

Examiners' Report /
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

GCSE Chinese (5CN03) Paper 3F

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This is the second sitting of the new specification reading comprehension paper. Overall candidates performed well, exhibiting a reasonable level of reading comprehension.

Question 1 tested basic vocabulary within the specification requiring candidates to match pictures to characters. The correct identification of "bread" and "books" differentiated between candidates, with only the higher grade candidates accessing these marks.

In Question 2, the correct phrase to describe an activity was to be linked to a place. The ability to identify the characters for "swimming" proved more challenging for candidates.

Question 3 continued in the same style as the first two questions and was generally well managed by candidates. The element that many candidates appear to have found challenging was interpretation of the phrase relating to the "internet".

Question 4 required candidates to respond to questions on a short text. This was answered well by the majority of candidates, although the identification of "badminton" as the response to part (iii) was a strong differentiator.

Question 5 provided a timetable as the basis for questions. An area of apparent challenge for candidates was the term for "geography".

Question 6 set out statements that had to be matched to the correct picture for the activity. Again, candidates did well on this question, although the ability to correctly identify "ping pong" and "football" appeared to act as a differentiator for higher grade candidates.

Candidates generally performed well on Questions 7, 8 and 9. However, Question 8 part (iv) appeared to be a key differentiator, with candidates having difficulty correctly interpreting the answer as "boat" and "underground". Responses to Question 9 suggested that identification of different foods was not as straightforward as had been anticipated.

Question 10 (b), (c) and (d) generally generated good responses from most candidates. Part (a), which required candidates to identify the nationality of an individual as "American", proved the most challenging. Some of the responses provided to part (d) regarding the number of children, suggested candidates were struggling with basic numbers, instead offering the incorrect responses of "more than 100", "400" and even "1800".

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