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Examiners' Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

October 2020

Pearson Edexcel GCE

In Chinese (9CN0)

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation

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## **Introduction**

This is the second examination of 9CN0\_01.

Students will be assessed on their understanding of spoken and written Chinese from a variety of types of authentic texts and listening material, as well as their ability to translate accurately from Chinese to English.

Students should be able to:

- understand main points, gist and detail from spoken and written material
- infer meaning from complex spoken and written material
- assimilate and use information from spoken and written sources, including material from online media
- summarise information from spoken sources, reporting key points and subject matter
- translate from Chinese to English.

This paper has a total of 80 marks. It comprises three sections. Section A: Listening (30 marks); Section B: Reading (30 marks); Section C: Translation into English (20 marks). Students must answer all questions in each section (A, B and C).

The use of dictionaries is **not** permitted.

The total assessment time is 2 hours. Students are recommended to spend 50 minutes on Section A, 50 minutes on section B and 20 minutes on Section C.

Students have full control of the recordings. They can work through the sections and the questions in any order they prefer. However, it is recommended that candidates work through the questions in the order given within each Section.

Most students responded very well to all questions in Section A Listening, Section B Reading and Section C Translation. They were able to comprehend the listening and reading passages and respond to the questions either by answering multiple choice questions or by giving short answers in Chinese characters. Section C Translation was somewhat more challenging for many students compared to Section A and B. While nearly all the students were able to comprehend the passage well, many were unable to express the same meaning using good English.

Students should be reminded that they should **not**

- give more responses than the number(s) required in multiple choice questions;
- use Pinyin in their answers;

- transcribe the audio passage(s) as their answer(s);
- 'lift' whole sentences or paragraphs from the reading passage(s);
- provide more information than required. That is, if a student offers two elements when there is only one mark available, the 'order of elements' rule is applied and only the first element can be considered by the examiner;
- alter the meaning of the original translation passage by adding or deleting information

## Individual Questions

This report will provide exemplification of candidates' work, together with tips and/or comments on candidate performance, for a selection of questions. The exemplification will come mainly from questions which appeared to be challenging to many candidates.

### Question 2:

**2a:** Some students wrote down **45 陪** instead of **45 倍**. While we tolerate inaccuracy (up to two strokes), we do not tolerate wrong characters. In this instance, 陪 has a totally different meaning from 倍, therefore 45 陪 is incorrect.

**2b:** Some students wrote down 亚泰 instead of 亚太 · hence were not awarded any mark. Please see explanation in 2a (above).

**2f:** Many students appear to have misread this question. The question asks: 孩子应该怎么做可以不发胖? What should the **children** do...? However, many students wrote 父母应该不

让... / **Parents** should .... . This question required students to first process and then show their understanding of the information. However, many students wrote down what they heard without considering whether their reply matched the written question.

### Question 5:

**5e:** Many students appear to have not read the question carefully, which appears to be a similar issue to 2f. The question clearly says 除了食品和饮料/apart from food and drinks, many students wrote down 茶/tea, 早餐/breakfast.

(e)

(2)

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Moreover, going back to the 'order of elements' rule mentioned in the **Introduction** section, only the first two elements were considered as this is a two-mark question. This means that this student was awarded 1 mark for the second element which is a correct response.

### Question 6:

**6b:** Many students appear to have not read this question carefully, which appears to be a similar issue to 2f and 5e. The question asks 她觉得幸福的生活应该有哪些东西? /What does she think that a happy life need to have? Many students appeared to have copied from the original text '住在一个阳光、空气和水都好的地方'/living in a place with good sunshine, air and water. This response does not really answer the question posed.

In addition, there are some candidates who simply wrote down 空气和水/air and water. This response lacks the necessary detail required '好(的)'/good.

(b)

住在一个阳光、空气和水都好的地方。(2)

### Question 7:

7e: Many students appear to have not read this question carefully, which appears to be a similar issue to 2f, 5e and 6b. The question asks 送餐员在哪些情况下会被公司罚款? /

When might the food deliverers be fined by heir company? Many students appeared to have picked out and copied from the original text '他们必须按时送餐'; '他们必须满足一些顾客的无理要求' / They must deliver food on time; they must satisfy some customers' unreasonable requests. These two responses do not answer the question posed.

### **Question 8:**

Some candidates wrongly translated 端午节 to 'Mid Autumn Festival'. Some candidates wrongly translated 近百个/almost one hundred to 'hundreds of'. Many candidates were unable to translate 粽子/zongzi or rice dumplings and 习俗/custom.

### **Summary**

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

- ✦ read the questions carefully
- ✦ manipulate the language and use their own words to answer questions
- ✦ use correct characters when answering questions
- ✦ give short, direct answer(s) to each question
- ✦ include details such as 'good/好', 'unreasonable/无理'
- ✦ use good English and ensure that the meaning of the original text is not distorted when translating

