



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

November 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 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 should be demanded, which needs to be made clear from the bulleted text.

Most candidates did very well in the question Q3a, Q3d and Q3e, which provided correct close responses' answers.

However, some candidates answered “Taiwan” in Q3b. Even though Xiaoming and his brother will visit Taiwan, the question asked “The holiday during which Xiaoming will come to visit”, to which “Christmas” is the correct answer. Candidates should read the questions carefully in order to provide correct answers.

In Q3c, candidates were required to identify one of the details being climbing a mountain - many candidates wrote ‘hiking’ instead, which cannot be accepted due to the difference between the activities.

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 apart from Q4a.

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 want to learn Spanish but there are only French lessons.” (我想学西班牙语，但是这里只有法语课。) Even though “but” is used, the speaker expressed his frustration by not having what he wants to learn, 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.

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 answered “park” (公园) in Q6a. The question asked “In the afternoon, Weiming...” and the correct answer is F “made a snowman”. The sentence required a verb here. Even though “park” could be a verb, the whole transcript mentioned an event in the past and “parked” is not an option here.

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.

Overall, the answers to question 7 are satisfactory. However, in Q7b, some candidates did not provide sufficient information; for example, some candidates provided answers such as ‘has to work’ or ‘busy work’, that did not achieve the mark because the answers required mentioning going ‘abroad’ or to the ‘USA’, which is a key piece of information. In addition, in Q7f, some

candidates missed out on the mark through a mistranslation of 'favourite singer' as 'role model' or 'actor' and is not accepted by the mark scheme.

Tips

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

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