



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate

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MANDARIN CHINESE (PRINCIPAL)

9778/01

Paper 1 Speaking

For Examination from 2016

SPECIMEN MARK SCHEME

12–15 minutes

MAXIMUM MARK: 60

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

PREPARED TOPIC (15 marks)

Examiners will mark the Prepared Topic out of 15: 10 marks for Content/Presentation and 5 marks for Language.

Candidates whose Prepared Topic does not relate to the Chinese world will have their mark for Content/Presentation halved.

Content/Presentation	Language
Knowledge of facts; ability to express opinions and raise issues for discussion.	
9–10 Very good Full and well-organised coverage of the topic; ideas and opinions included as well as factual points; lively presentation; Examiner's interest sustained.	5 Very good Has a very good feeling for the language; speaks fluently and accurately; shows good use of relevant idiom and uses a wide range of structures and vocabulary.
7–8 Good Good exposition and sound organisation of the topic; makes relevant factual points, though may be less good in ideas and opinions; presentation somewhat stilted, though keeps Examiner's interest.	4 Good Speaks fairly fluently and accurately; uses idiom with a reasonable range of structures and vocabulary.
5–6 Satisfactory Adequate exposition of the topic; few ideas or opinions; evidence of preparation but presentation pedestrian.	3 Satisfactory May speak with hesitation; adequate range of structures and vocabulary; no ambiguity of meaning.
3–4 Weak Material thin; rambling, repetitious; hardly any ideas or opinions; in danger of losing the Examiner's interest.	2 Weak Marked hesitation; limited range of structures and vocabulary, leading to some ambiguity of meaning.
1–2 Poor Very little factual information; material irrelevant; vague, arguments incoherent; little effort at presentation.	1 Poor Very marked hesitation; severe limitations of structures and vocabulary; thought processes basically influenced by mother tongue.
0 Communicates no relevant information.	0 Nothing accurate enough to be comprehensible.

TOPIC CONVERSATION AND GENERAL CONVERSATION (30 marks)

Examiners will mark each conversation section out of 15: 5 marks for Comprehension and responsiveness and 10 marks for Accuracy and range of language.

Comprehension and responsiveness	Accuracy and range of language
<p>5 Very good No problems of comprehension. Responses are natural and spontaneous, even to unexpected questions. Able to present and defend a point of view in discussion.</p>	<p>9–10 Very good Consistently accurate. Only occasional minor slips. Extensive range of appropriate vocabulary. Able to use a wide range of structures with confidence.</p>
<p>4 Good Few problems of comprehension. Responds thoughtfully, and copes fairly well with unexpected questions. Reasonably forthcoming but tends to follow Examiner's lead.</p>	<p>7–8 Good Accuracy generally good, with more frequent errors than in the very best candidates. Shows a sound basic understanding of grammatical usage. Has sufficient range of vocabulary and structures to handle reasonably mature subjects.</p>
<p>3 Satisfactory Understands questions on basic situations and concepts, but has difficulty with more complicated ideas. Some delay in response. Needs encouragement to develop topics OR relies heavily on prepared responses.</p>	<p>5–6 Satisfactory Accuracy indicates a measure of competence but with some obvious and significant gaps in grammatical usage. Limited expression of ideas (but not ambiguity) caused by limitations in range of vocabulary and some structures.</p>
<p>3–4 Weak Has general difficulty in understanding. Limited response to questions on the majority of topics raised.</p>	<p>3–4 Weak Generally inaccurate use of the language. Severe limitations of vocabulary and structures restrict discussion to a very basic level.</p>
<p>1–2 Poor Severe problems of comprehension. Very marked hesitation. Limited responsiveness.</p>	<p>1–2 Poor No grasp of grammatical accuracy. Errors constant and repeated. Very restricted vocabulary. Only simple sentences and no variety of structure.</p>
<p>0 Communicates no relevant information.</p>	<p>0 Nothing accurate enough to be comprehensible.</p>

PRONUNCIATION/INTONATION AND FEEL FOR THE LANGUAGE (15 marks)

In addition, 15 marks will be awarded globally for Feel for the language (10 marks) and Pronunciation/Intonation (5 marks).

Feel for the language	Pronunciation/Intonation
<p>9–10 Very good Has a very good feeling for the language and is able to express concepts fluently in appropriate idiom. Negligible influence from the mother tongue.</p>	<p>5 Very good Outstanding pronunciation and intonation; an occasional slight mistake or hesitation. Not necessarily a native speaker.</p>
<p>7–8 Good Has a very good feeling for the language. Shows competent use of relevant idiom. Avoids significant influence from mother tongue.</p>	<p>4 Good Good pronunciation; makes a fair attempt at correct intonation and expression; some mistakes and/or hesitation.</p>
<p>5–6 Satisfactory Feeling for the language evident, with some occasional use of relevant idiom. Thought processes and expression are influenced by mother tongue.</p>	<p>3 Satisfactory A fair degree of accuracy in pronunciation; quite a number of errors; some attempt at intonation and expression.</p>
<p>3–4 Weak Has scant feeling for the idiom. Generally translates literally from the mother tongue.</p>	<p>2 Weak Intelligible, but shows marked influence of mother tongue and very many errors of pronunciation.</p>
<p>1–2 Poor Has very limited feeling for the target language.</p>	<p>1 Poor Very poor; many gross errors; frequently incomprehensible.</p>
<p>0 Has no feeling for the target language.</p>	<p>0 No attempt at correct pronunciation or intonation.</p>