

Examiners' Report /
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

GCSE Chinese (5CN03) Paper 3H

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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 required candidates to match the description of activities to the appropriate place. Candidates generally answered this question correctly except when identifying where one would go to purchase a roast duck. The response to part (iii) thus helped to differentiate between candidates.

In Question 2 candidates were asked to answer questions on a short passage describing leisure time activities. Again candidates did well on this question, although part (iii), involving understanding of the term for "badminton", proved difficult with only the higher grade candidates accessing this mark.

Question 3 was similar in structure and candidates again did well. The main issue was with the identification of "Christmas" with several candidates opting for "Chinese New Year" instead.

Question 4 and 5 were answered accurately by most candidates although a number of candidates appeared to find identifying the colour of the character's jumper difficult. It is unclear if the issue was identifying the colour "yellow" or the term for "jumper".

Question 6 required the identification of different modes of transport. The only term that seemed to cause challenge was identifying the characters for "bus".

Questions 7 and 8 were again answered correctly by most candidates.

In Question 9 candidates were asked to provide responses in English to a series of questions based on a short passage of prose. This question proved a strong differentiator between candidates of differing abilities, in particular parts (c) and (f). Part (b), which asked which member of the family also attended Chinese School, also appeared to be a particular challenge for candidates, with some quite creative responses provided. It is also worth noting that where questions asked candidates explicitly for two details, a number of candidates provided three or more responses – quoting large sections from the set text. It is important to actually answer in line with the question set.

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