

Chinese Paper 3 (Speaking)

Commentary – sample 3

Section A: Presentation and discussion based on a single picture

Topic area: Social activities, fitness and health

Picture: a scene of in a fast food shop

Time: 4.15 min

Presentation, communication and fluency

The candidate gives a detailed description of the picture, incorporating his attitudes (on running about and spitting in the public areas) in his presentation. It is well prepared, very informative and fluently presented. However, the response to the teacher's follow-up questions on individual customer, food, prices, service is not outstanding – e.g. “薯条” “不太贵” – only basic answers without expansion. The candidate has also mistaken the question on “服务” as “食物”, and fails to answer the further question on “服务态度” which would have gained more marks. The same situation occurs when the teacher moves on, asking questions on other social and leisure activities such as birthdays and sports. The answers are basic and simple, sometimes need prompting from the teacher for the expansion or details, e.g. Question: “你什么时候打篮球?” Answer: “我...打篮球在午餐...” followed by the teacher's prompting and illustration to complete the answer “...在午餐时间打篮球, 对吗?”. There are not many opinions nor justifications conveyed in the candidate's responses. Judging from the overall performance, the mark awarded is 7.

Knowledge and application of language

The candidate has used a good range of vocabulary structures in his presentation and demonstrated good language skills, but has not performed as well in his follow-up responses. He shows abilities to use different tenses: present, past and future in his answers. The mark awarded is 4.

Accuracy

The language used is generally accurate. There are some lapses in structures e.g. “生日慶祝在紐西蘭”, “买东西在...(商场)”. The mark awarded is 4.

Score for Section A: 7 + 4 + 4 = 15

Section B: Conversations

Topic 1: Home and abroad

Topic 2: Education and employment

Total time: 6 min

Communication, interaction and fluency

The candidate responds to a range of questions well in the first conversation, giving interesting information on the places visited and some opinions as well. On the whole, he manages to sustain the conversations with reasonable spontaneity and fluency. He generally answers straightforward questions such as “Where did you go?” “What did you do?” at the beginning of the conversations well, but failed to go in depth with answers such as “天气很冷, 有四个季节...”. He also showed some hesitation in answering questions with “why” – e.g. “ Why don’t you like that area?” and needs prompting to give the answer “ ...这地区...没有餐厅...”. The same happens in the second conversation when he is talking about his future job and present school. In the latter part of the conversation the teacher asks his opinions on his present school, but he gives an introduction of the school and the facilities instead. The candidate would have gained more marks if he had given the appropriate information with more extensions or opinions. As it stands, the mark awarded is 7.

Knowledge and application of language

The candidate uses a range of vocabulary and structures in the conversations, including various tenses in present, past and future. He performs well in simple straightforward response, but needs occasional prompting from the teacher when answering questions in depth or giving opinions. For example, in the second conversation, he struggles to name his dream job – “心理学家” and needs the teacher’s prompting to give the reason “对别人好”. The mark awarded is 3.

Accuracy

Generally accurate language with occasional lapses, e.g. “...打算读大学在英国”. The mark awarded is 4.

Score for Section B: $7 + 3 + 4 = 14$

Total score: $15 + 14 = 29$