



**B O A R D O F S T U D I E S**  
NEW SOUTH WALES

# 1999 HSC Chinese

Notes from the Examination Centre

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Tel: (02) 9367 8111

Fax: (02) 9262 6270

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# 1999 Higher School Certificate Chinese Notes from the Examination Centre

## 2 Unit Z

### Listening and Speaking Examinations

#### Speaking Skills (25 marks)

##### Section I - Situations

###### Situation 1

Candidates responded well to this situation.

###### Situation 2

A few candidates did not know the vocabulary items 'chicken' and 'fish'.

###### Situation 3

A few candidates expressed 'got to school by train' as 'live on the train'.

###### Situation 4

A few candidates experienced difficulty distinguishing between 'everyday' and 'one day'.  
Candidates expressed the phrase 'interesting books' well.

###### Situation 5

Some candidates expressed 'good morning' as 'good afternoon' or 'good evening'.

##### Section II – Speaking

Most candidates read the passage well. A few candidates had difficulties rendering tones.

#### Listening Skills (25 Marks)

##### Item 4

Many candidates answered this item incorrectly. The correct answer was 'on the right of the train station' not '... the post office'.

##### Item 7

A few candidates answered this question incorrectly by saying 'Peking' instead of 'Beijing'.

### Item 8

Many candidates did not provide all the relevant information and simply gave Chinese as the answer.

### Item 19

Many candidates referred to the teacher as ‘good looking’ instead of ‘interesting’.

## Written Examination

### Section I – Reading Skills (30 marks)

#### Question 1

In general, most candidates answered this question thoroughly. Some candidates had trouble identifying *náobǐ* as a Chinese brush in part (d). Others had trouble in answering part (d) subsection (iv) as a third person and gave answers such as ‘Come home early, I am waiting for you for dinner’.

### Section II – Writing Skills (10 marks)

#### Question 2

The majority of candidates chose to answer part (a).

The best responses were of adequate length and contained at least 40 different characters which were written correctly.

### Section III – Grammar (10 marks)

#### Question 3

All candidates attempted this question successfully.

## 2/3 Unit (Common)

## Listening and Speaking Examinations

### Speaking Skills (20 marks)

#### Question 1

Most candidates read the passage well. A few candidates experienced difficulties with tones, especially the second and third tones, eg words such as *tèbié*, *qīnqiè*, *yuán-lái*, *dà le*, *hènduō*.

## Question 2

### Part (a)

Most candidates attempted this part. A few candidates had difficulty in sequencing their ideas and rendering these into Chinese correctly. A few provided only a very limited range of reasons why they would choose a particular country for their holiday destination. In some cases the information was incorrect.

### Part (b)

This question was well handled. Candidates provided two reasons.

### Part (c)

Candidates attempted this part well.

### Part (d)

Few candidates attempted this part. Almost all who did spoke about the Spring Festival successfully.

## Question 3

### Part (a)

- Some candidates said ‘next Friday’ instead of ‘last Friday’.
- Some candidates expressed the vocabulary item ‘movie’ incorrectly.
- ‘Happy’ was used instead of ‘enjoyed’.

### Part (b)

- ‘Saturday’ was incorrectly expressed as ‘Sunday’.
- ‘to buy a gift for your best friend’ was incorrectly expressed as *mǎi lǐwù péng yòu*
- a few candidates did not translate the last sentence into Chinese.

### Part (c)

- ‘Wallet’ was expressed as ‘schoolbag’ or ‘bag’.
- ‘Not have money’ was expressed as ‘have money’.
- A few candidates expressed ‘parents’ as ‘brothers’.

## Listening Skills (10 marks)

### General Comment

Most candidates answered in English rather than in Chinese.

### Item 1

Most candidates answered all parts correctly.

This item was handled very well by most candidates.

### **Item 2**

Some candidates answered 'she is at school all day'. The correct answer should have been 'she has just arrived'.

### **Item 3**

Most candidates found this item difficult, answering 'wear lots of clothes' instead of 'bring an extra cloth'.

'Autumn' was the correct season.

### **Item 4**

Some candidates said the elder sister's occupation was 'bus driver' or 'taxi driver'. The correct answer was 'car factory worker'. Most candidates gave the response 'eat together' without mentioning 'chit chat'.

### **Item 5**

A few candidates mentioned 'primary school' and 'Year 10' which were incorrect. The correct responses were 'High School' and 'Year 9'. A few candidates included 'Tai Chi' in their response which was not mentioned in the passage. Some candidates mentioned doing 'homework' without saying 'going to school'. Some also answered 'going to the movies' instead of 'watching TV'.

