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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In Chinese (4CN1) Paper 01

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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, 2

These were picture-based box-ticking questions. Q1 consisted short sentences and Q2 was a dialogue between few people and more complicated. Almost all 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, Q3c and Q3e, which provided correct close responses' answers. However, some

candidates simply wrote down 5 or 5 o'clock in Q3d. These answers are not awarded as the question requires the candidates to point out the time when Lily's father gets home. According to the transcript, it is 5pm (下午五点). Students should make sure that the correct time format is used and am/pm is clearly stated.

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, 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 well in this question this year.

The majority of candidates answered correctly in Q7a, Q7e and Q7f. However, in Q7b and Q7d, while most candidates got the correct answers, few individuals simply provided inadequate responses. According to the transcript, in Q7b, to visit some interesting museums “有趣的博物馆” is the main reason for the couple to visit the USA. A short response “museum” is not detailed enough to get this mark as the adjective “interesting” is missing and it is very important in this question. Similarly, in Q7d, to visit famous cathedrals “有名的大教堂” is the reason for the couple to visit Spain. The answer “churches” is not adequate. While full sentences are not required, candidates should provide adequate information so as to be awarded in this question.

In Q7c, most candidates worked out the answer correctly. Majority of candidates responded “too far” or “the flight ticket is expensive”. However, some students simply wrote down “expensive” without related it to the flight. The word “expensive” can refer to too many things and candidates should link it to the keyword “机票” in order to be awarded.

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.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>

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