

Chinese Paper 3 (Speaking)

Commentary – sample 4

Section A: Presentation and discussion based on a single picture

Topic area: Social activities, fitness and health

Picture: a scene of a park with different activities celebrating an American Festival

Time: 4 min

Presentation, communication and fluency

The candidate introduces the event as an invitation from a friend to join the celebration in America. She describes how she gets there and what she sees on site in the first minute presentation. The presentation is brief, clear and concise. The candidate responds well to the follow-up questions on “the band”, e.g. “乐队...演出在舞台上”, and describing “the house” - “我朋友的房子有...”, but there are ambiguities in answering other questions on activities, e.g. Question: “...这个孩子做甚么?” Answer: “这是我朋友的公园...” which is irrelevant to the question asked. In responding to the extended questions on social activities, the candidate manages to answer the simple questions, e.g. her date of birth – “二月二十号”, and her hobbies - “画画, 听音乐”. However, the response to the questions on her birthday activities is hesitant, and needs prompting from the teacher: e.g. “有生日会吗?” “参观...跟我一家”. On the whole, the candidate is able to communicate on simple familiar topics, but is hesitant and needs prompting in more complicated expressions. Sometimes, the candidate fails to understand the question, e.g. “Who is this child?” “What are they doing?” hence gives inappropriate answers. The mark awarded is 6.

Knowledge and application of language

The candidate has used a range of vocabulary and structures just adequate to communicate. The first minute introduction is well prepared and fluently presented. However, the follow-up responses are not well performed, with ambiguities and occasional prompting needed. The candidate also fails to answer the questions in past and future tenses (as in birthday events). The mark awarded is 3.

Accuracy

Apart from the first minute presentation, there are frequent errors in

pronunciation and structures which sometimes impede comprehensibility, e.g. “参观...跟我一家”, “这是我朋友的公园(工人?)”. The mark awarded is 3.

Score for Section A: $6 + 3 + 3 = 12$

Section B: Conversations

Topic 1: Home and abroad

Topic 2: House, home and daily routine

Total time: 6 min

Communication, interaction and fluency

In the first conversation, the candidate responds to a range of questions on “weather” and “places abroad”. She answers the simple straightforward question well e.g. “今天天气怎么样?” “你去哪儿旅行?”, but fails to understand more complicated questions e.g. “耶加达一般的天气是怎样?”, “谁跟你一起去?” “你为什么想去 ...?” and gives inappropriate answers. The same happens in the second conversation. She responds well on her familiar topics such as “Describe your best friends”, but fails to understand questions on “Family members – 你家有谁?” and “Timing - 你什么时间...?”, therefore needs prompting from the teacher to give answers. On the whole, the candidate manages to sustain conversations although with frequent hesitation and prompting from the teacher. Not many opinions and ideas conveyed. The mark awarded is 5.

Knowledge and application of language

The candidate uses adequate range of vocabulary and structures in the conversations, better performance on familiar topics, but struggles to express herself in more complicated situations, e.g. “我要学校在中国” – “I want to study in China”. The mark awarded is 3.

Accuracy

Frequent errors in the language and pronunciation sometimes impede communication. The mark awarded is 3.

Score for Section B: $5 + 3 + 3 = 11$

Total score: $12 + 11 = 23$