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Examiner's Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2018

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Chinese (5CN03) Paper 3H
Reading & Understanding in Chinese

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5CN03 3H – Reading and Responding, June 2018

This paper is to test candidates' reading comprehension through a variety of texts that included answering questions on a passage relating to an individual's daily routine and job aspiration, identifying places to get specific items, determining what individuals like to do in their free time, a series of phrases describing occupations a passage on two girls and what they like to do, a passage describing a lost school bag, an extended passage about pandas 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 an individual's daily routine and work aspirations. Candidates generally responded well to this question with the exception of identifying what the individual liked to drink at breakfast. Response to part (i) thus helped to differentiate stronger candidates.

In Question 2 candidates were asked to identify where one would go to obtain specific items described in short phrases. This was again generally managed well by candidates, although the identification of newsagent again helped to differentiate stronger candidates.

Question 3 required candidates to match statements to one of three individuals about who information had been given. This question was generally managed well by all 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 although the number of such instances continues to diminish. This question again proved a strong differentiator between candidates of different levels of ability, in particular in relation to parts (c), (d) and (f). Often candidates seemed to just be guessing answers providing responses that bore no relation to the detail provided in the passage. This question again served to differentiate stronger candidates.

Question 5 was based on interpreting short phrases describing specific occupations. This question was generally well handled by candidates.

Question 6 required candidates to respond to questions on a short passage about the activities of two sisters. This was generally managed well excepting the identification that one liked to dance on Sunday evening which proved more challenging and served to identify stronger candidates

Question 7 was well handled by most candidates.

Question 8, asked candidates to select responses from options that would correctly complete a sentence related to an extended passage. Questions (v), requiring identification of weather type, (vi), about the character of one of the pandas, and (vii) provided the most challenge and served to differentiate stronger candidates. Part (vii), requiring identification of the estimated number of pandas in the world, proved to be the most challenging:

Chiew Li Fraser
20/07/2018

