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Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

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Pearson Edexcel International GCSE

In Chinese (4CN1) Paper 01: Listening

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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 and 2

These were picture-based box-ticking questions. Q1 consisted short sentences and Q2 was a dialogue between few people and more complicated. Most 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 Q3b and Q3d, which provided correct close responses' answers. However, some candidates simply wrote down 1:30 or half past one in Q3c. These answers are not awarded as the question requires the candidates to point out the time when Tingting intends on going to the restaurant. According to the transcript, it is 1:30pm (下午一点半). Students should make sure that the correct time format is used and am/pm is clearly stated.

Some candidates put "WeChat" or "WhatsApp" as the answer of Q3e, which is inaccurate as well. The transcript said that Daming should contact Tingting by "sending a text message" (发短信), "WeChat" and "WhatsApp" are some software which can do much more than sending a text message. Students should have the answers as close as the transcript mentioned.

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 and 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 questions.

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 very well in this question this year.

Most candidates answered correctly in Q7b, Q7c, Q7d, Q7e and Q7f. However, in Q7a, some students wrote down "can see cats" in the answer box. "Panda" (熊猫) is an animal which is listed in the glossary and students are expected to learn it along with other animals.

Tips

Candidates should use the reading time available to think careful about the questions asked. Answers which do not provide key/ important information may not get marks.

