Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2014

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

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications are awarded by Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at www.edexcel.com or www.btec.co.uk. Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at www.edexcel.com/contactus.

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: www.pearson.com/uk

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 answering questions on passages dealing with personal information, a passage on a gift, modes of transport, a passage about future plans, business plans, a day at school, a holiday 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, for the last question, answering comprehension on a passage in English.

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

Questions 1 required candidates to answer questions on a short passage about an individual. Candidates generally responded well to this question with the exception of identifying the languages that the individual could speak (English and Chinese). Response to part (iii) helped to differentiate stronger candidates.

In Question 2 candidates were asked answer questions on a short passage describing a gift. The main challenge to candidates appeared to be part (iv) that required correct identification the colour of the gift as "white". This proved a clear differentiator for stronger candidates.

Question 3 required interpretation of a series of statements reflecting different methods of transport that individuals used. Again candidates responded well to this question, with the exception of part (iii) where identifying "bicycle" proved challenging. Parts (i), (ii) and (iv) also served to differentiate stronger candidates.

Question 4 was based on an example of an individual writing about his future career plans. This question was generally well handled by candidates although identification of "mathematics" as his preferred subject (in part (i)) and that fact that he was going for an "interview" (part (iv)) proved more challenging.

Questions 5, 6 and 7 were well handled by most candidates.

Questions 8 proved to be quite challenging to candidates particularly in relation to responses to part (ii), identification that they went to a "supermarket" (not shopping centre) and part (iv), identification of the term for "lunch". In addition the identification of "cake" as the correct answer to part (iii) helped to differentiate stronger candidates.

In Question 9 candidates were asked to provide responses in English to a series of questions on a short passage. This question proved a strong differentiator between candidates of different levels of ability, in particular in relation to parts (d) and (e). In addition candidates provided a range of responses to part (b) asking in which part of China Yi Shiwen was born – a significant number of answers providing detail that was not in the passage e.g. a city name or region. Answers to questions must relate to the passage and not taken to be a test of general knowledge. Similarly answers to part (c), looking for the response "factory" ranged across a wide spectrum of occupations or even locations.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:
http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx