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Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2017

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Chinese (5CN03)
Paper 3H: Reading and understanding
in Chinese.

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GCSE Chinese
Unit 3H: Reading
Examiners Report

5CN03 3H – Reading and Responding

This paper is to test candidates' reading comprehension through a variety of texts that included answering questions on a passage relating to seasons and activities in Beijing, identifying where individuals career plans, phrases around customer service, a series of phrases setting out memories of individuals, a passage on a food festival in London, a passage on an individual's weekend plans and a festival and questions on a passage with response in English.

The paper is targeted at candidates with a higher level of understanding of the Chinese language and takes the form of selecting the right answers to multiple choice questions and answering, in English, comprehension questions on a longer passage written in Chinese.

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

Questions 1 required candidates to answer questions on a short passage about weather and activities in Beijing. Candidates generally responded well to this question with the exception of identifying the type of sport that could be undertaken in winter. Response to part (iii) thus helped to differentiate stronger candidates.

In Question 2 candidates were asked to identify where an individual's career plans given a short description. This was again generally managed well by candidates.

Question 3 again required candidates to answer questions on customer service based on statements provided. This question was generally managed well by all candidates with the exception of the ability to interpret action relating to credit cards that served to identify stronger candidates.

In Question 4 candidates were asked to provide responses in English to a series of questions on a short passage: it was notable that while this style of question has been present for some time, some candidates still provided response in Chinese. This question again proved a strong differentiator between candidates of different levels of ability, in particular in relation to parts (e) and (f). In part (e) responses were provided that did not relate to detail in the actual passage, where-as for part (f) some candidates were not specific against the information was provided in the passage. This question again served to differentiate stronger candidates.

Question 5 was based on phrases reflecting childhood memories. This question was generally well handled by candidates although part (iii), the identification of "stamp collecting" proved more challenging and served to identify stronger candidates.

Question 6 and question 7 were well handled by most candidates.

Question 8, asked candidates to select responses from options that would correctly complete a sentence related to a passage. This was again generally managed well by candidates. Part (v) proved to be the most challenging: identifying the characters for "library". Response from candidates against part (vii) served to differentiate stronger candidates.

Chiew Li Fraser
15/07/2017