## **Written Examination**

### **Section I – Core (40 marks)**

#### **Question 1 – Writing Skills**

##### **Part (a)**

Subsection (i) Generally attempted satisfactorily.

Subsection (ii) A few candidates did not provide all relevant information in answer to this question.

Subsection (iii) Most candidates attempted this question and generally they kept to the topic.

Subsection (iv) A popular alternative with satisfactory responses.

Subsection (v) Generally attempted satisfactorily.

Subsection (vi) Generally attempted satisfactorily.

## Question 2 – Reading Comprehension

### Part (a)

Subsection (i) Generally attempted satisfactorily.

Subsection (ii) Some candidates struggled to find the appropriate Chinese synonyms from the passage.

Subsection (iii) Generally attempted satisfactorily.

### Part (b)

This part was attempted fairly well by most candidates.

## Question 3 – Language Study

### Part (a) – Dictionary Skills

Subsection (i) Attempted correctly by majority of candidates.

Subsection (ii) Some candidates wrote the ‘hand’ radical instead of the ‘fire’ radical.

Subsection (iii) Many candidates wrote the incorrect radical.

Subsection (iv) Attempted correctly by most candidates.

### Part (b)

The most common mistakes were spacing and tones. A lot of candidates separated each compound word into single words instead of keeping them as compound words. A capital letter is required at the beginning of each sentence.

### Part (c)

Subsection (i) Many candidates wrote the wrong characters for *yǐhòu* and *hǎi* for *hǎibiān*.

Subsection (ii) Many candidates wrote the wrong characters for *yijiā* and *hu*.

### Part (d)

This question was generally attempted successfully.

### Part (e)

Subsection (i) Some candidates did not write the character back in the sentence.

Subsection (ii) The question was generally attempted successfully.



**Section II – Options (20 marks)**

**Option 1 – Chinese for Commercial Purposes**

This option was attempted by only one candidate.

**Option 2 – Tourism**

**Question 6**

**Part (a)**

This question was successfully attempted by most candidates.

**Part (b)**

Some candidates did not make a comparison between individual travel and package tours. When making suggestions for a holiday, some candidates suggested trips to major cities instead of outside the cities as required by the question.

**Question 7**

This question was attempted satisfactorily by most candidates. There were a few who answered the question in the narrative form rather than as a note.

**Option 3 – Literature**

**Question 8**

This question was generally well attempted.

**Question 9**

**Part (b)**

This question was well handled by only a few candidates, although in some instances candidates did not relate their response to the requirement of the question.

**Option 4 - Film**

**Question 10**

**Part (a)**

Candidates responded to this question fairly well by demonstrating an excellent understanding of the plot development.

**Part (b)**

In general, candidates expressed clearly how the committee (in the film) reflected society.

**Part (c)**

Candidates described the overall atmosphere well and gave a reasonable explanation.

## **Part (d)**

Candidates gave valid points to support their opinions on the chosen scenes.

## **3 Unit (Additional)**

### **Listening and Speaking Examinations**

#### **Listening Skills (8 marks)**

Most candidates answered in English rather than in Chinese.

##### **Item 1**

Most candidates answered well in (a) and (b). Some candidates treated ‘literature’ as ‘philosophy’ or ‘study of culture’. Some candidates answered all parts of this item very well. A few candidates misinterpreted the passage as referring to a discussion on what to study.

##### **Item 2**

Some candidates did not specify ‘skirt’ and simply mentioned ‘dress’. A few candidates did not specify Xiao Yue’s purpose in coming to Sydney. In some instances only one example was given instead of the two required by the question.

#### **Speaking Skills (12 marks)**

##### **Question 1**

Many candidates answered this part well. Few candidates experienced difficulties in rendering the tones correctly.

##### **Question 2**

- Most candidates answered parts (a) and (b) well.
- Candidates who answered part (c) concentrated mainly on the difficulties involved in travelling from Brisbane to Melbourne.
- Some candidates who answered part (e) could not pronounce ‘leave home’.
- No candidate attempted part (f).
- A few candidates used only very simple and not well-structured sentences to express their answers in fewer than the required six sentences.
- A few candidates attempted only one topic instead of two topics.

## **Written Examination**

### **Writing Skills (30 marks)**

#### **Question 1 Reading Comprehension**

Most candidates attempted this question well and all relevant details were included. A few candidates misinterpreted the Chinese character 'reunion dinner' as 'dinner', and 'lanterns' as 'firecrackers'.

