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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2022

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
in Chinese (4CN1/03)

Unit 03: Speaking

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Task A:

Task A is a picture-based discussion. It is essential to choose a clear picture or photo with two or more people in it. This was a good start as the first three questions are related to the picture. However, some pictures were focussed on the scenery rather than the characters, and this might lead to a vague description.

Candidates performed well if their answers were in complex sentences. This can help the candidates to avoid not reaching the recommended time limit of two minutes. However, some teacher examiners asked too many questions which adversely affected the performance. It is strongly advised that teacher examiners conduct the test according to the specification.

Regarding to the prompt, it is strictly followed as stated in the specification. There is no allowance of any other phrases or choices. Teacher examiners need to use the suggested prompts accordingly.

Discussion questions in Task A should be in the same topic area. It is advantageous to ask questions related to or extended from the picture. However, discussion questions similar to question one to three are not recommended because candidate might repeat the answers without any chance to express their opinion or justification.

Task B & C:

A well performed question was 'Relationships with family and friends'. Candidates can use their own experience to answer. Regarding the topic 'House and Home', some candidates mixed up the concept of the description of the premises and the family members living in it. However, it was more challenging to give a response to 'Environmental Issues' as candidates might not know the terminology or the facts. This will affect the flow of the conversation. Simple and straightforward questions would be better again.

Another popular question is 'Holidays, tourism information and directions'. Candidates gave details of their experience with ease. Unfortunately, a few candidates were confused as to what they were doing in holidays and in their leisure time. There is no doubt that teenagers would like to do something related to sports in their holiday or during their leisure time, but the key word 'Holiday' implicates a length of time longer than just a few hours. An example that can be used was playing basketball; some candidates replied that they would like to play basketball every day and they also answer that they play basketball in the holiday. They can extend their answer as playing basketball is one of the activities during the holiday. A candidate's performance is positively correlated to how teacher examiner asked the discussion questions. Simple and straightforward questions would be better.

Administrative Matters:

Teacher examiners should spot on the time required in each task. Teacher examiners should ask five questions in Task A while there should be an abundance of relevant questions in Task B and C. The topic of Task B and C is different, and there should be a clear separation between them. A statement of "End of Task B" could help the candidates realise there is a change of topic and maintain a clear distinction of the timing of each answer. Long pauses between questions are not recommended but we can give reasonable time for the candidate to think and respond. Teacher examiners are welcomed to change the phrase or vocabulary used in the question if candidates were confused.

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