

Paper 2 Question 6

The three options for the long essay will be numbered Q6a, Q6b and Q6c as from 2014.

The aim of this question is to test the candidates' ability to write in Chinese. Four bullet points will be provided. Each of them must be addressed by the candidates. Overall the candidates must write 100 - 150 words on the given topic.

Marks will be awarded for Communication and Content (10 marks), Knowledge and Application of Language (5 marks) and Accuracy (5 marks). The mark grids are printed on page 13 of the Specification.

Rubric: 上个月你去看了体育比赛。写信给你的朋友，告诉他、她：

- 你们去看了什么比赛 (Task 1)
- 你和谁一起去的 (Task 2)
- 比赛在哪里 (Task 3)
- 你喜欢这场比赛吗；为什么 (Task 4)

Indicate which question you are answering by marking the box .
If you change your mind, put a line through the box
and then indicate your new question with a cross .

你选择了哪一个题目？

你好，^{小江}我叫雨果。去年八月，我看了
体育比赛在伦敦在温布登。
我跟我~~常~~好朋友坐公共汽
车上体育。天气是很热。我不
喜欢体育。我觉得体育没有
意思，但是我朋友最喜欢
体育，先我~~帮~~喝场，然后我
朋友不喝可是他很累。我朋友
想工作在体育，因为体育是他的
爱好。长大~~以后~~以后我更做司机
因为我不喜欢体育，所以我不体
育，我上胖。

The candidate has written 130 words.

Communication and content

Communication

The candidate shows some ability to organise his/ her response and develops some points to the tasks. There is much more than “limited communication” and despite some ambiguity, the essay is not generally “lacking clarity”. The essay rises above Band 3-4.

There is indeed “some ambiguity” (先我喝场，然后我朋友不喝可是他很累；我上胖) particularly as the candidate struggles with Chinese word order. On the whole, however, the answer is “mostly clear”. The essay can be placed in Band 5-6, so its suitability for Band 7-8 must be examined. There does seem to be rather more than just “occasional ambiguity”. This lack of clarity means that the essay does not reach beyond Band 5-6 but can be in Band 5-6.

Content

The candidate has, quite acceptably, answered Task 1 and Task 3 together. The point has been covered very briefly, but as long as brevity in one task is compensated by development of another task, the candidate will be deemed to have dealt with the task.

Do you like this match? Why? (Task 4) The candidate doesn't like PE. S/he would like to be a driver in the future. S/he is overweight. Again, there is not a wide range of facts relevant directly to the task here, but the points have been covered. Task 4 is comprehensible to a sympathetic reader – the candidate doesn't like the match.

There are no “major omissions” in what the candidate has written, so placing the essay in Band 3-4 would be too harsh. It is evident that the “response addresses most aspects of the task” and so it is appropriate to look immediately at Band 7-8, however, the essay is not always relevant, for the candidate has added irrelevant details rather than developing the points given in the tasks:

我觉得体育没有意思，但是我朋友有最喜欢体育.....我不上胖。

One sentence of the essay is not relevant. The sentence consists of 16 characters. The candidate would have done well to omit those characters. The essay would still have covered the task, would have included 114 characters and been far less irrelevant.

So although the candidate has managed to cover the basic elements of the tasks, albeit in a far from doing so “fully” (Band 9-10) there is a very high level of irrelevance which places it firmly in band 5-6 although comfortably at the top of the band.

How to improve the Communication and Content mark

Candidates should remember that not only do they have to cover all tasks, but at least some of those tasks should be fully developed. It is not adequate to cover the task and then give unrelated information. Candidates are being tested on their ability to use language structures which give evidence that they can deal with and develop the theme stated in the bullet points of the rubric.

Knowledge and accuracy of language

A range of vocabulary and complex sentence structures are attempted. The candidate has used no more than two connectives: 但是.....; 因为.....所以..... All other sentences are very simply constructed.

The candidate has done well to use the verb range more or less appropriately. Errors occur but the message is clear and the mistakes do not always prevent communication.

The essay must be placed in Band 3-4 as there are dependent clauses。 The basic vocabulary is sound: 看了, 跟, 觉得, 做。

How to improve the knowledge and application of language mark

Grade C candidates do well in not trying to be adventurous in displaying a wide range of structures, but to concentrate on the accuracy mark.

Accuracy

The essay has more accurate parts than inaccurate. Despite some errors in word order, many caused by the influence of the English language. The intended meaning is clear and the characters are generally accurate. It is therefore appropriate to place the essay in Band 3-4.