#### **Question 2 Writing Skills**

##### **Part (a)**

Most candidates discussed only what type of jobs they would like. In the better responses, candidates detailed reasons why they wanted these jobs and focused their response on the topic.

##### **Part (b)**

Very few candidates attempted this question.

##### **Part (c)**

This question was the most popular. The majority of candidates described why they liked or disliked particular subjects.

##### **Part (d)**

This was a popular question which most candidates answered satisfactorily, although some candidates did not follow the correct convention for the diary format.

##### **Part (e)**

Most candidates retold an unforgettable experience with adequate detail.

##### **Part (f)**

The candidates who chose this question used the dialogue format satisfactorily. Some candidates strayed from 'discussing their plan' to buy their first car.

## 2/3 Unit (For Background Speakers)

### Listening and Speaking Examinations

#### Listening Skills (15 marks)

A few candidates answered in English.

Candidates are reminded that questions are to be answered in either English or Chinese and not a mixture of both.

#### Item 1

Common errors included:

- Many candidates experienced difficulty in expressing the phrase ‘shifting of emotion’ in Chinese characters. Various homonyms were incorrectly used.
- Some candidates left out all the main points of the passage, by answering the questions in one or two incorrect Chinese characters.
- A few candidates wrote in Chinese characters ‘trying to understand the world’ instead of ‘trying to understand life’.
- Some candidates used the wrong Chinese characters for the word ‘depression’.
- Many candidates defined what ‘morality’ is instead of discussing how one should make a ‘moral judgment’.
- A few candidates rewrote the question instead of answering it.
- Some candidates did not mention the adverse effect on health.

#### Item 2

Most candidates attempted this item relatively well. Many candidates included all relevant details in their response.

Common errors included:

- ‘7 legs’ instead of ‘7 complete legs’
- ‘one eye covered with cloth’ instead of ‘one eye never closed’
- ‘at most 100 metres’ instead of ‘at least 100 metres’
- ‘Staying at home’ instead of ‘Do not come in contact’ or, ‘Do not go to the beach’.
- ‘People running around’ instead of ‘because of safety reasons the report has to be terminated’.

## **Speaking Skills (15 marks)**

Candidates should:

- be well aware of the time limit for their speaking examination. Some candidates exceeded the 10 minute time constraint. Overlong responses often compound errors and can become confused or confusing.
- support their argument with relevant information such as facts, statistics or appropriate examples.
- ensure that responses are relevant.
- avoid the use of English syntax. Some candidates' sentence structure was apparently influenced by English, eg *Diànnǎo duì wǒmen yǒu bāngzhù, zài xuéxí shàng.* 'Computers are of great help to use, especially in the sphere of study.'
- structure their response logically and coherently to avoid unnecessary repetition.
- include an analysis of the question rather than just a recounting of facts.
- provide a more personal reflection on the topics.
- discuss the different aspects of an argument.

### **Part (a)**

Approximately 80% of the candidates attempted this question. Most candidates felt very comfortable with the topic and spoke well and at length. Some candidates did not grasp the gist of the question and referred mainly to the advantages or disadvantages of computers, or their technical usage, but not their influence as the question required.

### **Part (b)**

The majority of the responses did not analyse sufficiently well why the crime rate in the city is higher than in rural areas.

### **Part (c) and (d)**

Very few candidates attempted these two questions. These questions were not well handled.

## Written Examination

### Section I – Core (50 marks)

#### Question 1 Writing Skills (35 marks)

##### Part (a)

In general, most candidates answered the question satisfactorily. The majority attempted subsections (i), (iii) and (v).

- In subsection (i) some candidates did not address the issue of how to maintain and promote the Chinese culture. In subsection (iii) some candidates referred to environmental problems but did not suggest any solutions. Few candidates chose the topic subsection (iv) and the majority of those did not analyse the characteristics of novels and plays sufficiently well. In sub-section (v) some candidates did not describe the whole event.

##### Format and Organisation

- In subsections (i), (ii) and (iii) candidates demonstrated a good understanding of the required format. In subsection (iv) some candidates did not use the journal format.
- Some candidates did not state the facts logically in sub-section (v).
- Some candidates tended to use the spoken form rather than the written form in their writing.

##### Expression and Structure

- In general, candidates demonstrated a limited range of vocabulary in Chinese.
- Generally, the ideas were not well expressed.

##### Part (b) Chun Tao and Tuanyuan Nian

Many candidates simply gave a description of the characters or compared the old and new viewpoints without highlighting any conflict between the two through the different levels of human relationships among the characters.

##### Tea House and Fan Jiang

Many candidates did not answer this question well. Instead of focusing on characters' personality through language, many candidates either discussed the author's writing technique or described what the characters said.

