Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
in Chinese (4CN1/01R)
Unit 01R: 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, Q3c, Q3d and Q3e, which provided correct close responses' answers. However, some candidates did not do well in Q3b. Candidates are expected to write down the correct English terms or correct date notations without ambiguity. 15th June (六月十五日) is the correct answer. However, some candidates simply wrote down 6.15. Even though it could be interpreted as date, it

could also be interpreted as time, money or even just a decimal number. As the date notation might not be the same throughout the world (e.g. 9th June could be written as 6-9-xxxx or 9-6-xxxx), it could create ambiguity. Therefore, candidates should use correct date/ time notations in the future.

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 except for Q4d. In Q4d, the transcript said "I like shopping but there are not many shops." (我喜欢购物，但是这里商店不多。) This statement shows the frustration of the speaker and thus it is negative. Even though the term "but" is used, it might not always have a contrast meaning.

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 fairly well in these questions.

However, some candidates answered D in Q6e, which is incorrect. The correct answer is A. The transcript said that Lili's mother was a flight attendant but the question asked "Lili's role model is a/an…". The correct answer is "Baker". Candidates should pay attention to the tense and choose the correct answer.

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 well in Q7a, Q7c, Q7d and Q7f. However, in Q7b, some students wrote down "hearing skills" instead of the correct answer "listening skills". "Hearing" is more like a physical condition and it is not an appropriate answer here.

In Q7e, some candidates wrote "She needs to go to her father's company" but the correct answer is "She needs to work in her father's company". Examiners decided that the term "go" was an incorrect description as the transcript said "work" (上班). Candidates should pay attention that the most suitable terms have to be used but not some similar terms which may carry different meanings.

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.