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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback
Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Chinese (9CN0)
Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Translation

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Introduction

This paper assesses the candidates' understanding of spoken and written Chinese from a variety of types of authentic texts and listening materials, as well as their ability to translate accurately from Chinese to English.

Students should be able to:

- understand main points, gist and detail from spoken and written material
- infer meaning from complex spoken and written material
- assimilate and use information from spoken and written sources, including material from online media
- summarise information from spoken sources, reporting key points and subject matter
- translate from Chinese to English.

This paper has a total of 80 marks. It comprises three sections. Section A: Listening (30 marks); Section B: Reading (30 marks); Section C: Translation into English (20 marks). Students must answer all questions in each section (A, B and C).

The use of dictionaries is **not** permitted.

The total assessment time is 2 hours. Students are recommended to spend 50 minutes on Section A, 50 minutes on section B and 20 minutes on Section C.

Students have full control of the recordings. They can work through the sections and the questions in any order they prefer. However, it is recommended that candidates work through the questions in the order given within each Section.

Listening

This paper comprises three listening passages. Candidates are required to attempt all questions. Question 1 is multiple choice, and Questions 2 & 3 require candidates to answer the given questions in Chinese characters.

2(a) Candidates were asked 'how' the family travelled to Beijing. Most candidates were successful at answering this question, however some candidates only put down 汽车/汽車 instead of 坐汽车/坐汽車.

2(b) Many candidates were successful with this question. Some candidates were unable to write the correct characters for 难忘/難忘。

2(e) Many candidates were successful with this question. Some candidates were unable to write the correct answers for 围巾/圍巾.

Question 3b(i) and 3b(ii) test the skill of summarising. Question 3b(i) required candidates to summarise in Chinese characters the main points of the developments of TV programmes in the past and at present in China, and 3b(ii) required a summary of the situations in the 80s and 90s in China. Many candidates were successful in doing so. Some candidates transcribed the whole listening passage instead of giving a summary. When candidates transcribed the

entire passage, full mark were not applied. Some candidates used incorrect characters in their summary, and responses contained homophones were rejected. For example, if a candidate wrote 科计/科計 instead of 科技, no mark was awarded for this element. Or if they wrote 近步 instead of 进步/進步, no mark was awarded for this element.

Reading

This paper comprises of four reading passages. Candidates are required to attempt all questions. While reading passages come after the listening questions, candidates may choose in what order they wish to attempt the questions.

Question 4

This is a multiple-choice question. Candidates were required to choose the four correct sentences out of a possible nine, based on the given reading passage. Majority of candidates were successful with this task, and many scored full marks.

Question 5

Candidates were asked to read a reading text on 'blended families' in China. Many candidates performed well in this question. For 5(a), some candidates either did not read the question carefully or failed to address the question asked directly. For example, the question asked about '...the newly graduated university students ...', but some candidates responded about 'university students' instead. Candidates are encouraged to give short answers. If a candidate wishes to answer questions in full sentences, they need to make sure that everything they write is correct. For 5(c), many candidates did not provide detailed enough answer and only wrote down '说话、看电视/說話、看電視' instead of 和老人一起说话、看电视/和老人一起說話、看電視 or 陪老人说话、看电视/陪老人說話、看電視. 5(e) asks 'what Zhou Xuelong and his landlord have in common', and some candidates simply wrote down 安静/安靜 instead of 喜欢安静/喜歡安靜. The meaning of the given response 安静/安靜 is ambiguous, as this single lexical item can be interpreted as 'both of them are very quiet', hence no mark was awarded.

Question 6

Candidates were asked to read an adapted news report on 'Overtime' in China. Many candidates were able to answer some questions correctly. 6(b) asked 'what problem could be avoided by...', but some candidates gave '减少加班/減少加班' which has the opposite the meaning as the given text. This kind of answer showed that candidates either did not read the given question carefully or did not comprehend the given question. Similarly with 6(g), the question asked 'what the new timetable might not be able to change', many candidates wrote down 加班时间/加班時間. The meaning of this response is ambiguous, as this phrase can be interpreted as the starting and finishing time of 'overtime', and this does not have the same meaning as the correct answer 'the amount of work'/工作量.

Question 7

Candidates were required to read another adapted news article and this time the topic is on environment. Many candidates were successful in answering some of the questions. For 2(b), many candidates were able to process the information and came to the conclusion that Ma Li's target was to achieve 零垃圾/零垃圾 or 零浪费/零浪费. However, some candidates misinterpreted the passage and assumed that Ma Li had the intention of making other people to achieve such a target. Many candidates misinterpreted question 2(c) and wrote down 不用塑料袋, 不网购/不网购, 不点外卖/不点外卖 which had the opposite meaning of what was required. While many candidates were able to answer 8(g) correctly, some gave answers which lacked sufficient detail, for example, the word 中国/中國 was omitted in their response.

Question 8

This is a translation exercise where candidates were required to translate from Chinese into English. The topic of the passage is on Education. The translation is divided into 20 sense groups and candidates must translate each sense group correctly to score the mark. Many candidates understood the passage well and were able to translate the passage fairly accurately. However, there were a few common issues faced by many candidates. The first one was poor spelling. Some candidates were very poor at spelling and wrote down, for example, 'principle' for 'principal'. The second one was poor knowledge of vocabulary. For example, some candidates wrote 'materials' or 'devices' instead of 'equipment' for 设备/設備. The third was poor knowledge of grammar. Some candidates were unable to translate grammatical structures such as 除了.....以为, or/and 不但.....而且.....

Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Read the questions carefully and address the questions directly.
- Manipulate the language and use your own words to answer questions - 'lifting' or word-by-word copying of the text is not allowed.
- Words and phrases are sufficient - no need to write out full sentences
- Give the exact number of answers as requested. For example, if it is a one-mark question, you should only give one answer; if it is a two-mark question, you should only give two answers.
- Write in characters - Pinyin is not accepted.

- Translate accurately, paying attention to your choice of words, capital and small letters, tenses and so on.

Students should be reminded that they should **not**

- give more responses than the number(s) required in multiple choice questions.
- use Pinyin in their answers.
- transcribe the audio passage(s) as their answer(s).
- 'lift' whole sentences or paragraphs from the reading passage(s).
- alter the meaning of the original translation passage by adding or deleting information, or by giving a summary using your own words.

