Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2019

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Chinese (1CN0) Paper 4H: Writing

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Introduction

This year is the first examination since the new GCSE syllabus was introduced. In writing, the students would have to write without any aids, i.e. the planning form or dictionaries. It is pleasing to see that students responded well to the new syllabus

Question paper overview

For Question 1, students are required to choose one from two questions to write an informal passage between 80-110 characters. More students chose Question 1(a) A New E-pal than Question 1(b) being healthy. Overall, students responded well to the four bullet points, able to write time phrases for present, past and future tenses. Some students struggle to write "我小 (的) 时候" for bullet point 2, instead given the age. Some students were able to expand on one or two bullet points by using "我觉得," giving reasons for doing activities, which helps the students to gain higher marks. Bullet point 3 proved to be challenging for most students, as the students had to give their personal opinions on whether it is important to have shared interests/hobbies with their friends, but most students were able to answer the first part of the question, some were able to give reasons. Question 1 (b), in general, students answered well for this question.

Question 2 asks students to write a formal passage either on "my city" or "school activity week", again students responded well and were able to answer all the bullet points. More students chose the topic of my city. Some students wrote "成市"rather than"城市". For Question 2 (b), a number of students misunderstood "school activity week" (学校活动周/星期) to "运动日", which inevitably limited their development on other bullet points.

Question 3 Translation is a new examination format, introduced at GCSE level for the first time this year. It is an important part of the development of language skills. The question proved to be very challenging for our students, although most students were able to translate "At my school, we can study Chinese. I think Chinese is very interesting," Students found it hard to write "London (伦敦)", difficult to write (难写)", and "Asia (亚洲)".

For all three questions, writing pinyin is not encouraged. Students are expected to write the answers mostly in Chinese characters. Also correct grammar structures should be used, for example, 我跑步在公园 should be 我在公园跑步。Students were able to put time phrase in the beginning using 明年to start a sentence, but they seem to struggle to put the place phrase in the right place.

A number of students answered both a and b questions in question 1 and 2, which should be discouraged. Students will not gain additional marks by doing so.