

Cambridge IGCSE™

MANDARIN CHINESE**0547/42**

Paper 4 Writing

May/June 2026**MARK SCHEME**Maximum Mark: 45

Published

This mark scheme contains the instructions and marking guidance that our examiners used to mark candidate responses for this component.

Before they start marking, examiners complete a standardisation process. They review a range of candidate responses and discuss the mark scheme in detail to agree which answers can and cannot be accepted. Examiners award marks where it is clear that candidate responses have met the requirements of the mark scheme. These requirements may vary between different components or different versions of the same component, depending on the exact requirements of the question and the candidate responses seen during the standardisation process.

Sometimes, our mark schemes may allow marks to be awarded to responses which contain elements that are factually incorrect or for content not covered by the syllabus. We do this in response to the demands of a specific question to support candidates and make sure that our assessments are fair. However, these allowances should not be used as a guide for teaching and learning.

We cannot discuss the mark scheme with schools, and we recommend that schools read the mark scheme together with the assessment material and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

This document consists of **16** printed pages.

General marking principles

All examiners must apply these marking principles when marking candidate responses.

1	Examiners must award marks for each response in line with: - the specific content defined in the mark scheme - the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the level descriptions - the standard of response required as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.
2	Examiners must award whole marks (not half marks, or other fractions).
3	Examiners must award marks positively . This means that: - marks are not deducted for errors or omissions - marks are awarded for correct/valid answers as defined in the mark scheme and also for other valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme referring to your team leader as appropriate - the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar are judged only when the mark scheme indicates that these features are specifically assessed in the question. However, the meaning of all responses must be unambiguous.
4	Examiners must consistently apply the requirements of the mark scheme and any rules for what to do when candidates have not followed instructions correctly.
5	Examiners must use the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme, unless limited by the quality of the candidate responses seen.
6	Examiners must award marks according to the mark scheme and must not award marks with grade thresholds or grade descriptions in mind.

Annotations guidance for centres

Examiners use a system of annotations as a shorthand for communicating their marking decisions to one another. Examiners are trained during the standardisation process on how and when to use annotations. The purpose of annotations is to inform the standardisation and monitoring processes and guide the supervising examiners when they are checking the work of examiners within their team. The meaning of annotations and how they are used is specific to each component and is understood by all examiners who mark the component.

We publish annotations in our mark schemes to help centres understand the annotations they may see on copies of scripts. Note that there may not be a direct correlation between the number of annotations on a script and the mark awarded. Similarly, the use of an annotation may not be an indication of the quality of the response.

The annotations listed below were available to examiners marking this component in this series.

Annotations

Annotation	Meaning
	Unclear
	Omission mark
	Benefit of the doubt
	Incorrect point
	Good language
	Dynamic, Horizontal Wavy line that can be expanded
	Harmless addition
	Irrelevant
Highlighter	Highlighting areas of text
	No benefit of doubt given

Annotation	Meaning
Off-page comment	Allows comments to be entered at the bottom of the RM marking window and then displayed when the associated question item is navigated to.
	Indicates that the point has been noted, but no credit has been given.
	Correct point
	Correct awarding one mark
	Correct awarding two marks
	Correct awarding three marks
	Correct awarding four marks
	Correct awarding five marks
	Dynamic, Vertical Wavy line that can be expanded

Additional guidance

- Crossing out:**

(a)	If a candidate changes his/her mind over an answer and crosses out an attempt, award a mark if the final attempt is correct.
(b)	If a candidate crosses out an answer <u>to a whole question</u> but makes no second attempt at it, mark the crossed out work.

- For Questions 2 and 3, if the candidate has written an answer in the space provided for that purpose, you should ignore anything written anywhere else, unless:**

(a)	there is an indication from the candidate that other material should be considered.
(b)	the candidate has continued their answer outside the space provided.
(c)	there is no answer in the space provided.

