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Edexcel

Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Chinese (1CN0)
Paper 4H: Writing

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Introduction

Further to last year's good performance on the writing paper after the covid interruption, it is pleasing to see the continuous improvement of the candidates' performance this year. In particular, candidates' performance of Question 3 translation is impressive.

Question paper performance review

Question 1, candidates performed well for this question. More candidates chose 1a (Interests) option over 1b (Career plans). Unfortunately, for Question 1a, some candidates misunderstood bullet point one, instead of writing what they used to do with their family, they wrote about what they always do with their family. Some candidates also missed the detail of "at home" for this bullet point.

Question 2, more candidates chose 2b (a positive holiday experience) over 2a (being green). For 2b, candidates were able to write about their holiday experience according to the four bullet points. For 2a, "Environmental issues" topic has been tested before. It is pleasing to see some good writings of this topic. But there are some issues with this option. Option 2b' bullet point one offered candidates the opportunity to write about their local environmental issues. Most candidates were able to write accordingly, but some candidates did not read the requirement carefully, instead, they wrote general environmental issues. For bullet point two of this option, it asks the candidates to write about how they did when travel, some candidates misunderstood the requirement, they did not give the accounts of their own experience about travel, but to write other experiences.

Question 3, Translation question. Though candidates performed well in this translation question in general, some phrases proved to be challenging. Significant number of candidates made mistakes in translating "laptop computer" (笔记本电脑), mistranslating it into "平板电脑", which is "tablet computer". Some candidates could not write the Chinese character for "download" (下载), mixing up the two characters "载/戴". Some candidates struggle to translate "surf the internet" (上网).

Conclusion

In summary, although it is pleasing to see the year on year's improved performance in the writing paper, the following points need to be addressed:

1. This year, we saw an increased number of candidates who wrote answers to both options of Question 1 and 2. Especially for Question 1, it is evident that this issue has not been addressed properly, despite of the discouragement in the examiner's report every year. Centres and their teachers, please help us to pass on the message to the candidates, please only choose one option to answer. It is only fair that everyone abides by the exam requirements.
2. Again, centres are reminded to inform their candidates not to use spoken Cantonese in their writing. Marks will be deducted if candidates use spoken Cantonese in their answers.
3. Candidates should read question rubrics and the bullet points carefully before they write answers, making sure that they fully understand the English meaning of the questions. This will help them to avoid mistakes when answering in the target language Chinese.

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