

Examiners' Report /
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

GCSE Chinese (5CN01) Paper 1H

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Publications Code UG031887

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Candidates generally performed well and most were appropriately entered at the correct level. Questions 1-8 were answered correctly by the majority of candidates. The last question, requiring responses in English, was the section that candidates found most challenging.

Candidates approached the crossover questions (Question 1, 2, 5 and 6) with more confidence on this higher paper. Many were able to score all points for at least 2 of these questions and a minimum of 12 from all four questions.

Question 1, 2 and 6 were very well answered. The term 'Calligraphy' in Q1 caused difficulty for some borderline candidates, possibly because it was the first time it had been tested. Some confused 'last week' with 'last month'.

On Question 5, some candidates opted for 'train' on (b) instead of the correct answer 'bus'.

For questions 3, 4 and 7, candidates were required to show more global listening techniques. Candidates were required to listen to longer utterances in familiar subjects and more sophisticated language that included past, present and future events as well as changes of situation. It is pleasing to note that many candidates coped well.

Question 3 – The higher grade candidates were able to score a minimum of 4 points. 'Mountains' and 'several hundred years' invited some incorrect answers.

Question 4 –The higher grade candidates coped very well with this piece of long dialogue and in the majority of cases scored 3 or above. Some were not prepared for the word 'menu'. A few had difficulty making the decision between 'half an hour' and 'one and a half hours'.

Question 7 – Many candidates were able to demonstrate good concentration and recognise at least 2 correct statements.

Question 8 required candidates to give answers in English and this continued to prove challenging for some candidates.

(a) It is surprising that a noticeable number of candidates were not able to give the correct answer 'happy' or 'he likes it'. Some candidates wrote down 'fast'. This is clear evidence that only the syllable '快' was seized on. Candidates at this level are required to have a fair knowledge of words that express feelings and emotions.

(b) Again it is disappointing that a sizeable number of candidates were not able to provide the correct English word 'friendly' for 友好.

- (c) The majority of candidates answered this question correctly. However, several candidates lost marks because they could not infer the correct meaning in English.
- (d) As expected, candidates responded correctly for the subject 'history' in part (i) but there was evidence of guesswork in part (ii) such as 'too many essays to write', 'too many dates to remember', 'boring' etc. Some omitted 'a lot' and therefore were unable to access the mark.
- (e) The majority of candidates answered this correctly.
- (f) It is very surprising that 'concert' caused difficulty for a large number of candidates. Several candidates did not gain the mark because they could only seize on '音樂/音乐' but not '音樂會/音乐会'.
- (g) Was well attempted. Some candidates did not gain the mark because they did not mention 'stay in USA' or misunderstood it as 'going back to Taiwan' for university education.

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