



Examiner's Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2023

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In Chinese (4CN1) Paper 01

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International GCSE/Edexcel Certificate Chinese Paper 1 Listening Examiners' Report

Overview

This listening paper accounts for 25% of the qualification. It is assessed through an examination paper which lasts for 30 minutes, with an extra 5 minutes of reading time. The total mark for the paper is 40. Both Cantonese and Mandarin options are available.

This paper assesses listening skills across five topic areas:

- Home and abroad
- Education and employment
- Personal life and relationships
- The world around us
- Social activities, fitness and health.

This paper will consist of seven tasks, each based on a single recorded text. The topics of the listening texts will be taken from a range of different situations, from both everyday life and academic contexts with which candidates will be familiar.

The examination will begin with shorter statements, which build into short paragraphs and longer conversations. Task types demand a variety of input from candidates and include multiple-choice, multiple-matching, note-taking and gap-fill questions.

All questions and instructions to students are in English. Candidates are required to produce written responses in English. Correct spelling and grammatical accuracy will not be a requirement as long as the candidate's response is comprehensible.

General Comments

Questions 1, 2

These were picture-based box-ticking questions. Q1 consisted of short sentences and Q2 was a dialogue between few people and was more complicated. Most candidates did well in these questions.

Question 3

This question requires candidates to give answers in close responses. They are provided with a short set of lines of notes containing six gaps. A range of responses is required, which is clear from the text.

Most candidates did very well in the question, which provided correct close responses' answers. However, there were a small number of candidates who simply wrote down 8:30 or half past eight in Q3a. These answers are not awarded as the question requires the candidates to point out the time when the flight arrived. According to the transcript, it is 8:30 p.m. (晚上八点半). Students should make sure that the correct time format is used and am/pm is clearly stated. The other candidates

mixed up the time of departure and the time of arrival. As the question asked “The time the flight arrived”, it should be 8:30pm but not 5 p.m.

Some candidates put “a parrot” as the answer of Q3e, which is inaccurate as well. The transcript said Lili had a “a bird which can speak” (会说话的小鸟), it did not mention which kind of bird it was. There is more than one kind of bird which can speak and therefore it may not be a parrot (鹦鹉). Students should have the answers as close as possible to the description in the transcript.

Questions 4

The question requires candidates to match the speakers’ opinions in three different categories (positive/negative/both). The majority of candidates managed this question quite well.

Questions 5, 6

These were multiple-choice questions with verbal content. Candidates were required to listen to some factual and non-factual material of varying lengths, in different contexts, read questions and select the correct answers accordingly. The majority of candidates did well in these questions.

However, some candidates answered J in Q6e, which is incorrect. The correct answer is M. The transcript said that Xiaomei did a lot of online shopping from home. The question of Q6e is “Xiaomei likes to shop at...”, a noun is expected to be the answer. However, answer J is “uses the internet”, which is a verb and it does not fit in here. Candidates should pay attention to the expected answer types but not just the meaning.

Questions 7

This was the most challenging question of this listening paper. Students were required to identify the advantages and disadvantages from the densely compacted dialogue. Candidates did quite well in this question this year.

The majority of candidates answered correctly in Q7a, Q7b, Q7c, Q7d and Q7f. However, in Q7e, some students wrote down “Dresses of Chinese dance are beautiful” in the answer box. “Beautiful” (美丽) could be a term to describe dresses but it is not used here. In the transcript, it mentioned “the dresses of Chinese dance are special” (中国舞的裙子很特别, “special”/ “unique” could be the answer but not “beautiful”/ “pretty”.

Tips

Candidates should use the reading time available to think careful about the questions asked. Answers which do not provide key/ important information may not get marks.

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