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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2019

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Chinese (1CN0) Paper 3H: Reading and
Understanding in Chinese

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Introduction

The paper is in two sections: section A, reading comprehension, worth 43 marks, and section B, translation, worth 7 marks. The total marks on the paper is 50. The time allowed for the examination is 65 minutes. The skill of translation was tested for the first time in this new specification in 2019.

Question 1

Students were required to answer short questions in English about travel arrangements for an incoming visitor. (b) was generally well answered, with most students able to state '30 minutes'. In (a), some students failed to score the mark as they wrote 'Shanghai'.

Question 2

Students were required to answer multiple choice questions about a local area. Many students were able to answer (a) and (d) correctly. Presumably the characters for 'jogging' and 'cinema' were very familiar, although surprisingly, fewer seemed to know 'zoo' for (e).

Question 3

Students were required to write answers in English to comprehension questions, having read a literary text about hobbies. Students generally found this text to be challenging. In (a), many students simply stated that the writer was busy, and failed to mention that she was busy with her work. In (b), students were often able to pick out the number 100, but missed the subtlety that it was more than 100.

Question 4

Students were required to match the names of the continents with the tourist activities one could do there. Most students found (c) about the Olympic Games to be relatively easy. Some students appeared to struggle to read the names of the continents, and they would have been helped by knowing that the list of continents given in English appears in the same order as the Chinese appears in the chart.

Question 5

Students were required to answer reading comprehension questions in English, having read a passage about Lili's shopping habits. Most students were able to make a reasonable attempt at the whole of this passage, with parts (a) and (b) being the easiest. In (d), some students seemed to pick

out the word 'friend' but perhaps were unable to believe that one could be a friend with a shopkeeper, and so put 'make friends' as the answer to (e).

Question 6

Students were required to read a traditional story and answer multiple choice questions. Although the reading passage was challenging, since the questions were in the multiple choice format, the vast majority of students attempted all of the questions.

Question 7

Students were required to read a passage about buying gifts. In the first part, they had to match the name of the person to the comments they make about shopping: many students found (d), Lili, to be the easiest in this set of questions. However, answering (f) about what Lili gave as the main reason for her choice was harder.

Question 8

Students were required to read a passage about the environment and answer comprehension questions in English. (d) was the easiest, with most students able to pick out the country name 'Germany'. Coming up with the correct English, 'natural resources' for (a) was difficult. In (c), many students mentioned the protection of wildlife, but the number able to score the second mark by identifying the reduction in flooding was far smaller.

Question 9

Students were required to read a passage about how the 'big three' desirable items had changed over the decades. Many students were able to answer (b) about going to a neighbour's house in the 1980s to watch TV. Answering (c) succinctly was challenging for many students.

Question 10

Students were required to translate a passage about opening an online shop from Chinese to English. Many students either left the page totally blank, or made only a very limited attempt at answering this question. Students are encouraged to write down whatever they can pick out from the passage, even if it was only the last sentence.