Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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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 Q3a, Q3b, Q3c and Q3e, which provided correct close responses' answers. However, some candidates did not perform so well in Q3d, which the answer is the English equivalent of "去公园散步" (walks in the park) , some candidates simply mentioned "go to the park" or "go to walk", which failed to provide enough details to match the meaning of the Chinese statement.

Questions 4

The question requires candidates to match the speakers' opinions in three different categories (positive/negative/both). The majority of 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, Q7c and Q7e. In Q7c, while most candidates identified "Crowded"/"Too many people" as the correct answer, few individuals responded "Busy". Even though "餐厅人一定很多" might imply that the restaurant is busy sometimes, it might not be always the case. "Crowded" and "Busy" are two different concepts and candidates are encouraged to use the most suitable term to answer the questions. The similar situation happened in Q7e as well. Some candidates responded "Food is bad" instead of the right answer "Food is not delicious"/ "Food is not tasty" (食物不好吃). "Food is bad" is too generic and thus Q7f is not awarded.

In Q7d a majority of candidates identified the main key word "很快" (fast/quick), they missed the other key word "送到" (delivery). Answers like "The food comes out quickly", "The food is fast" do not have the meaning of delivery so that those candidates did not get this mark.

Question 7e was the most challenging question. It required candidates to be able to identify the terms "菜单" (menu) and "太少" (too little). Answers like "Few dishes on the menu" and "Not much food to choose" are accepted. Some candidates misinterpreted the term "太少" as "too small". Answers like "The menu is too small" or "the food is too small", these answers would not be awarded any marks.

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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