Chinese Paper 3 (Speaking)

Commentary – sample 1

Section A: Presentation and discussion based on a single picture

Topic area: Social activities, fitness and health

Picture: a scene of playing basketball in a playground

Time: 4 min

Presentation, communication and fluency

The candidate gives a thorough introduction to her favourite activity (playing football) as shown on the picture, including her opinions and a past event. However, the follow-up discussion is not based on the picture nor the content of the presentation. The discussion covers topics on "birthday", "festival", "hobbies – reading and music" and "shopping" which relate to the chosen topic area but not the picture. The teacher asks a wide range of questions which are all well responded. The candidate takes initiative to expand the ideas and express her opinions without hesitation. The level of communication and spontaneity is consistently high, and would have scored the top mark if the contents of discussion were related to the picture.   As it stands, the mark awarded is 8.

Knowledge and application of language

The candidate has used a wide range of vocabulary and a variety of structures throughout her presentation and discussion to demonstrate good knowledge of the topics and excellent language skills. Examples are found in her narration of a book review as a response to "reading as a hobby" and "birthday functions". The mark awarded is 5.

Accuracy

The language used is generally accurate. There are some lapses in pronunciation and intonation, e.g. "运动" "去" "吃" "烟花" which sometimes interfere comprehensibility.   The mark awarded is 4.

Score for Section A: 8 + 5 + 4 = 17

Section B: Conversations

Topic 1: Home and abroad

Topic 2: Education and employment

Total time: 6 min

Communication, interaction and fluency

The candidate is very responsive in both conversations, giving lots of information on facts, description and opinions in response to various questions asked while maintaining a natural flow of conversation. She takes initiative to expand her ideas (e.g. the trip to Japan), to express her opinions (e.g. school uniform) and to justify her attitudes (e.g. global warming). The majority of her response is spontaneous and fluent, with only a few occasions (e.g. wearing school uniform) where some hesitation occurs, but there is no prompting required. On the whole, the communication is clear with only a few lapses. The mark awarded is 8.

Knowledge and application of language

The candidate deploys a wide range of vocabulary and structures in the 2 conversations to narrate (e.g. introducing school and subjects), to describe (e.g. trip to Japan), to express ideas & opinions (e.g. weather and global warming) demonstrating good knowledge and language skills. Various tenses – present, past and futures are used appropriately and sophisticated sentence structures effectively (e.g.假如我嫁一个有钱人，我会…因为…) in the conversations. The mark awarded is 5.

Accuracy

Generally accurate language with occasional lapses, e.g.我的学校不要 (没有) 校服. Some errors in pronunciation and intonation e.g. "穿" "去" "吃" sometimes interfere comprehensibility. The mark awarded is 4.

Score for Section B: 8 + 5 + 4 = 17

Total score: 17 + 17 = 34