



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

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

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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(e).

Question 2

This was a word drop question. Candidates were provided with twelve words in a box (plus an example) which they must drop in to complete a correct statement about the stimulus text. The vast majority of students showed a good understanding of the text and they were able to give five correct answers out of six. A few candidates didn't obtain marks for Q2(f) because they were not familiar with the Chinese translation of "iPad".

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. The performance in this question was reasonably good. However, some candidates lost one or two marks because they ticked seven answers and a couple of students ticked more than eight answers.

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. The performance on this question was quite good. Some candidates understood the text very well, but failed to follow the instructions and answered all the questions in Chinese. The majority of candidates did well in Q4 (a), (d), (e), and (f). Some candidates lost 1 mark in Question 4(d) as expected because they used “meaningful” instead of “interesting” to answer the question. Some candidates lost marks in 4(g) unexpectedly because they confused the English words “river” and “lake”. Candidates did quite well in 4 (h), which we had expected to be a more challenging question as we expected the vocabulary to be more complicated, but most candidates seemed comfortable with it.

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 with 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. Some Chinese native speakers understood the text but were not able to gain marks because of serious spelling mistakes.

The majority of candidates did well in Q5 (a), (b), (e), (g) and (i)(i). Some candidates lost marks in Question 5(d) and 5 (i) (ii) as expected because the two English words – “takeaway” and “school gate” might be challenging for some candidates. Some candidates lost marks in Q4 (e) because they failed to read the details in the text. Some candidates lost marks in Q5 (h) because the English translation did not make sense even they understood the text in Chinese.

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. The majority of candidates answered the question quite well, which showed their ability to write about their favourite sport. Some candidates wrote quite lengthy responses. Some weaker candidates

performed reasonably well as they got some support from the reading passages and the bullet points in English. However, some candidates failed to attempt the task.

Question 7

Candidates could select one writing task from a choice of three. Candidates were expected to write a continuous response of 125 -150 characters. Candidates are also provided with four bullet points in both English and Chinese to help structure their answer, to which they must refer. This response was also assessed for Communication and Content, Linguistic knowledge and Accuracy.

Task 7(a) and (c) were more popular this year. As expected, Task 7(b) was less popular because Environment is not an easy topic in IGCSE Chinese because there are some challenging and uncommonly used Chinese characters.

Task (a)

The differing complexity of the bullet points given differentiated the writing abilities of candidates. The performance in the task was generally good. Many able candidates managed to give a detailed description of their school and the most interesting lesson they had the week before, expressed their opinions on the online lessons, also they responded to the last bullet point and justified the benefits of extra-curriculum activities for students. However, some candidates failed to respond to the first and the fourth bullet points fully, and hence dropped marks. Some weak candidates managed to write a few simple sentences.

Task (b)

As in task (a), the bullet points also discriminated between the writing abilities of candidates. The performance in the task was quite good. Some strong candidates chose to answer the question. They responded to the bullet points with detailed information about their recent holiday experience, expressed their opinions on the activities they had done during the holiday and explained what they could do to protect the environment when they were on holiday. Some weak candidates attempted the question merely by copying the questions out or answering the questions in note form.

Task (c)

The majority of candidates performed well on this task with full responses to the bullet points. Strong candidates were able to express their thoughts on healthy eating and demonstrate their range of writing skills; even weaker candidates were also able to respond to the bullet points with some simple sentences.

Question 8

Candidates were expected to translate four separate sentences from English to Chinese. The majority of candidates performed well in Question 8(a) and (b). A lot of candidates scored full marks. However, some candidates lost one mark as they translated “shop” to “supermarket” in Chinese. Some candidates couldn’t form the Chinese characters for “clothes”. Some candidates scored full marks in 8 (c) and (d). Many candidates used mostly accurate vocabulary, but word order errors prevented meaning being conveyed meant they lost one or two marks. Some candidates couldn’t form the Chinese characters for “coat”.

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.

