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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.

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.

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 very well in the question Q3a, Q3c and Q3d, which provided correct close responses' answers. However, in Q3b, some candidates wrote down the duration of the event instead of the start time of

it. The duration is not awarded as the question requires the candidates to answer the time the event starts but not its duration.

In Q3e, candidates had various performances on this question and has different answers like adding extra information outside/near which caused different interpretation of the location. Extra information, which is not mentioned in the recording, should not be added.

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 these two questions.

Some students did not answer Q5f correctly. In the recording, the speaker used a superlative form “最舒服” to describe autumn, which showed that it was his most favourite season.

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. Compared with last year, most candidates did well in this question this year.

The majority of candidates answered correctly in Q7a, Q7b and Q7c. However, in Q7b, very few individuals had ambiguous expressions of the condition of the dogs, like puppies are hard to be looked after. This kind of answers was not awarded as it is not mentioned in the recording.

In Q7d and Q7e, candidates also did well on these questions and able to answer “help to learn English” and “use new English Dictionary”. Nevertheless, few candidates overinterpreted the questions and added unnecessary information such as “help...to speak/read/write English” and lost marks. Students should only provide information that is mentioned in the recording.

In Q7f, the performance was just satisfactory. Even though many candidates have right answers, some answers are not precise enough. In the recording, the speaker said “书架上没有地方了” which means “The bookshelves have no (more) room”. Some candidates simply answered “no room for English book” and did not mention the keyword “Bookshelves”.

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