- Annotation used in the Mark Scheme:**

(a)	tc = 'tout court' and means that on its own the material is not sufficient to score the mark.
-----	---

- No response and '0' marks**

(a)	Award NR (No Response): If there is nothing written at all in the answer space or If there is only a comment which does not in any way relate to the question being asked (e.g. 'can't do' or 'don't know') or If there is only a mark which isn't an attempt at the question (e.g. a dash, a question mark).
(b)	Award 0: If there is any attempt that earns no credit. This could, for example, include the candidate copying all or some of the question, or any working that does not earn any marks, whether crossed out or not.

- **Optional questions:**

Mark all questions attempted by the candidate. Where the candidate attempts more than one of the alternatives in **Question 3**, the marking system will take the best mark.

- **Using mark schemes with grade descriptors:**

Start at the bottom of the mark scheme and work upwards through the descriptors when awarding marks.

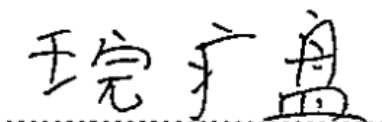
The marker should look at the work and then make a judgement about which level statement is the 'best fit'. In practice, work does not always match one level statement precisely so a judgement may need to be made between two or more level statements.

Once a 'best-fit' level statement has been identified, use the following guidance to decide on a specific mark:

- If the candidate's work convincingly meets the level statement, award the highest mark.
- If the candidate's work adequately meets the level statement, award the most appropriate mark in the middle of the range (where middle marks are available).
- If the candidate's work just meets the level statement, award the lowest mark.

Detailed mark scheme

Question	Answer	Marks
1	Candidates are required to complete 5 gaps in Chinese. Read all of the items that the candidate has listed and award marks as follows: • Award 1 mark for each correct item. • On Question 1, award marks for items wherever the candidate has written them provided the candidate has made clear which part of the form they refer to. • Mark for communication. Tolerate inaccuracies, provided the message is clear. Ignore any measure word, possessive adjective, etc. Ignore any verbs. • If a character is inaccurate, start by referring to the table below. Refer to the questions below if no decision on the character you have encountered is recorded there. If you read aloud what the candidate has written, does it sound like the correct answer and would a native speaker of the target language understand it? Does what the candidate has written look like the correct answer, e.g. one stroke missing but no other word created? Would a native speaker of the target language understand it? • Reject inaccurate characters which suggest a word with a quite different meaning. • All answers must fulfil the communicative purpose described in the rubric.	5

Question	Answer		Marks
1	你是 <u>姚雪</u> ，想买一只狗。请用中文填写下面的表格。		
	You are Yao Xue. You would like to buy a dog. Please fill in the following form in Chinese .		
		ACCEPT	Guidance/Reject
	Gaps 1 and 2 (1 mark each)	Any appropriate description, e.g. 大、小、白色的、漂亮、德国的	Refuse vocabulary which cannot be considered as a description, e.g. 我喜欢狗、妈妈喜欢狗、妈妈、妹妹、安清的、安净的、零色、喜欢课外活动
	Gaps 3 and 4 (1 mark each)	Any appropriate activities, e.g. 散步、跑步、玩、踢球、运动、吃饭、看书、坐车、去博物馆	Refuse vocabulary which cannot be considered as an activity, e.g. 公园、玩具、玩求、足路 Three-character or more words: with 2 correct characters or more but key words are wrong, e.g. 一起现在家、去公园、看电是、现游戏、踢足、去我家完、玩 
Gap 5 (1 mark)	Any appropriate places, e.g. 花园、室内、卧室、厨房、外面	Refuse vocabulary which cannot be considered as a place in a house, e.g. 北京、火车站、飞机、动物园、我姐姐家、我家公园里、礼堂、方间、方房、下楼、我的方里、各厅、可厅、客厅、衣服、我的家 Three-character or more words: with 2 correct characters or more but key words are wrong, e.g. 在我的方间、洗手间	

Question	Answer	Marks
2	你家附近有一家中国饭店。请写一写： There is a Chinese restaurant near your home. Write about: ● 饭店星期几开门； ● 你多长时间去一次； ● 你一般在那里吃什么； ● 你为什么喜欢去这家饭店； ● 下次你打算和谁一起去。 用中文写80 - 100个字。 Write 80–100 characters in Chinese. Read the whole answer and award a mark out of 12 using the table below.	Q

