

Examiners' Report /
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

GCSE Chinese (5CN01) Paper 1F

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It is pleasing to note that the majority of candidates were appropriately entered at the correct level and they were in general, familiar with the specification and the list of minimum core vocabulary.

Some questions tested candidates' ability to identify key words from familiar topics, for example, questions 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6.

Question 1 and 4 were well answered, but 'reading' in Q1 and 'duck' in Q4 seemed to cause a problem for nearly half of the candidates.

Question 2 had a mixed response. 'Seaside' was tested for the first time and it caused difficulty for a significant number of candidates.

Question 5 was generally well answered and provided evidence that candidates continue to be confident when answering questions on the weather.

Question 6 was very well attempted but 'working in the bank' invited more incorrect answers.

It is encouraging to find that candidates across the ability ranges made a good effort to attempt the crossover questions (Q3, 7, 8 and 9). They were all able to score some marks from these four questions.

For question 3, many candidates were able to score 2 marks by recognising 'Wednesday' and 'mathematics'.

Most candidates were able to recognise 'breakfast' and 'small' in question 7 and successfully associated them with the description 'C' and 'A' to score at least 1 mark.

Question 8 and 9 proved demanding to lower grade candidates but higher grade candidates were able to score a minimum of 2 correct answers.

Question 10 proved more demanding than expected. The majority of candidates answered (b) but some confused 'four' with 'ten' or 'seven'. About one third of the candidates were able to score the mark for 'fast food'. Candidates were required to recognise 'busy' and 'tired' for the last part (c).

Evidence showed that candidates were less well prepared for adjectives.

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