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Examiner's Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2022

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Chinese (1CN0)

Paper 1F: Listening and understanding in Chinese

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Introduction

This year's Foundation Listening exam in Chinese was sat by a relatively small number of candidates, most students/teachers of Chinese choosing the Higher tier paper. Unlike some units, this exam did not have any Advanced Information about the topic content of the exam, but to compensate for this, only vocabulary listed on the Minimum Core Vocabulary (MCV) list was used in writing the transcript. Across the paper, there was a wide range of marks, with some questions answered with more success than others.

Q1

Most candidates scored full marks here. The only source of confusion for some was the negative in 我没有宠物, which led them to choose answer G (dog does not eat meat), although the negative structure would not be the correct one in this case.

Q2

Part (iii) – a question needing the language heard to be 'processed' to reach the answer – was correctly answered by most, whilst part (ii), which only needed a single word (鞋子) to be recognised, proved more difficult.

Q3/4

The format of these two questions seemed to cause problems for some candidates: either the grids were left blank or had far too many ticks (3 per person in some cases). This is not a new format, so this was surprising. In Q3, some confused 水果 with 水 (option B), despite the verb 吃 being present. In Q4, the connection between using Chinese and English with the term 'bilingual' was not made. Over the two questions, most candidates scored 2 marks on each.

Q5

As is often the case with the Foundation paper, questions like this one that need a written response tend to be answered with less success than other formats. Most candidates dealt easily with (a) and (c), but in (b) failed to identify the sport (tennis).

Q6

Whilst the experience of booking a hotel is probably not within that of a GCSE candidate, the vocabulary tested all appears on the MCV list. There were enough clues given for part (a) – 吃, 好吃, 饭 – to identify 'a good restaurant' as the answer; in part (b) it seemed possible that some had confused the 'fu' of 服务员 with the same sound in 舒服, and thus chose 'comfortable bed' rather than 'helpful staff'.

Q7

Most candidates gained 2 marks on this question, which is encouraging as all the correct answers to some extent required 'processing' of the language heard. (For example, 他觉得那里的学校不好 became 'He was worried about the children's education'.)

Q8

Most candidates across the ability range recognised the number needed to answer (c), but the other two items proved more challenging. Whilst in (b), the word 成绩 was probably the problem, a sensible guess might have led to the answer in (a), as several words gave a clue as to the context of the phone call: 学校, 学生, 老师们.

Q9

The first 'crossover' question on this paper saw most candidates score 2 marks for (ii) and (iii). In (i) it seemed that the individual elements (朋友, 让, 玩) were given more importance than the overall meaning, whilst in (iv) the last words 三四天 were not, in fact, as important as the preceding 跟当地人一起住.

Q10 onwards

As we move towards the end of the paper and there is an increase in the level of difficulty posed by each question, there is a more marked difference between the questions that candidates found approachable and those that were more challenging.

Questions 10 and 13, requiring written responses, were the questions that all candidates, regardless of level, gained least marks on across the whole paper. Failure to grasp the situation in both cases made it more difficult to make sensible guesses, based on what was heard.

Questions 11 and 14, both in 'complete the sentence with a word from the box' format, were dealt with far more successfully. In Q11 only (d) was often wrong; the word 回收 was perhaps not recognised, but the situation (selling items no longer needed) should have led to the correct answer. In Q14 most candidates scored at least 3 marks; just a few responses included words which were not any of the given choices, showing unfamiliarity with the exam format.

General comments

A few generic comments can be made to help candidates in future years:

- take note of the number of marks available and only make that number of crosses
- in sentence completion tasks, make sure the word chosen makes sense in English

- when necessary, use the context to make a sensible guess
- be aware that you might not actually hear the words in the question; they may be expressed in a different way (e.g. in Q7 the recording says 星期天 but the question – E – says 'at the weekend') or may, in the most difficult cases, need you to infer the answer (e.g. in Q12 the phrase 天天都走路去公园 implies that, despite their age, Mr and Mrs Liu are still healthy enough to walk around – option E).

