay structure was not very well organised, the use of language was restricted to limited words or phrases, hence repetitive. It is disappointing that these essays could not reach to top mark band.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

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 point paragraph. To achieve higher marks candidates are encouraged to use a variety of expressions and structures but should avoid unnecessarily flamboyant style.

Paper Summary

Section A 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.

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