



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

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Pearson Edexcel International GCSE

In Chinese (4CN1) Paper 02

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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 candidates did not gain marks in Q2(a) because they failed to read the text carefully and mistakenly chose Option D, "textbooks," as the answer.

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 applied 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 some of them lost marks by marking seven answers, resulting in the loss of one mark. There were still very few candidates exceeding the expected eight responses this year.

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 Q4(a), (c), (f) and (j). However, a few candidates had trouble answering in English, and some lost marks in Q4(b) for not translating "was stolen". In Q4(d), some candidates confused the English words "miles" and "kilometres," which resulted in them not gaining marks. Additionally, spelling the English words "dumpling" and "riverbank" posed a challenge for some in Q4(e) and Q4(i), respectively. Despite these hurdles, most candidates managed the questions well.

Question 5

Candidates were expected to read a longer passage and respond to a series of questions in English. They were required to understand the language of the original text and use English to show their understanding. We encountered some candidates who answered the questions in full sentences without any grammatical mistakes. However, the question served as a discriminator between candidates with 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), (d), (e), (g), (i), and (j). Unexpectedly, some candidates lost marks in Q5(b) and (f) because they were unable to write "face-to-face" and "path" in English. Additionally, some candidates lost a mark in Q5(c) because they could not spell "Chinese painting." In Q5(h), some candidates did not gain marks, possibly because they did not understand the Chinese word for "paint/picture frame" or were unable to spell it correctly in English.

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 had to refer in their answer. This response was assessed for Communication and Content, Linguistic Knowledge, and Accuracy. Most candidates answered the question quite well, demonstrating their ability to write about their favourite subject. However, some candidates wrote overly lengthy responses, failed to use all the characters provided in the boxes, and went off topic.

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 provided effectively differentiated the writing abilities of the candidates. Overall, candidates performed very well on the task, offering detailed information about their usual routines for getting up and going to bed, sharing opinions on the importance of young people taking proper breaks, and addressing the final bullet point about how young people should maintain good health. However, some candidates lost marks for not fully addressing the second bullet point in their responses. For instance, some wrote about what they usually do in the evening instead of describing what they did before going to bed last night.

Task (b)

As in Task (a), the bullet points also differentiated the writing abilities of the candidates. The performance in this task was generally quite good. Most candidates provided detailed responses to the bullet points, including information about fun places near their house, recent weather conditions, their opinions on young people leaving the city to live in the countryside, and explanations of how young people start a new life in a different place.

Task (c)

Most candidates performed well on this task, providing full responses to the bullet points. They offered detailed information about what they do to help others, a voluntary activity they have participated in, their opinions on secondary school students volunteering abroad during their holidays, and explanations of how young people can learn new things.

Question 8

Candidates were expected to translate four separate sentences from English to Chinese. Most candidates performed well in Q8(b) and (c), with many scoring full marks. However, some candidates lost one mark in Q8(a) because they failed to translate "not feeling well" properly into Chinese, translating it as "not good" instead. In Q8(c), some candidates struggled to form the correct Chinese character for "therefore." In Q8(d), a few candidates failed to translate the sentence with the correct Chinese word order, likely influenced by English word order.

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.

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