##### General Comments

- Some candidates confused the names of characters.
- Candidates answered the questions that related to the Tea House better than the Fan Jiang as shown by the relevance of the examples candidates provided.
- The majority of candidates demonstrated only basic writing techniques.

### Format and Organisation

- The majority of candidates organised most of the content reasonably well but showed a number of weaknesses in sequencing and/or linking. Some did not observe the conventions of the text type. Some answers were significantly below minimum length.

### Expression and Structure

- Some candidates did not use appropriate terminology and used dialect expressions.

## **Question 2 Reading Comprehension (15 marks)**

In general, candidates attempted this question satisfactorily.

- Most candidates answered parts (a), (b) and (c) well, although not all relevant information was included.
- Over half of the candidates focused on only the two types of Feng Shui views used in the southern hemisphere in part (b).
- For part (e), most candidates copied the information from the text instead of analysing the information given.
- Some candidates did not understand the text and confused the various theories and views presented.
- Candidates are reminded to review their responses to ensure that the information has been presented clearly and logically.

## **Section II – Options (20 marks)**

### **Question 3 Film**

Nearly two thirds of candidates who answered this question attempted part (a).

Most candidates did not support their ideas with appropriate and relevant examples.

Candidates demonstrated a sound knowledge of the main plot of the film and some knowledge of the use of props.

Candidates structured their responses with appropriate evidence and ideas.

Some candidates demonstrated a deep understanding of the historical background of the film.

However, a few points should be noted:

- Candidates should restrict their comments to the film studied and not the novel on which it is based.
- Most candidates retold the plot without thorough analysis.
- Candidates did not use punctuation marks accurately.
- Candidates should use correct Chinese characters in their writing.
- Some candidates wrote a long introduction which did not relate to the question asked.

### **Part (a)**

Candidates who attempted this question did not demonstrate an awareness of a controlled political society. Many candidates did not refer to the names of the main characters of the film correctly.

### **Part (b)**

Some candidates who attempted this question did not distinguish the concepts of setting and props. A large number of candidates did not select appropriate props to answer the question and did not link the prop to the historical background and the social change. The use of the blooms as an example was inappropriate as it only indicated the love between the two main characters in the film.

## **Question 4 Chinese for Tourism**

### **Part (a)**

- The majority of candidates who attempted this question did not use the appropriate conventions for a magazine article.
- Many candidates referred to 'sheep' rather than Australian native animals.
- Many did not know the Chinese names of Australian native animals.
- The information about the features of the Australian native animals was not always accurate.

### **Part (b)**

- Candidates who attempted this question demonstrated a sound understanding of what was required. However, many candidates only described the attractions rather than the historical background.
- Candidates are reminded that they must present accurate historical information rather than their own impressions.
- Many candidates simply gave information and ignored the requirements of writing an article for a travel agency.

## **Question 5 Chinese for Commercial Purposes**

### **Part (a)**

Most candidates did not interpret the terms in each sub-section satisfactorily.

### **Part (b)**

Most candidates did not use an official submission format. Those who attempted this part did not include all the specific points that needed to be addressed. A few candidates misinterpreted the question. Most candidates did not appear to have prepared themselves sufficiently for this question and did not demonstrate an understanding of the business letter type of text.



## 3 Unit (Additional) (For Background Speakers)

### Written Examination

#### Section I (40 marks)

##### Question 1

In general, this question was attempted quite well and most candidates gave good examples of 'The Dream of Red Chambers', although there were not as many good examples in 'Ru Lin Wai Shi'.

- Some candidates had not prepared themselves sufficiently well for this section of the exam and used examples which were not mentioned in the story.
- Most candidates demonstrated good writing skills.
- A few candidates did not follow the instructions and gave examples from Chapter 3 instead of Chapter 40 of 'The Dream of Red Chambers'.
- Some candidates compared the 'living style' item by item and it was well attempted.

##### Question 2

Most candidates attempted this question well.

- A few candidates did not focus on a comparison of the two texts.
- Some candidates listed examples from the text and did not explain their responses well.
- Most candidates gave good responses as concerns 'Ru Lin Wai Shi' but not to 'The Dream of Red Chambers'.

#### Section II (10 marks)

##### Question 3

This was a relatively easy question to answer and candidates attempted the first part of the question well.

A few candidates misinterpreted the key words in the text. Other candidates presented their views in one single unrelated sentence.

Most candidates had adequate time to write 500-600 characters.

In the best responses, candidates supported their arguments with relevant and appropriate examples.