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Examiners' Report June 2010

GCSE Chinese 5CN01 1F

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Paper 1, foundation tier (5CN01 1F): Listening & Understanding

Only a small number entered for the foundation tier this summer but they were appropriately entered at the correct level. It was pleasing to note that candidates made a good effort to answer all the questions set.

Some questions tested candidates' ability to identify key words from familiar topics, for examples, Q1, Q2, Q4, Q6 and Q7. All candidates were able to score some marks for each of these questions.

On Q1, one-third of the candidates taking the examination were able to identify all four items of sports correctly. *Table tennis* was tested for the first time but caused little difficulty to most candidates. However, half of the entry could not identify *football* and *painting* also caused problems for two-thirds of the candidates.

Q6 showed that lexical items with one of the syllables sharing similar phonetic element in their pronunciation continued to cause problem. Some candidates confused *egg* with *chicken* and *noodles* with *bread*.

It is encouraging to find that candidates made a good effort to attempt the crossover questions. They were all able to score 1 to 3 marks on Q9. However, Q5 and Q6 proved demanding. Evidence showed that this group of candidates were not sufficiently equipped with knowledge of the various *colours* from the minimum core vocabulary list. The topic of *weather* continues to be a weakness for candidates as shown in their responses to Q8.

Q10 proved very challenging. It is disappointing that no candidates offered the correct answer *travel* to (a) and *Sunday* to (b). There was also clear evidence that candidates were weak with *numbers*. On part (d), only one candidate was able to give the correct answer 32. The remaining made up an incorrect figure but with '3' in it, for example, 30, 13, 23, or 3. On part (c), two candidates were able to give the correct answer '17'. All the others made up all sorts of figures. It is important that candidates be trained to go through the questions before the tape begins playing so that they are aware of the context of the different questions and what they need to listen out for. Candidates should also be prepared to apply common sense when listening to the recordings rather than just picking keywords at random. For example, the topic is about a *part-time job*, and this will immediately rule out guessing *2 years old*.

Grade Boundaries

Grade	Max Mark	C	D	E	F	G	U
Raw mark boundary	40	29	23	18	13	8	0
Uniform mark scale boundary	41	36	30	24	18	12	0

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