



Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Chinese (1CN0)

Paper 3H: Reading and understanding in Chinese

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Publications Code 1CN0_3H_2506_ER

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Introduction

This paper assesses the candidates' understanding of written Chinese across a range of different types of texts.

Students need to:

- identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in texts
- deduce meaning from a variety of written texts
- recognise the relationship between past, present and future events
- understand texts, organise and present relevant details, and where appropriate, draw inferences in context and recognise implicit meaning
- recognise and respond to key information, important themes and ideas in more extended written text, including authentic sources, adapted and abridged as appropriate, by being able to extract information and answer questions.

This paper has a total of 50 marks and consists of 10 questions. It comprises two sections. Candidates must answer all questions from each of the two sections. Section A has nine questions set in English. Question types comprise both multiple-response and short-answer open response questions. The instructions to candidates are in English. Section B contains one translation passage from Chinese into English. The instructions to students are in English.

The assessment is available in traditional and simplified characters. All questions and texts are printed twice, once with texts using traditional/full characters and once with texts in simplified characters. Candidates select the most appropriate version, but not both.

Four of the questions are common to both Foundation and Higher tiers.

The use of dictionaries is not permitted.

The total assessment time is 1 hour 5 minutes in length.

Overall performance

Overall, candidates performed very well across both Section A and Section B. They demonstrated the ability to identify the main message, key points, specific details, and opinions within texts. In addition, they successfully inferred meaning and showed a clear understanding of essential information and significant ideas presented in more extended written passages.

Question 1

This crossover question addressed the theme of Identity and Culture, with a particular focus on the topic of Cultural Life (music), and also appeared as Question 5 on the Foundation Tier paper. In questions of this type, Candidates are expected to interpret sections of text that may include distractors, and to identify the overall message along with key points, specific details, and opinions. A large proportion of candidates answered the questions correctly.

Question 2

This crossover question addressed the theme of National and Global Areas of Interest, focusing on the topic of Travel and Holidays. It also appeared as Question 6 on the Foundation Tier paper. Candidates were required to read information about travel in order to complete multiple-choice questions. Most candidates completed this task successfully. However, Question 2(e) proved slightly more challenging; with increased familiarity with the relevant vocabulary, this question would likely be less difficult.

Question 3

This crossover question, drawn from a literary text, also featured as Question 8 on the Foundation Tier paper. Candidates were expected to identify and interpret key ideas and details from an extended, authentic passage, using inference to deduce meaning. As a general reminder, responses should be firmly grounded in the information presented in the text, and any inferred answers should remain closely aligned with the original meaning.

Question 4

This crossover question related to the theme of Future Aspirations, Study and Work, with a focus on volunteering opportunities. It also appeared as Question 9 on the Foundation Tier paper. Candidates were required to read information about career choices in order to select the correct answer. The majority of candidates completed this task successfully.

Question 5

This question fell under the theme of School and focused on the topic of What school is like, particularly the school day. Candidates were required to read an extended text and extract relevant information. The majority of candidates

attempted all parts of the question, with many providing successful responses. Candidates should be reminded that answers do not need to be written in full sentences; however, only those with clear and unambiguous meaning will be accepted.

Question 6

The text was generally accessible, and most candidates were able to identify key factual information. The topic of achieving success through hard work was familiar and presented in a clear and structured narrative. Stronger candidates understood the development of ideas and identified relevant details. Some candidates found vocabulary such as “成功”, “努力”, and “换” challenging. Candidates are encouraged to practise reading texts on familiar topics and to build their vocabulary to improve their reading comprehension skills.

Question 7

Some candidates did well on this question, but many found parts (e) and (f) challenging. For example, some did not fully understand the phrase “中国那边的公司” and were unfamiliar with vocabulary such as “建立” and “关系,” which led to unclear answers about why Tangmu’s grandfather sent him to China. Candidates are reminded that they should base their answers solely on the text given. To improve, candidates should focus on carefully interpreting key phrases and practising extracting precise information in English.

Question 8

Many candidates were able to answer some parts of the question correctly but found it challenging to provide fully accurate responses to all five questions. Difficulties with topic-specific vocabulary and understanding details of the text affected overall performance. Candidates are encouraged to develop their skills in carefully reading for specific information and expanding their vocabulary related to environmental topics.

Question 9

This question focused on a passage related to cultural perceptions and changes in tourist behaviour. In part (a), candidates were asked to select three correct statements from a list of seven. Many candidates were successful in identifying the correct options, although some chose fewer or more than the required three.

Candidates are reminded to follow instructions carefully and select only the number of answers specified.

Parts (b) and (c) required candidates to answer questions in English based on the same text. These proved more challenging, with some candidates struggling to provide fully accurate answers. Candidates are encouraged to practise locating and interpreting specific information within texts and to give concise, accurate responses in English.

Question 10

This translation question addressed the theme of Local area and the topic of dining. The passage consisted of sentences all related to this theme and included some higher-tier vocabulary and grammatical structures. Candidates were expected to demonstrate the ability to convey meaning accurately in English. Many successfully communicated the key points and achieved four or more of the seven marks available for this question.

Summary

Many candidates showed good understanding across the paper, with some performing notably better than others. Based on overall performance, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Ensure you are familiar with the vocabulary lists (Foundation and Higher) as all questions are based on the specification vocabulary.
- Some questions require candidates to interpret and analyse information, so it is important to understand each paragraph as well as the text as a whole.
- Read the questions carefully and answer exactly what is asked. Answers must be based solely on the given text and be clear and unambiguous. Vague or incorrect responses cannot be credited.
- Candidates should provide only one response for a one-mark question, two responses for a two-mark question, and so forth. Use of slashes / or brackets () should be avoided. Where a slash is used in a one-mark question, only the response preceding the slash will be credited. Information enclosed in brackets () will not be accepted.

With regular exposure to authentic language, including literary and non-fiction sources, and consistent practice in comprehension, producing accurate written responses, and maintaining clear, legible handwriting, candidates will be better equipped to succeed in future assessments.