

4CN0_02

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 : 写电子邮件给你的朋友，请他、她到你家来玩，告诉他、她：

- 为什么请他、她 (Task1)
- 日期和时间 (Task 2)
- 你想给他、她做什么好吃的 (Task 3)
- 你们会有什么活动(Task 4)

你选择了哪一个题目？

小明，

好吗？我想请你来庆

祝我们的圣诞节。你可以二

十号五日西点来吗？我想

们有^很多[^]查的蛋糕吃，也有好^多

吃的^火烤^面鸡。要是天^下

雪，我们就可以^打玩^雪球，也

可以布置美丽的^树，真会

有趣[！]。我们也可^以

坐公共汽车去市中心，在咖啡店
 店~~喝~~月~~聊~~聊天。^{其它}虽然我们
 但是
 有~~一~~汽车，我觉得我们太依赖^车辆，
 所以~~而~~要有公共汽车去，~~会~~空~~空~~
 脏污染就少一点。~~如~~
 如果~~我~~金钱~~不~~绝对~~不~~不是
 问题，我们~~下~~年可以~~在~~
 法国庆祝！
 祝好，
 小花

The candidate has written 148 words.

Communication and content : This is always the first mark to be awarded. The examiners read the essay through and consider to what extent the response

- a) is clear (Communication) and
- b) addresses all bullet points of the task (Content).

Communication

It is unnecessary to look at the three lowest bands of the marking grid (0-4) as the reader does not have to struggle unduly to understand the text. It is therefore reasonable to start by looking first at Band 7-8. There is "occasional ambiguity".

所以要有公共汽车去，污染就会少一点。

如果金钱绝对不是问题，我们下年可以在法国庆祝。

The next step is to check whether the higher bands are more appropriate. The information is

provided, conveyed clearly and generally developed with ideas and opinions have been given and explained. However, the essay is clear with “occasional ambiguity”. The essay should be placed in Band 7- 8. It is important to see how misleading the ambiguity might be. Is the language merely a little odd, or does the reader have to struggle to understand the writer’s intentions? The overall information conveyed by the piece must be taken into account. In this essay, the candidate has used 148 words and has managed to communicate the following ideas very clearly:

why invite his/her friend (Task 1)

date and time (Task 2)

what food will be prepared for him / her (Task 3)

What activities they can do together (Task 4)

go to town centre by bus (Task 4)

less pollution (Task 4 – additional, irrelevant information)

celebrate next Christmas in France (Task 4 – additional, not fully relevant information)

The essay is preponderantly clear but there is occasional ambiguity, which would put the essay in Band 7-8 .

Content

Again, starting at Band 5-6, it would be harsh to say that any of the candidate’s comments were merely “mostly relevant” and that only “some aspects of the task” had been conveyed. The next band up then must be considered.

In Band 7-8, the candidate must have given a completely relevant response and have addressed “most aspects of the task”. This certainly seems to have been achieved by the candidate. The examiner then checks whether the essay might deserve to be placed in the top band. There is no doubt that “the response is relevant”. It is not evident that it “fully addresses all aspects of the task”. The additional info given for task 4 isn't clear but causes ambiguity.

Overall mark for Communication and Content: it would be reasonable to put the essay in Band 7-8.

Knowledge and application of Language

Starting with Band 1-2, the examiners first look at the vocabulary and structures to see if there is merely a “narrow range” at this level. A variety of vocabulary is used in this essay, such as 很香, 好吃的, 美丽的. Good evidence of complex sentence structures with a range of connectives such as 如果. ; 要是. ; 虽然. 但是. As far

as structures are concerned, the candidate has put some effort into displaying the knowledge of structures which justify placing the essay in Band 3-4.

The candidate's use of connective words is not secure. The errors occur when complexity is achieved by using a variety of expressions. There is: "with some lapse", for example 要是……就……. It is therefore appropriate to look first at Band 3-4 as there were several gaps in the candidate's knowledge.

Accuracy

It would be appropriate to first consider Band 3-4. The candidate has mastered the majority of the characters and written them accurately. Some characters are not correctly written. Overall, there does seem to possess a high level of accuracy and only occasional lapses, so the mark could be placed just inside Band 3-4.

General comment

It is important to distinguish "Knowledge and Application of Language" from "Accuracy" as it is imperative that marks are not withheld twice from a candidate. For example, in this essay, it is important to recognise that the candidate has not mastered connectives. Once this lack of knowledge has been taken into account, the examiner will not take this "error" into consideration again when awarding a mark for Accuracy.