

# Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

June 2011

GCSE Chinese (5CN01) Paper 1F

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## **Listening & Understanding In Chinese**

It was pleasing to note that this foundation paper was well attempted by the majority of candidates, who seemed well prepared and were in general familiar with the specification and the list of minimum core vocabulary. The last question that required responses in English was the most candidates found most challenging.

A small number of queries were received about the duration of the recording. Going forward, Edexcel will be offering guidance for this on the front cover of the examination paper and on the recording to provide more clarity.

### **Questions 1, 2 and 8**

These questions proved accessible to all candidates.

On Q1i, only a tiny number of candidates confused 'chicken' with '(chicken) egg'. On Q2, surprisingly, 'park' seemed to cause a problem for a small number of candidates.

On Q8, a quarter of the candidates could not associate 'walk' with the correct image.

### **Question 3**

This crossover question proved appropriately challenging but the majority of candidates made a good effort to answer most parts. Most were able to pick up the key words 'tall' and 'long' to score correctly for part (i) and/or (ii). As expected, part (iii) and (iv) were more challenging and some candidates were only able to score one mark from the two.

### **Question 4**

There was evidence this year that candidates exhibited a lot more confidence in items associated with weather. However, while 'swimming' caused no problem for candidates, many did not recognise 'cycling' (or bicycle).

### **Question 5**

This question was very well done, particularly part (i) where it was evident that candidates had learnt their numbers well. Only a small number of candidates confused '120' with '200'. Errors in part (iv) regarding '3<sup>rd</sup> floor' were rare. The majority was also able to identify the new item 'shoes'.

### **Question 6**

This crossover question was generally well attempted, but on part (i), some candidates confused 'mobile phone' (手機/手机) with 'watch'(手錶/手表). It again showed that lexical items with one of the syllables sharing similar phonetic element in their pronunciation caused problem. On part (ii), a noticeable number of candidates did not recognise 'underground', possibly

due to the need to listen to a more extended dialogue instead of short utterance.

### **Question 7**

Surprisingly more than a quarter of the candidates did not recognise 'singing' and 'painting'.

### **Question 9**

This crossover question produced a mixed response. A fair number of candidates could not identify 記者/记者(iv), but overall the other three parts were dealt with acceptably.

### **Question 10**

This question turned out to be more demanding than expected. There was evidence that candidates who were not able to give the correct answers relied mainly on guesswork. Majority of candidates answered (a) and (c) correctly, but far less were able to give the correct answer 'zoo' to (b). Even fewer candidates were able to score 1 mark for (d). These candidates all chose 'chopsticks' as the answer. Some candidates just picked up the sound '毛' from 毛筆/毛笔, and thought 'cat' (貓/猫) was one of the souvenir bought. Candidates should be made aware of the need to apply common sense when listening to the recordings rather than just picking keywords at random. Knowing, for example, that the topic is about a tourist buying souvenirs in China, will help to make the items they are expecting to hear more predictable or easier to identify.

## **Grade Boundaries**

The modern foreign languages specifications share a common design, but the assessments in different languages are not identical. Grade boundaries at unit level reflect these differences in assessments, ensuring that candidate outcomes across these specifications are comparable at specification level.

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