



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE

In Chinese (4CN1)

Paper 01: Listening

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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 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 clear responses is required.

Most candidates did very well in the question which provided correct close responses' answers. However, in Q3a, instead of the correct answer "5:30am" (早上五点半), a small amount of

candidates simply answered half past five/ 5:30. Time unit is essential in this paper so that am/pm is required.

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.

In Q4d, it requires the candidate to use cognitive abilities to understand the question instead of just to catch the key phrase "but". The transcript said "I like going to the library but there is none nearby." (我喜欢去图书馆，但是附近没有。) Even though "but" is used, the speaker expressed his frustration by not having what he liked nearby, which is a negative opinion.

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 this question.

In Q5c, an unusual vocabulary is tested. "山水画" is a form of scenery painting of Chinese fine arts. It may be a bit difficult to some learners. However, as the term contains "山" (mountains) and "水" (water), candidates should be able to figure it out the correct answer and many candidates did.

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. Candidates did well in this series.

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 fairly well in this question.

However, candidates are encouraged to provide more details in their responses. In Q7b, when the transcript said "I think that their food portion is too small, which is not enough" (我觉得他们的食物份量太少，吃不饱), some candidates simply put down "too small". This response was not able to get the mark as examiners cannot determine if "small" refers to the food or the restaurant, in other words, the response is ambiguous. Even though a complete sentence answer

is not required, keywords are necessary in this question and candidates should provide enough information for their answers to be clear in order to gain marks.

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. They also need to make sure that the correct time/ date notations should be used.

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