



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2024

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 a few people and more complicated.

Most candidates did well in these questions. However, some candidates left the answer "museum" (博物馆) blank. Q2 asked the candidates to put a cross in the places that the transcript mentioned. It did mention "museum" but the museum was closed so that Mei Mei could not go in. It was one of the answers and should not be left blank. Candidates should read the questions carefully to make sure they choose the most appropriate answers.

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 layout of the questions.

Most candidates did very well in the question which provided correct close responses' answers. However, a smaller number of candidates did not read the question properly. Instead of "The starting time", some students answered "duration" in 3a, i.e. "from 11:30am to 4pm" (从上午十一点半, 到下午四点) instead of the answer "11:30am" (上午十一点半). Also, time unit is essential in this paper so that am/pm is required. The answer "half past eleven" will not be accepted.

Also, some individuals answered "computer" (电脑) or "games" (游戏) instead of the correct answer "computer games" (电脑游戏) in 3c. Candidates should provide a complete answer and not just a partial response.

Questions 4

The question requires candidates to match the speakers' opinions in three different categories (positive/negative/both). Most candidates did well in this question but not 4c.

In Q4c, it requires the candidate to use cognitive abilities to understand the question instead of just to catch the key phrases. The transcript said "I like to pay by credit card but it only accepts cash payment here." (我想用信用卡付钱, 但是这里只收现金。) Even though "But" is used, the speaker expressed his frustration by not having what he wants to use to pay, which is negative.

Questions 5

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. Candidates did well in these questions.

The most challenging question is Q5c. The question asked how much Tom had to pay for the entrance fee. The answer is B "30 yuan" (三十元) as he is under 18 years old and is still viewed as a child but not as an adult.

Questions 6

These were sentence completion questions. Candidates are provided with twelve words in a box plus an example (13 total) which they must match to what is being said.

The performance of candidates in this question was fairly good. However, some candidates did not get the term “exchange student” (交换生) in Q6a. The question asked “Dadong’s second visit was to ...” and the correct answer is G “study”. It is a challenging question.

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. Most candidates did quite well in this question.

However, some candidates did not use the most suitable terms to answer the questions or they missed keywords in their answers. For example, in Q7a, we expected that the candidates answered “has air-con” or “has air conditioner” (有空调), some individuals answered “has AC”. While AC could mean air conditioner in some areas, but it could also mean alternate current or something else. Abbreviations should not be used as answers because they could cause ambiguity.

In Q7b, the transcript said “the sound/ audio system was broken yesterday” (音响昨天坏了), some candidates answered the “microphone” or “radio” was broken, which was incorrect.

In Q7d, the transcript mentioned “the canteen has no one using it after school” (餐厅放学以后没有人用), some candidates simply answered “free”, “no one uses”. In this question, the time frame is a part of the answer as people do use the canteen during the day but not after school. Candidates are expected provide enough information so that they are able to get marks.

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.

They also need to make sure that the correct time/ date notations should be used. Abbreviations should not be used as they may lead to ambiguity.

Grade Boundaries

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