



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Chinese (9CN0)
Paper 03 Speaking

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General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

Task 1: Indicative content

In their response, while presenting and justifying points of view, developing arguments and drawing conclusions based on understanding, students may refer critically and analytically to the following points. However, the indicative content is not exhaustive, and students should be rewarded for any valid response.

Task 1 Stimulus CN1

Theme 4 Reform	• The growth of megacities in China has brought about substantial economic growth and work opportunities with higher salaries. There are usually more multinational companies in big cities, thus providing further job and training opportunities. • The growth of megacities in China has brought about significant population growth and as a result, vigorous development of social undertakings. Chinese people who reside in these cities and the surrounding areas enjoy better resources for transport, education and health services, and as a result improve their quality of life. • The sheer size and complexity of megacities, such as their fast pace of life, fierce job competition and huge work pressures, give rise to enormous social challenges. The cost of living is unaffordable for low-income workers, and some have to live outside the community. • More often than not, significant consumption of electricity and coal couples with industrialisation and, with the increasing road usage in the over-populated cities, traffic congestion and air pollution are common in megacities.
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Task 1 Stimulus CN2

Theme 4 China-UK relationship	• Language is the best way to spread culture. When learning English, learners acquire the history and culture and traditions and customs of Britain. An increasing number of schools in China set up exchange programmes with their sister schools in Britain to enhance their students' learning and encourage cultural exchange. Participants naturally become ambassadors of cultural exchange between the two countries. • Although learners of English will become aware of some cultural differences, this could be the only way for Chinese students to acquire some aspects of British culture rather than a two-way exchange, and the sharing of Chinese culture to the British people could be absent in the process. Moreover, the English language is very different to the Chinese language and some learners find it challenging to break the linguistic barrier in their learning journey. This makes it difficult for them to promote British culture in their own country. • Cultural exchanges can also be strengthened through the development of world cultural and economic activities, such as the World Expo and the international sports events, as they give the participating countries opportunities to share their values, cultures and practices. International businesses between the two countries can also increase their understanding of etiquette, communication styles and work culture. • Chinese communities in the UK often hold special events, talks, exhibitions and cultural activities during Chinese traditional festivals to promote their culture. This helps the British public understand more about Chinese culture and history.
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Task 1 Stimulus CN3

Theme 1 Family	• The Chinese education system is very competitive and the demand and pressure on young people are very high. Their priority remains on their studies and if there is time to spare, to develop their interests and skills. Also, for Chinese families in China who can afford to employ helpers for domestic tasks, there is no need for the younger generation to do housework. • Doing housework cultivates a sense of responsibility for young people. It is a very good way to understand their shared responsibilities in the family. It can also enrich their life knowledge, develop their intelligence, organisational and self-care skills and build up their self-confidence. Young people who do not do housework would find themselves more difficult to adjust to their adult lives when they leave home for further studies and work than those who do. • Chinese people traditionally lived with their parents after they were married and tended to have several children. As such, they had big families with three, or maybe four, generations living together. However, this has changed as there are fewer family members since the 1980s due to the one-child policy. In contrast to previous generations, younger generations often prefer to have fewer children. • There are also some fundamental changes to Chinese traditional family values. The social stigma that was previously attached to non-core families has largely disappeared, and people are much more likely to divorce resulting in single families. Some young people may choose not to get married or start a family. The Chinese family structure then varies.
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Task 1 Stimulus CN4

Theme 1 Education and Work	• Many Chinese parents have high aspirations for their children. As the competition for universities and jobs in China is very fierce, investing in education is widely regarded as one of the parents' ways to help their children to improve their academic performances and have better prospects in life. If parents have the means to afford quality education and enrich their children's learning experiences, which can provide influence and useful networks for future career opportunities, they should spend money on their children's education. • Academic achievement is not everything and certainly not the only way to succeed in life. When Chinese parents overemphasise on education and sacrifice too much on other things for their children's education, they can give young people the wrong impression on the value of education, and young people in turn overlook the importance of other aspects and factors, such as the enlightenment and cultivation of interests, the formation of good habits, which can support them to go much further in their future lives. • Understanding themselves, what they are good at and what they enjoy doing are the first steps that young people can take to prepare their future careers. They can take part in activities, work experience and do summer or part-time work to develop soft skills, such as communication, problem-solving and teamwork skills for the world of work. Some may find it helpful to clarify their thoughts by discussing career paths with their parents, teachers or career counsellors. • If young people have identified some possible occupations, they should learn more about those occupations by researching further information, talking directly to people who work in those areas and, if possible, gain some experiences by job shadowing or internship to get a taste of what it could be like to work in those careers. Chinese people believe that expanding their network can help them accelerate their careers in the future and young people can start to develop their interpersonal skills.
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Task 1 Stimulus CN5

