

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2016

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
in Chinese (5CN03/3H)
Paper 3H: Reading and Understanding
in Chinese

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GCSE Chinese (2016)
Unit 3H Reading and Understanding in Chinese
Examiner's Report

This paper is to test candidates' reading comprehension through a variety of texts that included answering questions on a passage relating to an announcement at school, identifying where individuals live, a day at school, a passage describing a gathering of a group of friends, favourite subjects, passages on a day at work and a festival, and questions on a passage with responses in English.

The paper is targeted at candidates with a higher level of understanding of the Chinese language and takes the form of selecting the right answers to multiple choice questions and answering comprehension questions, in English, on a longer passage written in Chinese.

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

Question 1 required candidates to answer questions on a short passage about an announcement at a school. Candidates generally responded well to this question with the exception of identifying the group of people who would be present ('scientists'). Responses to part (iii) thus helped to differentiate stronger candidates.

In **Question 2** candidates were asked to identify different locations based on a description. The main challenge to candidates appeared to be part (iv) that required the correct identification of 'by the seaside'. It may be that candidates were confused by the water radical being present in two phrases resulting in the challenge of differentiating between seaside and river. This, again, proved a differentiator for stronger candidates.

Question 3 again required candidates to answer questions on a passage. This question was generally managed well by all candidates.

In **Question 4** candidates were asked to provide responses in English to a series of questions on a short passage; it was notable that while this style of question has been present for some time, some candidates still provided responses in Chinese. This question again proved a strong differentiator between candidates of different ability levels, in particular in relation to parts (b), (e) and (g). In relation to part (b) a wide range of countries were provided many of which are not in the required vocabulary. In part (e) responses were provided that did not relate to detail in the actual passage, whereas for part (g) some candidates did not follow the sequence that information was provided in the passage. This question again served to differentiate stronger candidates.

Question 5 was based on students' favourite subjects at school. This question was generally well handled by candidates, although in part (ii) the identification of 'music' proved more challenging and served to identify stronger candidates.

Question 6 was well handled by most candidates. Part (i), identification of the type of weather, offered a degree of differentiation with candidates confusing 'hot' and 'cold'.

Question 7 required candidates to respond to questions on a passage about a festival. This was generally answered well. There may have been a tendency for candidates to assume that the first price shown would be for children.

Question 8 asked candidates to select responses from options that would correctly complete a sentence related to a passage. This was generally answered well. Parts (ii) and (vii), however, served to differentiate stronger candidates.

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