Examiners’ Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2017

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Chinese (5CN03)
Paper 3H: Reading and understanding in Chinese.
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GCSE Chinese
Unit 3H: Reading
Examiners Report

5CN03 3H – Reading and Responding

This paper is to test candidates’ reading comprehension through a variety of
texts that included answering questions on a passage relating to seasons and
activities in Beijing, identifying where individuals career plans, phrases around
customer service, a series of phrases setting out memories of individuals, a
passage on a food festival in London, a passage on an individual’s weekend
plans and a festival and questions on a passage with response 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, in English, comprehension questions on a
longer passage written in Chinese.

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

Questions 1 required candidates to answer questions on a short passage about
weather and activities in Beijing. Candidates generally responded well to this
question with the exception of identifying the type of sport that could be
undertaken in winter. Response to part (iii) thus helped to differentiate stronger
candidates.

In Question 2 candidates were asked to identify where an individual’s career
plans given a short description. This was again generally managed well by
candidates.

Question 3 again required candidates to answer questions on customer service
based on statements provided. This question was generally managed well by all
candidates with the exception of the ability to interpret action relating to credit
cards that served to identify stronger 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 response in
Chinese. This question again proved a strong differentiator between candidates
of different levels of ability, in particular in relation to parts (e) and (f). In part
(e) responses were provided that did not relate to detail in the actual passage,
where-as for part (f) some candidates were not specific against the information
was provided in the passage. This question again served to differentiate
stronger candidates.

Question 5 was based on phrases reflecting childhood memories. This question
was generally well handled by candidates although part (iii), the identification of
“stamp collecting” proved more challenging and served to identify stronger
candidates.
Question 6 and question 7 were well handled by most candidates.

Question 8, asked candidates to select responses from options that would correctly complete a sentence related to a passage. This was again generally managed well by candidates. Part (v) proved to be the most challenging: identifying the characters for “library”. Response from candidates against part (vii) served to differentiate stronger candidates.

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