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Examiners' Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

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Pearson Edexcel International GCSE  
In Chinese (4CN1/01)  
Unit 01: Listening

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## 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. 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 Q3a, Q3b, Q3d and Q3e, which provided correct close responses' answers. However, some candidates simply wrote down 9:00 or 9 o'clock in Q3c. These answers are not awarded as the question requires the candidates to point out the time when John finishes his work. According to the transcript, it is 9pm (下午/

晚上九点)。 Students should make sure that the correct time format is used and am/pm is clearly stated.

Some candidate put "glass" as the answer of Q3b, which is inaccurate. Even though some minor spelling mistakes would be generously awarded, they should not cause ambiguity. "Glass" (玻璃) and "glasses" (眼镜) are two different things so that the answer "glass" is incorrect.

#### **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. 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. Most candidates did fairly well in this question this year.

The majority of candidates answered correctly in Q7c, Q7d, Q7e and Q7f but not Q7a and Q7b. In Q7a, some students wrote down "doctor is good" in the answer box. However, the transcript said "my family doctor is very good and could be introduced to you". Candidates are expected to mention the introduction/ recommendation but not simply the "doctor is good".

In Q7b, some candidates answered "she is healthy". However, the transcript said "I am not sick" (我没有生病). Candidates should not overinterpret the meanings of the conversations but should provide the answers literally. As the background story mentioned that the woman is quite tired recently, it is arguable if she is healthy. A simple answer "she is not sick" would be more appropriate.

#### **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. They also need to make sure that the correct time/ date notations should be used.

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