

Examiners' Report June 2015

GCE Chinese 6CN02 01

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Introduction

This paper consisted of 3 sections which involved listening, reading and writing skills, with a total of 70 marks available. The time allocation for this paper was 2 hours and 30 minutes and there was little evidence that candidates did not have sufficient time to complete all the questions.

This paper rewarded candidates for their understanding of spoken and written Chinese, their ability to transfer meaning from Chinese into English and their ability to produce a continuous piece of writing in Chinese.

The question booklet was divided into traditional and simplified characters and candidates were required to specify at the beginning of the booklet their preferred option. Candidates were required to respond to questions in the booklet in either traditional or simplified characters, but not both.

Section A was a listening assessment with a maximum of 20 marks. Majority of the candidates did well in Section A. In Q4, answers that require a short written response in Chinese characters and answers were based on the information provided in the passage. No credit could be given for answers written in English and for those which were not based on the stimulus.

Section B was a reading assessment with a maximum of 20 marks. Candidates were required to read three passages in Chinese and answer questions in English. Overall candidates made good attempts but precise understanding and accurate English were essential to score higher marks in this section.

The majority of candidates still have room to improve in section B.

Section C was a writing assessment with a maximum of 30 marks. Candidates were required to write 180-200 characters in Chinese, based on a short Chinese-language stimulus.

Question 2

The majority of candidates responded very well in general with only a very small number of candidates losing marks in this question. This was a four-mark question to select four statements only, no more and no less.

Question 3

Candidates responded very well in general, with a small number of candidates choosing 每个月 or 常常 instead of 每个星期六 for Q3 (d).

Candidates should circle the correct answers as instructed. This year the correct answer was accepted in whichever form it was offered but candidates are advised to comply with the rubric.

Question 4

This question carried the largest number of marks amongst the listening questions and candidates were required to give answers in written Chinese characters. The vast majority of candidates showed good understanding of the extract. However there were candidates who were struggling to write correct answers in characters and lost marks. Common mistakes include: Q4(b) 公成/公成 for 工程/工程。

(b) 她在大学读什么?

(1)

文在大学读公成。

(g) 参加唱歌比赛有什么好处?

(1)

参加唱歌比赛能认真爱音乐的朋友。



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Examiner Comments

The candidate understood the questions but was unable to provide correct answers in Chinese characters. No mark was awarded for Q4(b) and Q4(g).

Question 5

5(a) Some candidates misread the question and gave 'secondary school students' as the answer. The question was about the 'proportion' and the correct answer was 'a large proportion of students' or 'the majority of students'.

5(b) This was a two mark question. Candidates were expected to give two points to receive two marks: 1) e-books are popular/e-books are cheap and convenient; 2) e-books cannot replace textbooks/traditional books.

5(c) Some candidates muddled two different concepts: e-books and e-learning. This question is about e-learning, also '老師知道得不比學生多 / 老师知道得不比学生多' means 'teachers do not necessarily know more than candidates'. A precise understanding of the text was required here.

5(d) Candidates were expected to use the phrase 'eyesight' rather than eyes/eye problem since there are various eye problems. Again this question was about 'e-learning' not the 'e-book'.

TRADITIONAL/FULL CHARACTERS

(a) According to Li Ming (李明), what proportion of students are in favour of E-learning?

(1)

~~中學生~~ Large proportion

(b) What is Qian Chen's (錢晨) opinion of E-books?

(2)

~~她認為電子書不能完全代替課本，還是應該以傳~~

~~統課本為主。 She thinks e-books can't replace the original books~~

(c) What does Lin Wei (林偉) say about the teachers?

(1)

~~老師知道的不比學生多，也需要學習~~ Students ~~do~~ know more than teachers.

(d) What is Zinan's (子南) concern?

(1)

~~子南覺得電子教學是好，但她視力不好。~~ E-books is good, but her eyes is not good.



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Examiner Comments

We were glad to see that this candidate realised that the questions need to be answered in English. The candidate received the following marks: 5(a) 1 mark, 5(b) 1 mark. Total 2 marks.

5(b) had two marks: one mark went to 'getting popular/cheap and convenient' and the other mark went to 'E-books cannot replace (text)books/They still need to (mainly) use traditional books.'. This candidate provided an answer: 'the ebooks cannot replace original books' and this is correct for the second point, so one mark was awarded.

5(c) The correct answer was teachers are not necessary knowing more than students about e-learning' or 'teachers need to learn/study'. Obviously the answer here, 'Students know more than teachers.' was different from the original text. No mark is awarded.