Theme 3 Communications, Science and Technology	• With the development and popularity of the internet, the time young people spend on internet is ever increasing and it is found that those who spent long hours online are more likely to skip school, have relatively poorer eyesight (myopia) and interpersonal skills. Limiting screen time is a good way to tackle internet addiction and it is particularly helpful for young people who lack self-discipline as they will then have more time to spend away from the screen to cultivate other interests, do some physical exercise and communicate with people in person. This can benefit young people's well-being as a whole. • There is an increasing number of schools and universities that require students to study and to complete their assignments online. Limiting screen time is not always flexible to cater for individual needs. It is better to introduce technology independence to young people than restrict their screen time. • Internet is a very important part of young people in China. Apart from study, they use internet to socialising, playing games and watching videos. They often use social media, such as Wechat and Rednote, to connect and exchange ideas with others. • China is a big country and eCommerce platforms are very popular among Chinese people as they can access to a wide range of goods and services 24 hours a day near and afar via internet shopping sites, such as Taobao and TMall. The goods can be delivered within one to two days. Chinese people of all ages often shop online and find it convenient.
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Task 1 Stimulus CN6

Theme 3 Economy and environment	• As the continuous development of the Chinese economy, an increasing number of Chinese households has one or more private cars. Compared with the use of gasoline vehicles which emit harmful gases to human health and the environment, electric cars are undoubtedly much more environmentally friendly. Research shows that electric vehicles have by far the lowest lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions, and by switching to electric vehicles Chinese people can make some positive contribution to reduce air pollution in China. • While emission of electric vehicles causes less air pollution, the components of electric car batteries are not easily recycled and that involves some unsustainable practices. Unless there is some major breakthrough of innovation of power battery technology, the disposal of EV batteries will continue to add to the growing worldwide e-waste problem and cause impact on the environment. Hence, driving electric car does not necessary reduce air pollution in the long run. • To improve the natural environment in China, Chinese people reduce waste and recycle, e.g. separate their rubbish for recycling, bring reusable cloth bags for shopping, use ethical and sustainable eco-friendly products. Many Chinese people continue to use bicycles as their main mode of transport. • For sustainable development of the environment, Chinese people have simplified their ways of celebrations and encourage 'green' customs. Their awareness of reducing food waste during festival celebrations has increased, and most urban areas in China have stopped setting off fireworks and firecrackers. These simplified customs help to protect the environment.
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Task 1 Stimulus CN7

Theme 2 Traditions	• Since China's One-child policy, the size of the family and the declining birth rate have made Chinese family gatherings less lively than they were. Instead of spending the Spring Festival with little festive atmosphere, many Chinese people choose to make use of their long holiday to explore new places during the Spring Festival. Hence travelling has become their favourite celebrative activity during this festival period. • Technology has changed the way people celebrate Spring Festival in modern Chinese societies. Without their physical presence, Chinese people can meet families virtually and send festive greetings and red packet electronically. This allows them to travel abroad as they do not need to celebrate the Spring Festival in the traditional way. • Family unity remains as the core value over the traditional festival period. It is signified by reunion dinners and visits to their extended families. Although these pillars of the traditional festivals have undergone some changes over the ages, they remain as the traditions among the Chinese speaking communities, as it fosters the family cohesion and reflect Chinese people's values and national identity. • Filial piety is another main Chinese virtue. As the younger generation of a family, Chinese young people show their love and respect to their parents and older generations by spending more time with them and communicate with individual family members, listen and understand their needs, expressing care and support by their loving words and gestures, including taking initiative to share family responsibilities, such as caring for their grandparents and younger siblings with practical helps. Chinese families continue to pay respect to their ancestors by visiting their tombs during Qingming Festival.
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Task 1 Stimulus CN8

Theme 2 Cultural activities	• People around the world watch Chinese movies because they provide a window into the rich and diverse culture of China. Audiences can encounter Chinese unique perspectives, traditions, and values and thus fosters cross-cultural understanding. • With the complex emotions and human relationships, the excel in visually stunning pictures, Chinese movies offer diverse genres and a rewarding cinematic journey for everyone. Some exceptional Chinese movies have already gained international acclaim. International collaboration among film makers and award-winning Chinese directors and actors/actresses have made Chinese movies more attractive around the world. • Traditional Chinese dramas, such as Beijing operas, are very popular and are regarded as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. It is a performance art incorporating singing, reciting, acting, martial arts. Tourists who are keen on Chinese cultural activities often go to the theatre to see some live performances. • China has a very long and rich history, and its culture shines through various cultural activities, ranging from art and crafts, sports and martial arts to food and drink. People around the world are interested in Chinese calligraphy and paper-cutting, sampling Chinese traditional cuisine and tea and/or playing table tennis and Taichi.
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