



Examiner's Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

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Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In Chinese (4CN1) Paper 02

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International GCSE Chinese Paper 2 4CN1 02

Reading and Writing Examiner Report

Introduction

This paper consisted of two sections: A and B. Section A was composed of 5 questions. Section B was composed of 3 questions. Candidates were allotted one hour and forty-five minutes to complete the questions.

Question 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were designed to assess candidates' abilities to comprehend and utilise information from a range of texts which included multiple choice questions, word drop questions, multiple matching questions, notetaking questions and short answer questions. All the questions were set in English and candidates had to answer questions in English. English grammatical accuracy was not assessed in this part of the paper. Question 6 and 7 were writing questions. Question 8 was the translation question.

Question 1

There were six multiple choice questions. Each question had four options. The majority of candidates responded very well in this question and scored full marks as usual with only a few candidates making mistakes in Q1(f).

Question 2

This was a word drop question. Candidates had twelve words to fill in a statement based on the given text. Most students displayed a strong grasp of the text, scoring five out of six correct answers. However, a few missed points in Q2(b) as they didn't identify the Chinese character representing "online shop".

Question 3

This was a multiple matching question. Candidates were presented with three paragraphs, each spoken by a different person, and a grid with statements in each row which apply to one or more of the speakers. Candidates were expected to mark which speaker each statement applied to. Candidates were expected to identify eight correct answers. Overall, candidates performed reasonably well, although a few lost marks by marking seven answers or exceeding the expected eight responses, resulting in a deduction of one or two marks.

Question 4

This is a notetaking question. Candidates were expected to read a piece of text and were provided with a short set of notes about the text with 10 gaps to fill. Most of the candidates understood the text and performed strongly, especially in sections Q4 (a), (b), and (h)(ii). However, a few candidates had trouble answering in English, and some lost marks in Q4(c) for not translating "Spring Festival" or "Chinese New Year." Additionally, spelling the English words "look after", "customers", posed a challenge for some in Q4(d). Despite these hurdles, most candidates managed the questions well.

Question 5

Candidates are expected to read a longer passage and to respond to a series of questions in English. The candidates were required to understand the language of the original text and to use English to show their understanding. We came across some candidates who answered the questions in full sentences with no grammatical mistakes at all. However, the question served as a discriminator between candidates who had different levels of English language skills. Only a small number of candidates struggled significantly due to their inability to respond in English, resulting in very low scores.

The majority performed well in Q5 (a), (c), (e), (f), (g), and (h). Unexpectedly, due to being unable to write words like 'withdraw' or 'opposite' in English, some candidates lost marks in Q5(b) and (d). Surprisingly, many candidates lost a mark in 5(i) by misinterpreting "ice" as "cold." Additionally, a few candidates misread the Chinese word "postcards" as "cards", resulting in lost marks in 5(j).

For Question 6

Candidates were required to write 60-75 characters on a topic. Candidates were aided by four bullet points in both English and Chinese, to which they must refer in their answer. This response was assessed for Communication and Content, Linguistic knowledge and Accuracy. Most candidates answered the question quite well, which showed their ability to write about their favourite TV programme.

Question 7

Candidates were given a choice among three writing tasks and tasked with composing a continuous response ranging from 125 to 150 characters. They were aided by four bullet points in both English and Chinese to structure their answer, which they were required to reference. Their responses were evaluated for Communication and Content, Linguistic Knowledge and Accuracy. Task 7(a), (b) and (c) were equally popular this year.

Task (a)

The differing complexity of the bullet points given differentiated the writing abilities of candidates. Candidates generally performed very well in the task, providing detailed descriptions of their school, sharing opinions on homework, and addressing the final bullet point about their ideal school life, along with justifications. However, some candidates lost marks for not fully addressing the first and fourth bullet points in their responses.

Task (b)

As in task (a), the bullet points also discriminated between the writing abilities of candidates. The performance in the task was also quite good. Most of candidates responded to the bullet points with detailed information about what you have done on social media lately, expressed their opinions on, and explained how young people should use their money wisely.

Task (c)

Most candidates performed well on this task with full responses to the bullet points. Most candidates responded to the bullet points with detailed information about opinions on social media, expressed their opinions on secondary school students making new friends online, and explained how young people can make better use of technology.

Question 8

Candidates were expected to translate four separate sentences from English to Chinese. Most candidates performed well in Q 8(a) and (b). A lot of candidates scored full marks. However, some candidates lost one mark in (b) as they failed to use the past simple tense. In Q8(c), there were candidates who struggled to form the correct Chinese characters for "next to me." In question 8(d), a few candidates mistakenly translated the English word "and" using Chinese characters that mean "then."

Paper Summary

Based on their performance in this paper, students are offered the following advice:

- In reading tasks, answers should be given to an appropriate level of detail. Marks can be lost for vague answers or answers which do not demonstrate complete understanding.
- In reading tasks, all answers should be based only on the information in the text – no additional information should be necessary.
- In the translation task, students should attempt to translate all characters, vocabulary or phrases in the translation task as leaving out any individual piece of meaning would result in loss of marks.
- Ensure that the spellings are correct, and syntax is accurate throughout.
- Check the marks available for each question to ensure the correct number of answers have been given and search for the most appropriate/related answers to the questions.
- Take care to read instructions of the question and be mindful of the requirements in answering: e.g. give answers in the appropriate language.