5(d) The correct answer was 'her eyesight/ eye sight (getting worse) '. ' Her eyes is not good' didn't really mean the eyesight. It also had a grammar mistake in English. No mark is awarded.



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Examiner Tip

Always check the corner marks of each question and search for the most appropriate/related answers for the questions.

Always check your English grammar and spelling before you move on to the next question.

Question 6

The majority of candidates did well in this question. The common mistakes were:

- (a) Some candidates were unable to spell 'million' or converted the number wrongly.
- (b) Some candidates missed the mark by giving answers such as 'historical trees' which didn't make sense in English. The acceptable answers were: old trees, ancient trees.'
- (c) Candidates scored one mark if they provided the opening time in the morning, i.e. '6 am'.
- (d) Some candidates muddled the distinction between 'festival' and 'holiday'.
- (e) Acceptable answers were 'book fairs/ book market' but not 'book city/ bookshop'.

6 Read the following passage and answer the questions **in English**, basing your answers exclusively on the information in the passage.

北京的地壇公園已經有五百年的歷史，每年來這個公園參觀的遊客達到八百萬人。地壇公園的古樹非常有名，尤其是百年以上的古樹。

門票只需兩元一張。夏季開放時間早上六點至晚上九點，冬季開門時間不變，可是會早半個小時關門。

每逢中國的傳統節日，地壇常常有廟會以及各種慶祝活動，比方說太極，或者舞龍表演。除此以外，一年四次的書市也吸引很多愛書的人。

(a) How many people visit Ditan Park every year?

(1)

8 million

(b) What is Ditan Park famous for?

(1)

old trees which are

(c) When does the park open during the winter?

(1)

open at 6^{AM} o'clock, but close at 8.30 PM

(d) When can you see the dragon dance at Ditan Park?

(1)

on Chinese traditional events.

(e) Why do booklovers come to the park?

(1)

book se book shops in the park



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Examiner Comments

The candidate scored in Q6(a), Q6(b) and Q6(c), but not Q6(d) and Q6(e).

For Q6(d), the correct answer was: 'on (Chinese) traditional festivals', 'traditional festivals' are keywords. An 'event' was not necessarily a 'festival'. No mark was awarded.

For Q6(e) the correct answer was 'there are (four) book fairs (each year)', book markets, book exhibitions, book sales were accepted as alternative answers, but not 'bookshop'. No mark was awarded.



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Examiner Tip

Accurate and precise expressions in English are required in this section. Think carefully and choose the most appropriate phrases in English.

Question 7

(a) Some candidates gave answers such as 'reading and writing competition' which was not accurate based on the original text.

(b) One mark was awarded for 'to promote a culture of reading' and the other mark went to 'to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Hong Kong public library'. Some candidates missed marks because they were unable to spell 'promote' or 'library' correctly.

(c) The correct answer was 'primary and secondary school students'.

(d) This question asked 'how are the groups divided?' so the accepted answers were ' by age/ year groups'.

(e) One mark was awarded for 'register through school' and the other mark went to 'writing can be in Chinese or in English, (completed by) hand-written or word-processed,' Alternative expressions were accepted.

(f) Almost every candidate scored on this question.

(g) Most of the candidates scored on this question.

(gii) The correct answer for this question was ' books worth 800 dollars' , but not ' 800 dollars in cash or in coupon' Also ' library books' was not an acceptable answer.

TRADITIONAL/FULL CHARACTERS

(a) What is the competition?

(1)

~~Writing~~ Writing competition of World book day

(b) Why is the competition held?

(2)

It is to promote the culture of reading and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the lanch of Hong Kong Public Library.

(c) Who can take part in the competition?

(1)

The children and teenagers.

(d) How are the groups divided?

~~groups~~ by age

(1)

→ ~~minor, senior groups~~ and ~~It is divided into 4 groups~~
(It is divided into 4 groups according to ~~the~~ by age. accordt students age.)

(e) How do you register for the competition?

(2)

~~You can regis~~ I can register through my own school.

(f) When is the deadline for entries?

(1)

The sixth of April. (6th of April)

(g) (i) What happens to the winning entries?

(1)

They will be exhibited in the Hong Kong Public Library.

(ii) What is the prize?

(1)

Books that are worthed for eight-hundred dollors.

(Total for Question 7 = 10 marks)



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Examiner Comments

The candidate scored 7 out of 10 on this question. Three mistaken marks were Q7(c), Q7 (e) and Q7(gi).