Marks	Descriptor	Guidance
10–12	• Completes all tasks in the required level of detail. • Provides consistently relevant information and opinions. • Meaning is clear and communication is achieved, although there may be some linguistic inaccuracies. • Uses straightforward vocabulary and structures. • (Links words and phrases using a range of simple connectors.)	Examples of linguistic inaccuracies: word order, time frames, characters Examples of linking words and phrases: <i>and, or, but, because, then</i>
7–9	• Completes most tasks in the required level of detail. • Provides mostly relevant information and opinions. • Meaning is mostly clear and communication is generally achieved, despite linguistic inaccuracies. • Uses limited vocabulary and structures with some repetition. • (Some attempt to link words and phrases using a range of simple connectors.)	3–4 tasks
4–6	• Completes some tasks with some of the required detail. • Provides some relevant information. • Meaning is sometimes clear and some communication is achieved, despite linguistic inaccuracies. • Uses basic vocabulary and structures with frequent repetition. • (Some attempt to link words or phrases using a limited range of simple connectors repetitively (e.g. <i>and, or</i>).	2–3 tasks
1–3	• Attempts task(s), with little or none of the required detail. • May provide information; is almost always irrelevant. • Meaning is unclear and communication is rarely achieved. • Uses isolated words/phrases appropriate to the task. • (Little attempt to link words or phrases.)	1–2 tasks
0	• No creditable content.	

Numbered ticks will be added to the list of annotations to help with task completion.

If a candidate has completed most tasks rather than all, but the 10–12 descriptors are the best fit in other respects, then the answer can, in theory, access the lower end of the 10–12 band.

On the contrary, if they complete all tasks without submitting much detail, they will drop to the 7–9 band.

Very short answers

If a response is under 40 characters long, a maximum of 6 marks can be awarded.

If a response is between 40–75 characters long, a maximum of 11 marks can be awarded.

Pinyin

Occasional use of pinyin will not affect marking for communication, but for essays written predominantly in pinyin (i.e. more pinyin than characters) this must be taken into account for marks.

Question	Answer	Marks
从题目3(a)和3(b)中选择一个，用中文写150个字左右。 Answer Question 3(a) or Question 3(b). Write about 150 characters in Chinese.		
3(a)	(a) 义卖会 你最近办了一个义卖会。写一封信给你的笔友，说说： 1. 义卖会是在哪儿办的； 2. 那天的天气怎么样； 3. 为什么办这个义卖会； 4. 哪些人参加了义卖会； 5. 为了让下次的义卖会更好，你打算做什么。	28

Question	Answer	Marks
3(b)	(b) 时尚 《中学生杂志》要了解一下学生对时尚的看法。给这家杂志写一篇文章，说说： 1. 你上次在哪儿买衣服； 2. 你买了什么衣服； 3. 你觉得买时尚的衣服有什么好处； 4. 你觉得买时尚的衣服有什么坏处； 5. 你下次逛街打算花多少钱。 Read the whole answer, award a mark from each of the three tables below and add up the total. Marks are available for: • task completion (maximum 10 marks) • range (maximum 10 marks) • accuracy (maximum 8 marks). Marking note: 买时尚的衣服有很多/很少/大/小好处/坏处。Etc. without any further details to explain, it doesn't count as completing tasks 3+4.	28

Task completion

Marks	Descriptor
9–10	• Completes all tasks. • Gives detailed information, opinions/reactions and explanations. • The writing is focused and wholly relevant.
7–8	• Completes most tasks. • Gives straightforward information, opinions/reactions and explanations. • The writing is mostly relevant. • 3–4 tasks
5–6	• Completes some tasks. • Gives some information, opinions and simple explanations. • The writing is more relevant than irrelevant. • 2–3 tasks
3–4	• Attempts some tasks with some success. • Gives basic information and opinions. • The writing is occasionally relevant. • 1–2 tasks
1–2	• Attempts task(s) with little or no success. • Gives some information and is almost always irrelevant. • 0–1 task
0	• No creditable response.

Task completion

Numbered ticks will be added to the list of annotations to help award marks for Task completion.

A response can only be considered complete if all elements of all part-questions are attempted reasonably successfully.

