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Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2017

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Chinese (5CN03)
Paper 3F: Reading and understanding
in Chinese.

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GCSE Chinese
Unit 3F: Reading
Examiners Report

5CN03 3F – Reading and Responding

This paper is to test candidates' reading comprehension through a variety of texts that included matching pictures of everyday items, means of transport, understanding career plans, weather, descriptions of leisure activities, identifying items of food, passages on a festival and childhood memories, matching pictures of items that one might expect to take on holiday and questions on a short passage with response in English.

The paper is targeted at candidates with a basic understanding of the Chinese language and takes the form of selecting the right answers to multiple choice questions, matching texts to pictures and, for the final question, answering in English comprehension questions on a passage written in Chinese.

Overall candidates performed well, exhibiting a good level of reading comprehension.

Questions 1 tested basic vocabulary within the syllabus requiring candidates to match pictures to everyday items. In general candidates performed well on this question, although the correct identification of "computer" and "pen" proved to be more challenging.

In Question 2 candidates were asked to identify different modes of transport based on interpreting a short descriptive phrase. This was generally managed well by candidates with the exception of identifying the phrase linking to use of an aeroplane.

Question 3 asked candidates to identify where an individual's career plans given a short description. This was again generally managed well by candidates, although the ability to interpret the phrase to identify that one individual planned to be a sports person seemed to prove more challenging except for more able candidates.

Question 4 changed the style with candidates being asked to respond to questions on a short passage describing different seasons and weather conditions. This question was generally managed well by candidates except for the ability to identify which season was best to visit Beijing.

Question 5 asked candidates to identify how different individuals liked to spend their free time. This question appears to have been quite challenging for candidates particularly in relation to identifying the terms for "watching TV" and "playing football".

Question 6 focussed on identification of food that individuals disliked. This served to provide a good differentiation between candidates particularly in relation to the ability to identify "fried noodles".

Question 7 returned to asking candidates to respond to questions on a short passage about a food festival. This question was generally managed well by most candidates, although the ability to identify the country correctly served as a strong differentiator for stronger candidates.

Question 8 provided a series of statements from individuals about their past. The ability to correctly identify "playing tennis" as the individual's recollection proved the most challenging and also served to differentiate between candidates.

Question 9 set out a series of pictures and required the candidates to match the appropriate character. This again was generally managed well by most.

Question 10 again elicited a marginally better response from candidates than in previous years. Part (b) required candidates to identify an occupation ("nurse"). This proved particularly challenging to candidates. Part (d) then asked about where a member of the family originated from ("Hong Kong") which proved even more challenging. Part (d) then asked for identification of a school subject ("history") which was again found challenging to identify. All three elements are within the basic vocabulary requirement. Response to this question also helped to differentiate between candidates.

Chiew Li Fraser, 15/07/2017

