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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Chinese (9CN0)
Paper 01

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PE Report: 9CN0 01 Listening, reading and translation June 2024

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.

A large number of candidates achieved good success on Q2. The biggest challenge appeared to be with the character 幕 in the word 'opening ceremony' in Q2(c).

On the whole, lots of candidates achieved good success with Q3(a). Question 3b(i) and 3b(ii) test the skill of summarising. 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 containing homophones were

rejected. For example, if a candidate wrote 目的地 instead of 目的, 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 text on Families in China. Many candidates performed well in this question. For 5(a), many candidates gave two synonyms for this two-mark question. For example, many candidates responded to this question with 开心/開心 and 高兴/高興. As these two words have the same meaning, only the first response given was accepted. Candidates are advised not to use synonyms as two different answers in the future.

Question 6

Candidates were asked to read an adapted article on how a traveller used social media to travel around China. Many candidates were able to answer most of the questions correctly. It was good to see that majority of candidates addressed the questions directly and succinctly.

Question 7

Candidates were required to read an adapted news report on the theme of the Evolving Chinese Society. Many candidates were successful in answering most of the questions. Some candidates found (c) and (e) challenging, which could be due to the fact that these two questions required candidates to process the information provided in the middle of sentences.

Question 8

This is a translation exercise where candidates were required to translate from Chinese into English. The topic of the passage was on School life and

student issues. The translation is divided into 20 sense groups and candidates are required to translate each sense group correctly to score the mark. Many candidates understood the passage well and were able to translate the passage fairly accurately. Candidates are also reminded that the translation should be completely based on words and phrases given in the original text and that grammatical structures should also be adhered to. Adding additional words, failing to translate given words and/or phrases, changing tenses will result in marks not being awarded for the section(s) concerned.

Summary

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

- Continue to read the questions carefully and address the questions directly.
- Continue to 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 – there is 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 and expression, tenses and so on. No words should be added or omitted.

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 their own words.