

Examiners' Report/  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2016

Pearson Edexcel GCSE  
in Chinese (5CN01/1H)  
Paper 1H: Listening and Understanding  
in Chinese

## **Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications**

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications are awarded by Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at [www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com) or [www.btec.co.uk](http://www.btec.co.uk). Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at [www.edexcel.com/contactus](http://www.edexcel.com/contactus).

## **Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere**

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: [www.pearson.com/uk](http://www.pearson.com/uk)

Summer 2016

Publications Code 5CN01\_1H\_1606\_ER

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd 2016

**GCSE Chinese (2016)**  
**Unit 1H Listening and Understanding in Chinese**  
**Examiners' Report**

**Paper Introduction**

Despite a new question format (Q6) and the reversal of the two most challenging questions (Qs 4 & 8) so that the task requiring written answers was in the middle of the paper (and not at the end as previously), most students once again coped admirably with the demands of the test. Q8 was, in fact, with the exception of a few items (see below), dealt with well at all ability levels, the multiple choice format giving some support by restricting possible answers. It was indeed, as one might expect, Q4 which proved most difficult, in part because of some single lexical items not being known (同学), in part because of the need to write clear, unambivalent answers. Thankfully the majority of candidates were able to identify the days of the week (Q4aiii).

**'Crossover' questions (Qs 1, 2, 5, 6)**

These four questions proved, almost without exception, to cause no significant problems for any candidates, an improvement in performance compared to previous years.

The format for Q1 (Hotel) is now familiar to candidates and they were not thrown by the alternation of like/dislike elements. Despite the apparent difficulty of the vocabulary given in the questions ('distance', 'temperature'), most candidates were able to focus on picking out key phrases such as 英语, 游泳 (池), 睡不 (好). The change in layout also meant candidates were not tempted to give too many answers as in the previous year.

Q6 used a new format, but candidates across the ability range were able to identify the needed information without too much trouble, despite the longer sentences. It is important to stress to candidates that with such a topic as this, they must listen for information given and not use knowledge gained elsewhere. All the three cities have large airports, for example, but only Shanghai was mentioned here in that context.

**Higher questions**

**Q3 Technology**

Given how important technology is to young people nowadays, it should come as no surprise to them that they might need the relevant vocabulary, even at a basic level. 3i and 3iv were answered correctly by nearly all candidates, the key words - 朋友, 买东西 - being relatively easy at this Higher level. 3ii proved more difficult, even for the more able students; presumably most of them recognised 音乐 but then chose 'downloaded music' as it is probably the activity more familiar to them. Again, perhaps the language of the question led them to assume they would hear a difficult word for 'compose' (which would not be expected at this level),

whereas in fact the language used was relatively simple: 做! The C grade candidates also found 3iii hard; they would do well to review 电 words, including 电子邮件.

#### **Q4 A new job**

As stated earlier, this was the question that candidates struggled with to some extent at all ability levels, although more so at the lower end, as one would expect. There is vocabulary tested in this question (as in Q8 too) that it is not expected a candidate of lower ability (within the Higher range) would know. There are, however, parts of the question (day of the week, seating capacity) that should be within the grasp of all students sitting the paper.

#### **4ai**

Most candidates were able to get at least one mark on this question. It was hoped that the 新 (开) would be recognised, as well as the number (for seating capacity). It was slightly disappointing to see how many candidates misidentified the number; some only heard 300, others had wildly unlikely figures (3,000), whilst others gave numbers like 327, which, whilst perhaps possibly true as a fact, are not likely to be tested in a language exam. Many candidates heard 中心, but associated it with 'shopping centre' as opposed to 'city centre'.

#### **4aii**

同学 was clearly a word that many of the lower ability candidates were not familiar with. Many made good guesses (although 'colleague' was unlikely in the situation), although it was important to give an answer that showed Li Ming was at the **same** school, rather than simply 'student'.

#### **4bi**

This was one item where the English used was important; many candidates failed to make the element of comparison clear, saying that the pay was, for example, 'low' (which we do not know) as opposed to 'lower'.

#### **4bii**

Many of the answers here showed that the candidates had understood much of what Li Ming says, although the majority talked about watching films rather than the benefits to his language studies. It was important for this answer, however, that the idea that he could watch films 免费 was expressed; many candidates either did not recognise the word or did not consider the clarity of what they were writing.

#### **4biii**

Clear written English was also important in this last section of Q4. Too often examiners read answers such as 'they throw rubbish in the cinema' which does not convey the image of people simply dropping rubbish where they sit. It was not expected that all candidates would recognise all of the language used (use of 才 to express dissatisfaction, 垃圾, 弄) although it was hoped that 干净 would help to support weaker candidates. Sensible application of knowledge of the outside world might have helped here too

(but see caveat in Q6 above).

### **Q7 Reading**

Whilst most candidates at the higher end of this range experienced little difficulty with this question, some elements of the topic were not so familiar to those at the lower end. The lexical item 读书 (7ii) is perhaps not so widely taught, but it is surprising that the word 杂志 seems not to have been so well known as part of the topic Media; many candidates failed to identify this answer correctly despite the mention of 歌星 which it had been hoped would offer support here. The use of the structure 一边。。。一边 was also not always known; candidates undoubtedly heard the mention of food, but chose option C ('reads after meals').

### **Q8 A healthy life**

Overall this question was answered better than Q4, partly because of the helpful multiple choice format; there is no possibility of writing an unclear and possibly incorrect answer. In Part 1 of the task, it was very pleasing to see that the majority of candidates across the ability range correctly identified 东北 (8ai) and similarly had little difficulty recognising the comparison structure using 一样 (8aiv). However, item 8aii had the dubious distinction of being the question with the fewest correct responses across the whole paper. Whilst a fairly difficult structure is certainly being used in this sentence, the time phrase 下个月 was included to give further support. It seems hard to believe that so many candidates could have misunderstood the intended meaning of this section; the reason for the incorrect answers may lie in the question, in the fact that students failed to see that the question says 'Mr Wang is now...'

Responses to the four items in Part 2 were generally more consistently correct. Necessary vocabulary for understanding this section was known across all candidates with the exception of the word 女儿 which many lower ability candidates failed to recognise.

### **Paper Summary**

Overall candidates responded well to this examination, with a far higher rate of correct answers to questions that one might regard as 'easy' than in previous years. Teachers need to ensure that candidates are prepared for questions on all possible aspects of the specification; this year it seems that Media is a vocabulary area that could be beneficially revisited and expanded.

When writing answers in English for the higher level questions, candidates must make sure that what they write gets across the meaning clearly and cannot be misunderstood. For example, in Q 4bii, candidates often wrote 'free to watch films', leaving it up to the examiner to decide if this meant 'HE was free...' (ie. he had spare time) or 'IT was free...' (ie. there was no cost involved). Happily for this year's candidates, this answer was accepted!

## **Grade Boundaries**

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>