For Q7(c), The correct answer was ' primary and secondary (school) students'. An alternative acceptable answer was 'school children, school students'. 'Children and teenagers' appeared in the text but they were not the precise answer of this question. No mark was awarded.

Q7(e) had 2 marks, the second mark went to ' Writing can be in Chinese or in English; (Completed by) hand-written or word-processed. '. Unfortunately the candidate has missed out the second point.

Q7(g)(i) the correct answer was ' the winning pieces of work will be displayed/shown/exhibited in the Hong Kong public library.' 'exhibited' was the keyword of this question and the spelling was wrong. No mark was awarded.



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Examiner Tip

Always check your grammar and spelling before you move on to the next question.

Question 8

Candidates were required to write 180–200 characters of Chinese in the form of a letter, report or article based on a short printed Chinese-language stimulus. Candidates must respond to four to six bullet points based on the stimulus text and demonstrate their ability to communicate accurately in Chinese using correct grammar and syntax.

The task included four bullet points inviting candidates to share their experience of learning Chinese, the expectations of the study tour in terms of language and culture and weekend excursions. The majority of candidates did well in covering all bullet points and adhered to the word limit which was 180-200.

Some candidates wrote too much about their experience of learning Chinese and left little room for the development of remaining points which are equally, if not more, important as the first point. Some candidates did not structure the writing well and there were no clear differences and logical developments from one point to another with points muddled up. Some suggestions were unrealistic and some candidates borrowed ideas from Q6.

A good plan and well balanced writing could help to score higher marks.

Candidates should read the rubrics carefully, then organise their ideas into bullet points/ paragraphs. To achieve high marks candidates are encouraged to use a variety of expressions and structures but should avoid an unnecessarily flamboyant style.

TRADITIONAL/FULL CHARACTERS

Please put punctuation marks in the spaces between squares, as shown in the example below. Do not put punctuation inside the squares.

Start a new line to begin a new paragraph.

Do not exceed the stipulated word limit (180-200 characters).

Eg. 請注意：把標點符號寫在方格外的空間，不要填寫在

方格內。

分段請開新行。

不要超出規定字數。

		我	學	習	中	文	已	經	十	年	了	。	通	過	15
參	加	這	個	遊	學	團	，	我	希	望	在	中	文	30	
課	上	可	以	學	到	更	多	成	語	，	因	為	45		
每	一	個	成	語	都	有	一	個	背	後	的	故	事	。	60

我覺得多那那些非常有趣。 75

在文化活動中，我希望希望可以 90

參觀一些書法的表演和武術表演 105

。 120

在週末裏，我希望可以到萬里 135

長城和故宮等歷史古蹟參觀， 150

因為這些古蹟都是中國古代史上 165

的一些偉大的工程傑作，而且還保 180

存至今，我感到非常神奇，所以 195

我認為我一定要用自己的雙眼去觀 210

看這些神奇之作，去欣賞東 225

方的文明。 240



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

Total character 176.

The candidate scored 14 for content and response and 13 for quality of Language, both marks were in the top bands.

The candidate did well in covering all four bullet points and the writing was coherent and smooth. And the argument always had some supports. For example, when the candidate wrote: 我希望在中文課上可以學到更多成語/

我希望在中文課上可以學到更多成語, a genuine convincing reason was given: "因為每個成語都有一個背後的故事,我覺得非常有趣./ 因为每个成语都有一个背后的故事,我觉得非常有趣.

We would like to encourage candidates to write their own opinions.

Language mark was neat and well controlled, it could be higher if the candidate wrote a bit more.

Paper Summary

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

- Read the rubrics carefully, then organise ideas into each bullet points/paragraph. To achieve high marks candidates are encouraged to use a variety of expressions and structures but should avoid unnecessarily flamboyant style.
- It is important in Section B to answer the questions in English as requested. Candidates also need to read the texts carefully and select the most relevant information and give precise answers.
- For candidates for whom English is a second language, it is important to check grammar and spelling after you finish the questions. For example, plural and tense markers should apply when needed, old/ ancient trees**s** (6b), Chinese traditional festivals**s** (6d), displayed**ed** (7g); meanwhile, misspelling should be checked and avoided, such as 'convinent (5b), eyesite (5d) to secure marks. For this section, all answers need to be presented in good English.
- It is important that candidates always cover all the bullet points given in the question within the specified word limit.
- A good plan and well balanced writing could help to score higher marks.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

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