Examiner's Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2019

Pearson Edexcel GCE

In Chinese (9CN0) Paper 1

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Introduction

This is the first 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, which is 40% of the qualification. 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.

The majority of students responded very well to questions in Section A Listening and Section B Reading. They were able to comprehend the listening and reading passages and respond to the questions either by answering multiple choice questions or by writing in characters. Section C Translation was somewhat more challenging for many students. While students were able to comprehend the passage well, many were unable to express the same meaning using accurate 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 required more complex responses from candidates.

Question 2:

2C: Although this candidate understood the passage, they did not give concise details. For example, 交朋友 is not sufficient on its own, 容易 is required before 交朋友；two elements are provided in point two of this question. The 'order of elements' rule is applied here, that is, 分享经验 is considered and judged as the correct the answer. This candidate got 1 mark for this question.

2d: The question asks how young people and elderly people use social media differently. This candidate's responses do not tell us whether point 1 减轻压力 is for the young people or the elderly people; and their point 2 与外地家人保持联系 has the same issue as point 1. As a result, this candidate scored 0 in this question.

(c)   (2)

① 交朋友

② 勹享弪验，了解时装.

(d)   (2)

① 戒轻压力.

② 与外地家人保将联系.

This candidate below answered the same questions succinctly with all relevant information included. This candidate scored 2 marks for Q2c and 2 marks for Q2d.

(c) 分享经验，了解最新时装。 (2)

(d) 年轻人：减轻生活压力。　老年人：与家人保持联系。 (2)

Q3aii

This question asks 'how'. However, many candidates gave a couple of nouns 文学作品（和）电影 as answers. The correct answers require candidates to use at least one verb, e.g. 通过 in their responses.

Wrong answers – 0 mark	Correct answers – 2 marks
(ii) 文学作品 和电影 (2)	(ii) 通过文学和电影. (2)

Q3b: Summary should be short and to the point

Q3bi: this candidate's reply is succinct and to the point. They were awarded full marks.

3 (b)

(i) (4)

中国电影的问题：①内容枯燥乏味 ②没有跟与外国人接轨.

外国电影的优点：①很会讲故事 ②水平很高.

Q3bii: this candidate's reply is succinct and to the point. They were awarded full marks.

(ii)

原因：文化不一样

没听说过中国电影明星

解决方法：加强文化交流

中外电影人应该找机会多合作

(4)

Q5d

Candidates are required to manipulate the language and give short, direct answer(s) to each question. There are 3 examples below. Example 1 is considered a 'perfect' answer where the candidate used their own words to demonstrate their understanding. Example 2 is considered a good answer as it used a full sentence. The problem of using whole sentences is that candidates need to make sure that their sentences do not contain any grammatical errors or lead to any ambiguity or misunderstanding. Example 3 is considered 'unacceptable', as the candidate 'lifted' a whole sentence from the reading passage.

Example 1	(d) 影响社会稳定 (1)	1 mark - Perfect answer
Example 2	(d) 不解决贫富差距有可能影响社会稳定。 (1)	1 mark - Correct/acceptable answer
Example 3	这些问题急需得到有效解决否则很有可能影响社会稳定。 (1)	0 mark - unacceptable, as this sentence was 'lifted' from the reading passage.

Q7f

The question asks how parents should help their child(ren) learn Chinese. The meaning of the first element given is ambiguous. Who 去中国参加夏令营？ Are we talking about the parent(s) or the child(ren)? As a result, this element was not awarded a mark. In other words, this candidate was awarded a total mark of 1 for Q7f.

(f)

1）去中国参加夏令营。

2）养成每次家说中文的好习惯。

(2)

Q8 Translation

Candidates are required to translate all elements of the passage. This candidate below failed to translate 南非 into English 'South Africa' and wrote in Pinyin 'Nan Fei' instead. 'Nan Fei' is not accepted as translation. For this sentence, this candidate was given 4 marks, as 4 sense groups were successfully translated.

After ~~rete~~ retiring. Mr. Wang and his wife went to Nan Fei to take care of their grandson.

Candidates are required to translate the vocabulary used in the passage. For example, this candidate below translated the word 不容易 into 'hard' instead of 'not easy'. As a result, no mark was awarded for that element as 1) 'hard' and 'not easy' are not the same; 2) Chinese language uses different words for 'hard' and 'not easy'. This candidate was awarded 1 mark only for this sense group.

and it is ~~so~~ hard to earn money.

Other frequent mistranslations include these words: 愿意, 负责, 工作, 孤单. Some candidates do not seem to understand the difference between 'alone' and 'lonely', and 'every day' and 'everyday'.

Summary

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

• use correct characters when answering questions;

• give short, direct answer(s) to each question;

• include details such as 'the newest', 'faster than';

• manipulate the language and use their own words to answer questions;

• give concise and focused summary in succinct language;

• use accurate English when translating.