



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

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

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Examiners' 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

Question 1

These were picture-based box-ticking questions. Q1 consisted short sentences. Most candidates did fairly well in this question. Some candidates did not get the terms climbing and skiing even though both terms are in the glossary of the specification.

Question 2

These were picture-based box-ticking questions. Q2 was a dialogue between few people and more complicated. Candidates are provided with pictures and must identify what is being mentioned. 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, Q3c, Q3d and Q3e, which provided correct answers. However, some candidates did not do well in Q3b. Candidates are expected to write down the correct English term of 运动场, which could be written as sports ground/ playground. However, some candidates wrote down as gym, which is inaccurate.

Question 4

The question requires candidates to match the speakers' opinions in three different categories (positive/negative/both). Most candidates managed this question quite well except for Q4d and Q4e.

In Q4d, there is a comparison with the past, which is negative. A positive term "convenient" appears but the answer became negative as the transcript said "It is not as convenient as the past".

In Q4e, the transcript said "I want to go to Hong Kong to see my grandmother but I do not have day-offs." (我想去香港看奶奶, 但是没有假期。) This statement shows the frustration of the speaker and thus it is negative. Even though the term "but" is used, it might not always have a contrast meaning.

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. Candidates did fairly well in these questions.

In Q5b, many candidates answered "train" (火车) instead of "underground" (地铁). This may be due to the fact that some places may only have one system but not both so the candidates mixed them up. However, they are not the same.

Question 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.

Even though full sentences are not required in Q7, some students did not use correct English grammar structures and terms which caused ambiguity. For example, when the transcript said "not much experience" (经验不多), some candidates interpreted it as "no experience". Even though they might be similar, candidates are expected to use literal/ simple terms which is the same in the transcript. Some candidates answered "hard" instead of "work hard" (很努力), which the meanings are very different.

Candidates should pay attention that the most suitable terms have to be used but not some similar terms which may carry different meanings.

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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