

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2015

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
in Chinese (5CN03/3F)
Paper 3F: Reading and Understanding
in Chinese

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GCSE Chinese
Unit 3F Reading and Understanding in Chinese
Examiners' Report

This paper is to test candidates' reading comprehension through a variety of texts that included matching pictures of items of food, understanding different signs in a shopping centre, identifying weather conditions, a passage on travel plans, hobbies, methods of travel, a passage about a day at work, careers, matching pictures of things seen in the countryside and questions on a short passage with response in English.

The paper is targeted at candidates with a basic understanding of the Chinese language and takes the form of selecting the right answers to multiple choice questions, matching texts to pictures and for the last question answering comprehension on a passage in English.

Overall, candidates performed well and exhibited a good level of reading comprehension.

Question 1 tested basic vocabulary within the syllabus requiring candidates to match pictures to items. In general candidates performed well on this question, although the correct identification of 'vegetables' proved to be more challenging.

In Question 2 candidates were asked to identify different signs that may be seen in a shopping centre. The ability to identify the characters for 'service desk' and 'toilet' proved more challenging while identification of 'exit' provided a point of differentiation.

Question 3 asked candidates to identify different types of weather. The ability to respond to this question proved to be a point of differentiation between candidates.

Question 4 changed the style with candidates being asked to respond to questions on a short passage. This question was generally managed well by candidates although the ability to identify that the advertisement had been placed in a newspaper proved more challenging.

Question 5 asked candidates to match a phrase to a hobby. This was again generally managed well by candidates.

Question 6 focussed on methods of transportation. The ability to correctly identify 'bicycle' and 'underground' proved to be the more challenging aspects.

Question 7 returned to asking candidates to respond to questions on a short passage. The aspect that many candidates appear to have found challenging was interpretation of the time in the day that the individual in the passage started work.

Question 8 provided a series of statements from individuals about what they wished to do in the future requiring candidates to identify different roles.

The ability to roles that would result in one working at a school or in a theatre proved challenging to candidates..

Question 9 set out a series of pictures and required the candidates to match the appropriate character. This again was managed well by most candidates.

Question 10 did not elicit good response from candidates with a significant proportion finding this question as a whole very challenging. Part (b) required candidates to identify the part of the country where the subject of the story lived. A significant number of candidates were unable to identify this as the South. Part (c) then asked about the where she worked, in a secondary school, which was again found challenging. Response to this question also helped to differentiate between candidates.

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