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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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In Chinese (4CN1) Paper 01R

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International GCSE/Edexcel Certificate Chinese Paper 1 Listening Examiners' Report

Overview

This listening paper accounts for 25% of the qualification. It is assessed through an examination paper which lasts for 30 minutes, with an extra 5 minutes of reading time. The total mark for the paper is 40. Both Cantonese and Mandarin options are available.

This paper assesses listening skills across five topic areas:

- Home and abroad
- Education and employment
- Personal life and relationships
- The world around us
- Social activities, fitness and health.

This paper will consist of seven tasks, each based on a single recorded text. The topics of the listening texts will be taken from a range of different situations, from both everyday life and academic contexts with which candidates will be familiar.

The examination will begin with shorter statements, which build into short paragraphs and longer conversations. Task types demand a variety of input from candidates and include multiple-choice, multiple-matching, note-taking and gap-fill questions.

All questions and instructions to students are in English. Candidates are required to produce written responses in English. Correct spelling and grammatical accuracy will not be a requirement as long as the candidate's response is comprehensible.

General Comments

Questions 1, 2

These were picture-based box-ticking questions. Q1 consisted short sentences and Q2 was a dialogue between few people and more complicated. Almost all candidates did well in these questions and scored full marks.

Question 3

This question requires candidates to give answers in close responses. They are provided with a short set of lines of notes containing six gaps. A range of responses should be demanded, which needs to be made clear from the bulleted text. Most candidates did well in the question Q3b, Q3d and Q3e, which provided correct close responses' answers. However, some candidates did not perform so well in Q3a and Q3c. In Q3a, the answer is the English equivalent of “历史博物馆” (History Museum). Some candidates failed to spell “History” but wrote “Historical” instead. This term will lead to different understanding so they were not awarded Q3a. The similar situation happened to Q3c.

The candidates are expected to write down the English equivalent of “化学” (Chemistry) and “数学” (Mathematics). However, some candidates used the term “Chemical” instead, which is different to “Chemistry”. Even though correct spelling and grammatical accuracy will not be an absolute requirement in this paper, the response should be comprehensible. Responses, which lead to ambiguous meanings, would not be awarded.

Questions 4

The question requires candidates to match the speakers’ opinions in three different categories (positive/negative/both). Most candidates managed this question quite well.

Questions 5, 6

These were multiple-choice questions with verbal content. Candidates were required to listen to some factual and non-factual material of varying lengths, in different contexts, read questions and select the correct answers accordingly. The majority of candidates did well in Q5 but lost some marks in Q6, which requires a higher command of Chinese linguistic knowledge.

Questions 7

This was the most challenging question of this listening paper. Students were required to identify the advantages and disadvantages from the densely compacted dialogue.

The majority of candidates secured 2 or more marks in this question from Q7a, Q7b, Q7d, Q7e and Q7f. In Q7b, while majority of candidates answered “can run with her father” correctly, few individuals responded “her father likes running”. Even though “我的爸爸也喜欢跑步” was mentioned in the transcript, this is not an advantage of choosing this sport. However, the next phrase “我有时候和他一起跑” is a much clearer advantage.

In Q7d, we do accept answers like “could take part in the competition” “plays well”. However, some candidates responded something like “can join the school team”. “参加学校的比赛” (take part in schools’ competition) does not directly imply that the speaker could be a member of the school team, thus those candidates lost a mark in this question.

Q7c was not a particularly hard question but some candidates provided substandard answers. Although, most candidates identified the main key word “疼” (sore/painful), they interpreted the other key word “脚” (foot/feet) wrongly. A big number of candidates responded like “The leg will be sore.” “The legs are painful.”, which mixed up the terms of “脚” and “腿”. Candidates should remember that the key terms should be interpreted correctly and accurately.

Tips

Candidates should use the reading time available to think careful about the questions asked. Sometimes, short answers only are required. Too much information given can sometimes negate the given response.

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