If a task is *What did you think about the movie?* and the candidate answers *The movie was interesting* (and nothing else), then they do **not** meet the criteria *Gives detailed information, opinions/reactions and explanations*.

PUBLISHED

If a candidate has completed most tasks rather than all, but the 9–10 descriptors are the best fit in other respects, then the answer can, in theory, access the lower end of the 9–10 band.

If a candidate completes all tasks without submitting much detail, they will drop to the 7–8 band.

Range

Marks	Descriptor
9–10	• Uses extended, well-linked sentences frequently. • Uses a wide range of simple and complex structures listed in the syllabus to produce sentences of varying length. • Uses a wide range of vocabulary appropriate to the task(s).
7–8	• Uses some extended sentences, mostly well linked. • Uses a range of structures listed in the syllabus, including some complex structures, to produce sentences of varying length. • Uses a range of vocabulary appropriate to the task(s) with occasional repetition.
5–6	• Uses some extended sentences, with some evidence of linkage. • Uses simple structures and attempts to use some complex structures listed in the syllabus. • Uses mostly straightforward vocabulary appropriate to the task(s) with some repetition.
3–4	• Uses simple structures and makes no attempt at using the complex structures listed in the syllabus. • Relies on repeated use of a small range of straightforward vocabulary.
1–2	• Uses isolated phrases and makes some attempt at basic structures. • Relies on repetition of a small range of basic vocabulary.
0	• No creditable response.

Accuracy

Marks	Descriptor
7–8	• Writing in characters and use of grammar are accurate; not necessarily faultless. • Occasional errors in characters and grammar do not impede communication.
5–6	• Mostly accurate writing in characters and use of grammar. • Errors in characters and grammar sometimes impede communication.
3–4	• Some accurate writing in characters and use of grammar. • Errors in characters and grammar frequently impede communication.
1–2	• Rarely accurate writing in characters and use of grammar. • Errors in characters and grammar persistently impede communication.
0	• No creditable response.

How to deal with short essays

If the candidate has written less than half the suggested number of characters (75 or less), a maximum of 5 for Range and 4 for Accuracy. An essay of 75–100 characters can be awarded a maximum of 7 for Range and 6 for Accuracy.

For a letter, the addressee and ending greeting are not included in the word count.

Pinyin

The volume of pinyin in the answer should be considered when awarding the Accuracy mark. If pinyin is used extensively, it is no longer genuinely a piece of Chinese writing.

Occasional use of pinyin will not affect marking for Accuracy, but for essays written predominantly in pinyin (i.e. more pinyin than characters) this must be taken into account in the Accuracy mark.

Note on using mark schemes with Grade descriptors

It is important that you award marks positively. In order to ensure that you reward achievement rather than penalise failure or omissions, you should start at the bottom of the mark scheme and work upwards through the descriptors when awarding marks.

You should adopt a 'best fit' approach. You must select the set of descriptors provided in the mark scheme that most closely describes the quality of the work being marked. As you work upwards through the mark scheme, you will eventually arrive at a set of descriptors that fits the candidate's

PUBLISHED

performance. When you reach this point, you should always then check the descriptors in the band above to confirm whether or not there is just enough evidence to award a mark in the higher band.

For example, when marking **Question 3** you may find that a candidate uses a variety of relevant vocabulary but has varied success with more complex structures. In such cases, you will need to award a mark that takes into account both the strengths and weaknesses of the piece of work.

To select the most appropriate mark within each set of descriptors, use the following guidance:

- If most of the descriptors fit the piece (and after you have considered the band above), award the top mark in the band.
- If there is just enough evidence (and you had perhaps been considering the band below), award the lowest mark in the band.

Irrelevance

- Sections of material unrelated to any of the bullet points will be disregarded.
- If the whole answer to **Question 3** is irrelevant (e.g. contains no evidence of being related to the bullet points set), award 0 for *Task completion*, *Range* and *Accuracy*.
- If **Question 3** is attempted but communication is not achieved (i.e. the candidate misunderstood the question), award a maximum of 8 for *Range* and a best fit for *Task completion* and *Accuracy*.