



Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Chinese (1CN0)

Paper 1F: Listening and understanding in Chinese

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Introduction

As in previous years, the number of candidates who sat the Chinese Foundation Listening examination remained relatively low compared to those who took the Higher Tier paper.

During the development of the examination, vocabulary from the *Minimum Core Vocabulary (MCV)* list was consistently applied, and the topic areas assessed were selected from across the full specification.

As in past sessions, the open-ended questions—specifically Questions 5, 8, 10, and 13—continued to present the greatest challenges for candidates.

The following commentary on individual questions is intended to support teachers and candidates in their preparation for future examinations.

Q1

Most candidates achieved full marks for this question. However, some selected answer D (“does not own a hat”) or answer F (“never wears socks”) instead of the correct answers E (“does not like wearing skirts”) and F (“does not own a watch”). This confusion likely arose because candidates correctly identified the negative expressions 我不喜欢穿裙子 (I don't like wearing skirts) and 我没有手表 (I don't have a watch) but may not have understood the key vocabulary items 裙子 (skirt) or 手表 (watch).

Q3

Approximately half of the candidates did not achieve full marks in this question. Some appeared unfamiliar with the question format—placing more than one cross under a single name or two crosses under one individual. It is essential that candidates clearly cross out any unwanted answers to ensure their choices are unambiguous to the examiner.

The most frequently chosen incorrect answer was D (“I prefer playing music to listening to music”). This was likely due to misunderstanding the term 音乐会 (concert). While candidates recognised that it was not 听音乐 (listening to music), they incorrectly selected a distractor containing the word “music.”

Q4

Most candidates scored two marks for this question. Common incorrect answers included B (“I helped my Chinese neighbours”) and C/F (“I worked in my local tourist information office” / “I was a guide on a tourist bus”). This was likely because candidates picked up on the word 中国 (China) but failed to fully comprehend the sentence. Options C and F acted as distractors, containing the word 游客 (tourist) which appeared in the audio.

Q5

This question was relatively straightforward; candidates were expected to write down key details they heard. Performance was strong in Part (c), but some candidates were unfamiliar with words such as 两千 (two thousand) and 教室 (classroom). While many answered Part (d) correctly, several responses included “car,” “walking,” or “taxi,” indicating a need for better familiarity with transport-related vocabulary.

Q6

Candidates generally demonstrated a sound understanding of the topic “Festivals.” Some were distracted by the phrase “red clothes” and selected the corresponding option immediately upon hearing the word “red,” although it was a deliberate distractor. For Part (b), some candidates relied on general knowledge—assuming the correct answer was related to mooncakes due to cultural familiarity. However, answers should be based on the recording, and candidates must listen carefully to select the appropriate option.

Q7

Scoring all three marks in this question proved challenging. The phrase 就要 (about to) confused some candidates, especially when combined with 明天 (tomorrow), leading them to incorrectly choose G ("All shops will be offering discounts tomorrow"). Another common error was E ("There are plenty of parking spaces"), as candidates failed to interpret the contrast structure 虽然……但是…… ("although... but..."), resulting in misinterpretation.

Q8

This question was challenging across the ability range. While most candidates answered Part (a) correctly, Parts (b) and (c) proved more difficult. Many misread Part (b), overlooking the question word "Where" and interpreting it as "What." Part (c) required candidates to identify two pieces of information: "stay at home" and "do exercise," which may have been cognitively demanding for some.

Q10

The open-ended questions proved more challenging for Foundation tier candidates, resulting in an average score of 1.3 out of 4 for this section.

10(a): Some candidates responded with "don' t know", which is ambiguous. Candidates were required to refer to specific information in the recording. The expected answer was along the lines of "results not out yet" or "have not received results".

10(b): The key phrase was “发电子邮件” ("send an email"). However, many candidates guessed the answer as "in person" or simply wrote "via post/by mail".

10(c): This was a particularly challenging question, as it required familiarity with the sentence structure "如果……就……" ("if... then..."). Additionally, the sentence included a comparative structure, which increased the level of difficulty.

10(d): Based on the sentence "我的护照不见了" ("my passport is missing"), the correct answer was "lost the passport". This question was also demanding, as candidates needed to understand both key phrases: "passport" and "gone missing", in order to gain the mark.

Q11

Candidates performed well in Questions 11(a), 11(b), and 11(e). However, Questions 11(c) and 11(d) proved more difficult, as they required candidates to infer information from the recording rather than identify it directly.

Q12

A total of 44.59% of candidates achieved full marks for this question. Some selected Option A ("She did her medical training in the UK"), although the UK was not mentioned in the recording. Others chose Option B ("She read about the illness online"), even though “上网” ("online") did not appear in the recording. Additionally, some opted for E ("She herself fell ill with the illness") due to a misunderstanding or failure to hear the phrase "但是她自己没生病", which clearly indicates that she was not ill.

Q13

This was the most difficult question on the paper, with 72.97% of candidates scoring no mark
13(a): Candidates struggled with the number "一百" (100) in Chinese. Although they recognised the number, the full phrase in the recording was "一百多年" ("over 100 years"), so the correct answer was "over 100 years old" or "more than 100 years old".

13(b): Some candidates recognised the word "回收" ("recycle") but failed to include the necessary detail in their response. The correct answer should have been "help people recycle

old/unwanted/broken items". Candidates needed to understand the key terms: "帮助" (help), "回收" (recycle), and "旧的/坏的东西" (old/broken items).

13(c): Many candidates did not know the word "售货员" ("shop assistant") and therefore could not answer the question correctly.

13(d): The key word in this question was "让" ("let" or "make"). Although some candidates understood "坐地铁" ("take the underground"), they did not comprehend the meaning of the full sentence.

Q14

Candidates did not perform well in the final question, with around half unfamiliar with the adjectives being tested.

General Comments

To support future exam preparation, the following general advice is recommended:

- Take note of the number of marks available and only make that number of crosses
- In sentence completion tasks, make sure the word chosen makes sense in English
- when necessary, use the context to make a sensible guess, try not to leave any blank.
- Be aware of paraphrasing: the exact wording of the question may not appear in the recording. For example, in Q7, the recording states “但是地铁站就在购物中心前边，很方便” ("but the metro station is right in front of the shopping centre and very convenient"), while the answer choice says "It can be reached by public transport." Similarly, in Q12, the recording says “她认识了一些亚洲的护士。她们现在都是好朋友了” ("She met some Asian nurses; they are now all good friends"), but the answer requires an inference: "She made some lasting international friendships."