

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2014

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

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GCSE Chinese
Unit 3 Reading and understanding in Chinese
Examiner Report

This paper is to test candidates' reading comprehension through a variety of texts that included matching pictures of everyday items, understanding different forms of transportation, a passage about an individual, a passage about a gift, sport, everyday items, a family holiday, a passage about a day at school, food and questions on a short passage with a 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 last question answering comprehension on a passage in English.

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 items. In general candidates performed well on this question, although the correct identification of "shoes" proved to be more challenging.

In Question 2 candidates were asked to identify different methods of transportation. The ability to identify the characters for "bicycle" and "car" provided a point of differentiation.

Question 3 changed style with candidates being asked to respond to questions on a short passage. The aspect that many candidates appear to have found challenging was interpretation of the phrases relating to "tennis" and "listening to music" which provided points of clear differentiation. The identification of the number "15" also appeared to offer some challenge to candidates.

Question 4 also required candidates to respond to questions on a short text. This was generally managed well by candidates, although the identification of "pet shop" as the response to part (ii) proved to be quite challenging for candidates.

Question 5 asked candidates to match a phrase to a sporting activity. The ability to match phrases describing the sports of "table tennis" and "skiing" provided a point of differentiation.

Question 6 set out a series of pictures and required the candidates to match the appropriate character. The ability to identify correctly "chair" served as a differentiator for stronger candidates while the identification of "books" and "table" appeared to prove challenging for candidates.

Question 7 returned to asking candidates to respond to questions on a short passage. The aspect that many candidates appear to have found challenging was interpretation of the phrases relating to "hotel" and "shopping centre" which provided points of clear differentiation.

Candidates generally performed well on Question 8 and 9. However, within Question 8 part (ii) it appeared to have been quite challenging for candidates in terms of correctly identifying that the PE lesson would have been held in the "assembly hall".

Question 10 did not elicit good response from candidates with a significant proportion finding this question as a whole very challenging. Part (a), which required candidates to identify what festival was being celebrated. While the correct answer was Mid Autumn Festival or Moon Festival, many candidates failed to gain marks by responding with "Chinese New Year". For part (c) candidates gave a range of possible food items where the correct answer was "roast duck". Finally in part (d) only a small number of candidates were able to correctly identify "moon" as the correct answer.

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