



Pearson
Edexcel

Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Chinese (1CNo)
Paper 1F: Listening and
understanding in Chinese

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Introduction

As is usual with this unit, the number of candidates sitting the Foundation Listening exam in Chinese was small, compared to the large number choosing the Higher tier paper. In preparing the examination paper, only vocabulary listed on the Minimum Core Vocabulary (MCV) list was used, and topic areas tested were drawn from across the specification. As in past years, questions 5, 8, 10, and 13 (those that require a written answer) presented the greatest challenge to candidates.

There follow comments on the individual questions, where it is thought these might be useful to teachers/candidates preparing for future examinations:

Q2

Compared to the equivalent question from the previous year's paper, the answers in parts (ii) and (iii) were longer phrases, which perhaps explains the lower number of correct answers. (Part (i) was generally well handled.) The information that was heard was not, however, of greater difficulty, so perhaps candidates need to use their 5 minutes' preparation time to predict what 'easy' language they might hear. The phrases on the question paper are unlikely (at this level anyway) to be direct translations of what is heard.

Q3 & 4

The results show that the topic areas for both these questions were familiar to most candidates. However, candidates still seem to be unfamiliar with the format of these two tasks, many making too many crosses on the paper. It should also be noted that speakers are heard in the order given (left to right) on the answer grid, with every effort made (names included in the dialogue, clearly differentiated voices) to ensure that it is clear who is speaking.

Q5

In part (a) there was confusion for some over 面试 and 面条! It is hard, however, to imagine how 'noodles' would be an appropriate answer to this question.

Q6

In this question too, a good number of candidates heard the correct answers, but attributed them to the wrong speaker. It may not be clear whether the two names indicate male or female speakers, but candidates need to be aware that they will hear person '(a)' first; this year, there was in addition a female voice followed by a male, to help listeners differentiate speakers.

Q8

This question was found challenging by candidates across the ability range. Whilst part (b) focussed on one single detail (a compass direction), the script included three possible answers to part (a). For obvious reasons, the festival in (a) was not named, but it was hoped that just mentioning 'festival' would lead candidates to pick up on words such as 饺子 or 舞狮. Again, perhaps it is the case that closer reading of the question paper before the start of the test is needed: although the question title in this case indicates that it is a news item about a school

(which it is!), the presence of the word 'festival' should have alerted candidates to listen out for words connected to Chinese celebrations.

Q9

This is the first 'crossover' question on this paper (ie it also appears in the Higher tier paper) and as such, the level of demand could be expected to rise, but in fact many candidates performed quite well here. The multiple-choice format removes any need to produce a written answer, but at the same time candidates have to 'translate' what they hear to match the answers given on the page. Phrases such as 如果.... and ...就好了 also mean that the listener may have to think about the speaker's intended meaning.

Q11

Whilst this question depends very much on picking up on details and matching those with the possible answers offered in the box, in most cases there are only two credible options. (Again, a matter of being aware of this and of using preparation time wisely.) It was very noticeable this year how often answers were chosen that simply made no sense; for example, choosing 'hotel buildings' for (b), or 'restaurant' for (d).

Q12

The majority of candidates gained 2 marks for this question, the most common error being the choice of option A. (The correct answers were BCF.) It would seem that many understood 从小 as meaning 'in her teens', as opposed from when she was young.

Q13

Objectively this question was 'easier' than the equivalent one in the previous year, yet the majority of candidates failed to gain any marks here. Apart from in (a), candidates had to identify details to do with directions. Many knew you should turn, and then walk, but either gave the wrong direction or interpreted the 'five' they heard as meaning 5 metres or 5 miles (both rather unlikely in the context).

Q14

Many candidates gained good scores in this question, correctly interpreting what they heard in terms of the options given.

General comments

Some concluding generic comments to help preparation for future years:

- take note of the number of marks available and only make that number of crosses (Q3/4 particularly).
- try to be aware of which speaker you are listening to, using hints such as name and gender to help you (Q3, 4, 6 particularly).
- in sentence completion tasks, make sure the word chosen **makes sense** in English. If there are options to choose from, work out in advance which ones are possible.
- be aware that you might not actually hear the word you see in the question. It may be expressed in a slightly different way, as, for example, in Q2ii where 'the temperatures are pleasant' is expressed as 天气不冷不热. Alternatively, you may need you to work out or

'infer' the answer from what you hear: in Q9ii you hear Anna say 如果有羽毛球, 我会更高兴, but the answer is 'Anna has a sport she would like the school to offer'.