

Examiners' Report  
June 2018

GCE Chinese 8CN0 01

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# Introduction

Summer 2018 was the first sitting for the new specification GCE Advanced Subsidiary in Chinese Paper 1. The paper consists of 3 sections: Section A: Listening, Section B: Reading and Section C: Translation from Chinese into English. The paper is worth a total of 64 marks. The duration of the examination is 1 hour 45 minutes. It is recommended that candidates spend 45 minutes on Section A: Listening, candidates are in charge of listening to the recording and they may listen to each passage as often as they like within the allotted time. Candidates should make use of the time to ensure that they respond to the questions accurately and fully. 45 minutes is recommended for Section B: Reading and 15 minutes for Section C: Translation. There was no evidence to suggest that candidates had trouble completing the paper within the time limit.

Section A consists of questions 1-3 and are worth a total of 24 marks in total. Candidates are required to listen to a range of authentic Chinese language materials and to retrieve and convey information given in the recording by responding to questions in Chinese and English.

Section B consists of questions 4-7 and are worth a total of 28 marks. Candidates are required to demonstrate understanding of the texts in Chinese and respond to multiple choice questions and questions requiring responses in Chinese.

Section C consists of question 8 and is worth 12 marks. Candidates are required to translate a short passage from Chinese into English.

## Question 2

This question required candidates to respond in the target language and was worth 6 marks. The majority of candidates did well on this question with a minority struggling with some characters such as “dang di”, “shu fu”, “can guan” and “yin yue jia” etc.

## Question 3

Question 3(a) required candidates to answer in the target language. Most candidates did well however, some struggled with characters such as “gong fu”, “da jia ting” etc. Question 3(b) proved to be challenging for a number of candidates and it would appear that many were unfamiliar with this question type. Many candidates did not understand the question and treated this as a translation task. Candidates should practice summarising texts.

3 (a)

(i)

(1)

每年一次

(ii)

(2)

① 汉语

② 中国功夫

(iii)

(1)

中国功夫老师。

(iv)

(1)

上个月

(v)

(1)

北京

(vi)

(2)

① 年夜饭有各种各样的菜

② 大家聚在一起，很热闹，海佑喜欢大家庭的感觉。  
家

3 (b)

(i)

(2)

① There are lots of different kinds of lanterns,  
such as animals, flowers and ~~trad~~<sup>traditional</sup> architecture.

② ~~It was~~ <sup>(ii)</sup> Helen visited the lantern show on 15<sup>th</sup> of  
January in traditional ~~catender~~ lanterns last year. (2)

① It was a ~~to~~ boating competition, two years ago.  
lots of people, such as

② ~~There are~~ There are Chinese, ~~English~~ ~~British~~ British  
and ~~other~~ <sup>some others</sup> people from Europe. ~~Britain~~



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Examiner Comments

Question 3 (b)(i) was awarded 2 marks. It is still advisable not to include extraneous information, as it could detract from a correct response.

The candidates' answer to question 3 (b)(ii) was not fully successful. The candidate failed to give the actual details needed – activities people do at the festival. The extra information provided by the candidate was not credited.



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Examiner Tip

The response should be brief but address the question directly.

## Question 4

This was a multiple choice question worth 4 marks. The majority responded very well to the question however, a few candidates chose 5 answers rather than 4 answers.

## Question 5

This question requires responses in the target language. It is worth 6 marks. The majority of the candidates responded quite well to this question, with a few candidates failing to provide specific information.

This candidate achieved 4 marks.

- 5
- (a) 6月 17日到 26日 (1)
- 
- (b) 2500 (1)
- 
- (c) “互联网电影之夜” (1)
- 
- (d) 因为中国电影正在走向<sup>(1)</sup>世界
- 
- (e) 能让大家放松,还可以了解<sup>(2)</sup>其他国家的文化



The candidate did not gain any marks for questions 5(a) or 5(b). They did not provide information about the end date of the Chinese Film Festival, didn't include the measure word “部” and also ignored “超过”.



Candidates should read the questions carefully and ensure that they provide all of the specific details required. Candidates should avoid lifting from the passage without reference to the question.

## Question 6

This question also required answers in the target language and was worth 8 marks. The majority responded very well to this question. Very few candidates failed to understand the text and provide specific information.

This candidate achieved 8 marks.

6

(a)

(2)

赏灯, 放烟花

(b)

(1)

北方人吃元宵, 南方人吃汤圆

(c)

(1)

象征着团圆

(d)

(1)

去市场里买很方便

(e)

(1)

她们不可以自己一个人出门

(f)

(2)

因为中国女孩子不可以自己一个人出门只有在元宵节可以, 所以她们安排与情人见面

面或者找男朋友在这一天, 因此也被叫做中国的情人节





Here is a good example of succinct and accurate responses that scored full marks.



Keep responses to the point and clear.

## Question 7

This question was worth 10 marks and proved to be relatively demanding for some candidates. Candidates often failed to understand the text thoroughly and provide specific answers to the questions.

7

(a) (1)

超过了两亿。

(b) (2)

白天买菜做饭，照顾孙子孙女，晚上去跳广场舞。

(c) (2)

学新东西，交新朋友。

(d) (2)

书法，网上购物。

(e) (1)

老人们觉得身体健康最重要。

(f) (1)

因为学生越来越多了。

(g) (1)

在家在网上“上课”。



Here are some succinct and accurate responses scoring 8 out of the 10 marks available.

Question 7(f) did not score; the candidate has unfortunately written “school” rather than students.

Question 7(g) did not score either, “Attending online lessons at home” would score.



Keep responses to the point and clear.

## Question 8

This question required candidates to translate a short Chinese passage into English. The Chinese text was divided into 12 discrete language elements each worth one mark to give an overall mark out of 12.

The lexis was relatively straightforward. Although most candidates did not struggle with vocabulary, some basic phrases seemed to present difficulties for a few candidates. These included "outside world", "experience" and "traditional culture" etc. English grammar was usually satisfactory, although the use of capital letters and tenses proved problematic for some candidates. Overall, performance was encouraging, and most candidates showed that they could transfer the meaning of a piece of Chinese with acceptable accuracy. Although, for candidates to score for every language element it is essential that they incorporate all the details of the original text.

This candidate achieved 11 marks.

### 8 Translation

During the holiday, many students from different countries will ~~travell~~ travel abroad, to explore the ~~world~~ world, to raise the level of other languages. Some European, American ~~countries~~ school organised a activity called visit China, this will allow students a chance to learn Chinese history, experience the traditions.



The candidate has responded well and has been credited for 11 of the 12 language elements.



Natural English is sought, which is not always rendered by word for word translation. The translation comprises of twelve separate scoring units so candidates should put down every element they can, even if they do not feel able to attempt a number of words or indeed phrases and sentences.

## Paper Summary

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

- Candidates should read the rubrics and instructions carefully before answering the questions.
- Candidates should take care over precise English expression in questions 3(b) and 8.
- Candidates should pay attention when 'lifting' text. Inference and manipulation are sometimes needed. Candidates should ensure that they provide the specific details required.
- It is worth using some time to check and proofread answers.
- Question 8 comprises of twelve separate scoring units, candidates should put down every element they can, even if they do not feel able to attempt a number of words or indeed phrases and sentences.

## 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>

