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Principal Examiner Feedback

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This year the summer series was cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic. The autumn series is the second examination since the new GCSE syllabus was introduced. In writing, we continue to see that candidates are adapting well to the new format of examination.

This year's question 1 (a) and (b) are both accessible for candidates with different abilities. There are almost equal numbers of candidates that choose to write topics (a) or (b). For Question 1(a), most candidates write well for the first three bullet points; a small number of candidates struggle with the last bullet point, either omitting it or not giving reasons to support their opinions. For Question 1 (b), the last bullet point proves to be challenging for some candidates, who struggle to write “兼职”. Some candidates manage to use different expressions, for example, “放学的时候” (after school), “周末的时候” (at weekend), “有空的时候” (when free) etc. This shows candidates' ability to manipulate the language that they have learned.

For Question 2, though both questions prove to be accessible for candidates, more candidates choose Question 2 (b) over Question 2 (a). In Question 2 (b), candidates, in general, apply their language ability well in making their complaints to the hotel, but some candidates focus too much on bullet point one, leaving less room for the other three bullet points. Some candidates mix up bullet points 2 and 3, not giving clear answers to either points. On the other hand, it is encouraging to see that candidates are able to give varied ideas for the last bullet point, i.e. “online reviews from customers”. For Question 2 (a), a number of students writing about their role models being keen at recycling and being environmentally friendly. “Helping other people” is another popular topic for writing about “role models”.

Many candidates perform well in the translation task (Question 3). Candidates demonstrate that they handle the more complicated structure, like “骑自行车去上班” (cycle to work); a small number of candidates mix up “保护大自然” to “保护环境”。

On the whole, it is pleasing to see in this series, that candidates are developing their writing skills to present ideas and opinions, and are more confident in writing Chinese characters.

