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Examiners' Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2021

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Chinese (1CN0)

Paper 3H: Reading and understanding in Chinese  
Higher Tier

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## **Introduction**

This is the third examination of GCSE (9-1) in Chinese (spoken Mandarin/spoken Cantonese) Specification.

In Paper 3H: Reading and understanding in Chinese (Higher Tier), students are assessed on their understanding of written Chinese across a range of different types of texts.

Students need to:

- identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in texts
- deduce meaning from a variety of written texts
- recognise the relationship between past, present and future events
- understand texts, organise and present relevant details, and where appropriate, draw inferences in context and recognise implicit meaning
- recognise and respond to key information, important themes and ideas in more extended written text, including authentic sources, adapted and abridged as appropriate, by being able to extract information and answer questions.

This paper has a total of 50 marks and consists of 10 questions. This paper comprises two sections. Students must answer all questions from each of the two sections. Section A has nine questions set in English. Question types comprise both multiple-response and short-answer open response questions. The instructions to students are in English. Section B contains one translation passage from Chinese into English. The instructions to students are in English.

The assessment is available in traditional and simplified characters. All questions and texts are printed twice, once with texts using traditional/full characters and once with texts in simplified characters. Students select the most appropriate version, but not both.

Four of the questions are common to both Foundation and Higher tiers.

The use of dictionaries is not permitted.

The total assessment time is 1 hour 5 minutes in length.

## **Overall performance**

Most students responded very well to all questions in Section A and Section B. They were able to identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in texts; they were able to deduce meaning and recognise and respond to key information and important ideas in more extended written texts.

### Individual Questions

This report will provide exemplification of candidates' work, together with tips and/or comments on candidate performance, for a selection of questions. The exemplification will come from questions which appeared to be challenging to many students.

#### Question 1

Most students answered all the items correctly. Some students appear to have difficulty recognising 睡觉.

(c) What do the birds never seem to do?

(1)

stay still

(c) What do the birds never seem to do?

(1)

They don't chirp.

#### Question 3

Most students answered all the items correctly. However, it appears that some students failed to read the questions carefully. For example:

(a) What is located next to Huangshan?

(1)

The moon

And some students did not attempt all questions. They simply left the space blank. For example:

(c) What came down the mountain slowly?

(1)

#### Question 5

Overall, the students did well. However, many students appeared to find this question challenging. Many students failed to provide the correct answers for a couple of questions which could have resulted from the fact that they failed to recognise key vocabulary such as 经理 and 展览会.

(a) Who asked the tourist about the colour of his bag?

(1)

a worker

(e) What event was the tourist due to attend that made finding his bag necessary? (1)

Important showing

(e) What event was the tourist due to attend that made finding his bag necessary? (1)

~~A business meeting~~ ~~it~~ ~~was~~ ~~an~~ ~~important~~ ~~conference~~.

### Question 7

Overall, students performed well on this question. The biggest issue appears to lie in either the students did not read the questions carefully or they failed to recognise some of the names. For example:

Answer the following questions in English.

(e) What is Zhang Hong's ambition? (1)

go to London Universities to study physics

(e) What is Zhang Hong's ambition? (1)

~~His writing is very very useful~~ His writing is very useful

### Question 8

Overall, the students did well. However, many students appeared to find this question challenging. Difficulties seem to originate from the following:

1) Candidates did not read the questions carefully. For example:

(b) What was their accommodation like? Give one detail. (1)

At 9 am, a travelling car picked them up.

(c) What did the driver prepare for them? Give one detail. (1)

not to eat breakfast

2) Candidates failed to recognise vocabulary on places and activities. For example, candidates failed to recognise 教堂 and 放风筝.

(d) Where did they go first?

(1)

Hong Kong ~~the~~ court

(e) What activity did Wang Hai do for the first time in his life?

(1)

Sailing

3) Candidates did not attempt all questions. For example:

(e) What activity did Wang Hai do for the first time in his life?

(1)

### Question 9

Overall, the students answered most of the items correctly. The biggest difficulty appears to be that some students found it difficult to pick out the details given in the text. For example:

(c) What are Mrs Wang's hopes for her restaurant? Give **one** detail.

Help more people eat slow food

(c) What are Mrs Wang's hopes for her restaurant? Give **one** detail.

Get popular

### Question 10

Overall, the students performed well in this translation question. Those candidates who scored lower marks appear to have the following issues:

1) They did not recognise or they misread certain words. As can be seen from the first example given below, this candidate wrongly translated 下午 into 'evening'.

2) They did not show any understanding of 最/superlative, as can be seen in both of the examples given below.

3) They did not attempt to translate all sentences. For example, the first candidate did not make any attempt on the last sentence.

10 Translate this passage into English.

(7)

星期三下午，我們在教室裡舉辦了一個慶祝學生成功的活動。因為我的生物考試分數最高，所以校長給了我一本字典。我非常高興。

On Wednesday evening, ~~I~~<sup>me</sup> and my friends are going to organise an event and one student is going to be in the event. Because he got higher marks in that.

Wednesday afternoon, we celebrated students successfully completing an activity in the teaching room. ~~Because~~ And because my biology marks were very high, the ~~principle~~ principal gifted me a dictionary. I feel very happy and excited.

## Summary

Based on the students' performance on this paper, students are offered the following advice:

- read the questions carefully
- attempt all questions
- read the translation passage carefully and ensure that the meaning of the original text is not altered or distorted when translating
- learn thoroughly the vocabulary and grammar points listed in the specification