



AQA Qualification support

GCSE Chinese (Spoken Mandarin)

Preparing to teach

Commentaries

BOOKLET 3

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GCSE Chinese (Spoken Mandarin) Listening commentaries

Foundation

Question	Response	Commentary
08.1	library	Accept for 1 mark.
08.2	She likes reading	Accept for 1 mark.

Mark achieved = 2/2

Question	Response	Commentary
11	he likes to listen to music on his laptop	Accept despite error 'on his laptop'. 1 mark.
12	he plays football matches	Accept despite error 'plays'. 1 mark.
13	have a shower	Reject. 0 mark.

Mark achieved = 2/3

Question	Response	Commentary
14	noodles and beef	Accept for 2 marks.
15	vegetables and fish	Accept for 2 marks.

Mark achieved = 4/4

Question	Response	Commentary
16.1	In her village	Reject. 0 mark.
16.2	Because it is close to her home	Accept for 1 mark.

Mark achieved = 1/2

Question	Response	Commentary
19	Now: go to the mountains Future: go to the zoo	Accept for 1 mark. Reject – complete message not conveyed. 0 Mark.
20	Before: ride horse Now: paint art	Accept for 1 mark. Reject. 0 mark.

Mark achieved = 2/4

Higher

Question	Response	Commentary
09	listen to students	Accept for 1 mark.
10	lessons are interesting	Accept for 1 mark.
11	gives not much homework	Accept for 1 mark.

Mark achieved = 3/3

Question	Response	Commentary
15	last summer spent a month	Reject – wrong message conveyed. 0 mark.
16	Japanese	Accept for 1 mark.
17	always busy but often	Reject – vocabulary ‘帮助别人’ unknown. 0 Mark.
18	cooking Chinese food	Accept for 1 mark.
19	to earn money to go to university next year	Accept for 1 mark.
20	wants to be an engineer	Accept for 1 mark.

Mark achieved = 4/6

Question	Response	Commentary
27	Advantage: makes you more smart Disadvantage: bad for eyes	Reject – wrong message conveyed. 0 mark. Accept for 1 mark.
28	Advantage: donating books Disadvantage: men don't read them	Reject – wrong message conveyed. 0 mark. Reject – wrong message conveyed 0 mark.

Mark achieved = 1/4

Question	Response	Commentary
29	use bus lane Make the roads busy and cause traffic	Reject – wrong message conveyed. 0 mark. Accept for 1 mark.
30	all cyclists use cycle lanes City traffic will get better	Reject – wrong message conveyed. 0 mark. Reject – wrong message conveyed. 0 mark.

Mark achieved = 1/4

GCSE Chinese (Spoken Mandarin) Reading commentaries

Foundation Tier

Question	Response	Commentary
7.1	bird	Accept for 1 mark.
7.2	autumn	Reject – vocabulary ‘春’ unknown. 0 mark.
7.3	wind	Accept for 1 mark.
7.4	3	Reject – vocabulary ‘花’ unknown. 0 mark.

Mark achieved = 2/4

Question	Response	Commentary
11.1	she likes it the most	Accept for 1 mark.
11.2	they don't like her/him	Reject – vocabulary ‘严格’ unknown. 0 mark.
11.3	it is interesting	Accept for 1 mark.
11.4	it's boring	Reject – vocabulary ‘难’ unknown. 0 mark.

Mark achieved = 2/4

Question	Response	Commentary
15	We have one.....	0 mark – vocabulary ‘shopping centre’ and ‘town’ unknown.
	movie.	0 mark – vocabulary ‘next to’ and ‘cinema’ unknown.
	Last Saturday	1 mark.
	my friend and I	1 mark.
	went to watch a movie.	1 mark.
	But I thought the movie	0 mark – vocabulary ‘tickets’ unknown.
	was.....	0 mark – vocabulary ‘too expensive’ unknown.

Mark achieved = 3/9

GCSE Chinese (Spoken Mandarin) Reading commentaries

Higher Tier

Question	Response	Commentary
07.1	last Sunday	Accept for 1 mark.
07.2	volley ball	Accept for 1 mark.
07.3	A big restaurant	Reject – vocabulary ‘意大利’ unknown. 0 mark.
07.4	Chocolate cake	Accept for 1 mark.

Mark achieved = 3/4

Question	Response	Commentary
08.1	a mountain	Accept for 1 mark.
08.2	pond	Reject – vocabulary ‘河’ unknown. 0 mark.
08.3	a million	Reject – vocabulary ‘千’ unknown. 0 mark.
08.4	B	Accept for 1 mark.

Mark achieved = 2/4

Question	Response	Commentary
13	Me and my friend go in	0 – omission of ‘often’.
	to a park near the school	1
	to play football.	1
	Because in the park there is a lot of space,	1 0 – vocabulary ‘rubbish’ unknown.
	so we were able to rabbits.	0 – vocabulary ‘take part’ unknown. 0 – wrong message.
	Now, we will go to a park which	0 – incorrect rendition of ‘我们的公园’
	is prettier.	1

Mark achieved =4/9

GCSE Chinese (Spoken Mandarin) Writing commentaries and marks

Foundation Writing Question 1

Qu	Commentary	Mark
01.1	The message is relevant but has some ambiguity.	1
01.2	The message cannot be understood.	0
01.3	The message is clearly communicated with no ambiguity.	2
01.4	The message is clearly communicated with no ambiguity.	2

Mark achieved = 5/8

Foundation Writing Question 2

Content

Three of the four points are dealt with very well and the student communicates clearly about where, who with and what activity. However the student makes no attempt to address the last bullet point on 'what time you will return'. As three of the bullet points are addressed there is a reasonable coverage, giving a mark of 6.

Quality of language

Vocabulary and structures of the piece are generally appropriate. The omissions of the last point place the work in the 3-4 band (level 2). The higher mark is awarded.

Total: 6+4=10/16

Foundation Writing Question 3

Conveying key messages

Most key messages are conveyed but there are some errors in character writing and omissions of the measure word: ‘法’ in the first sentence; measure word and ‘猫’ in the second sentence; ‘科学’, ‘因为’ and ‘有趣 (有意思 etc.)’ in the third sentence; ‘运动中心’ in the fourth sentence and ‘昨’ and ‘公园’ in the fifth sentence. This being the case, it would still be true to say that most key messages are conveyed, and so a mark of 3 is awarded.

Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures

There are errors in every sentence, but the decision is around whether the work is generally inaccurate or more accurate than inaccurate. The work fits the latter description as the inaccuracies do not interfere with most messages being conveyed. A mark of 3 is appropriate.

Total: 3+3=6/10

Foundation Writing Question 4.1

Content

Although all aspects of the task are covered, communication is generally, rather than mostly clear. Some information and opinions are conveyed but there are lapses in communication due to errors and omissions in character writing, i.e. ‘起床’, ‘早饭’, ‘但是’, ‘喝水’, ‘然后’, ‘网球场’, ‘漂亮’, ‘因为’, ‘严厉(严格 etc.)’ and ‘去年’. The work therefore matches the descriptors in the 5-6 band (level 3) so 6 marks are awarded.

Quality of language

Some variety of language is used and there are attempts at complex structures despite the connective words being sometimes inaccurate, i.e. ‘但是’, ‘然后’ and ‘因为’. The work also falls within the 3-4 band (level 2) because there are references to more than two time frames with only some minor errors. The work demonstrates sufficient features at this level so a mark of 4 is awarded.

Total: 6+4=10/16

Higher Writing Question 1

Content

Despite length, all aspects of the bullet points are covered and, to a large extent, developed with a lot of information being conveyed in a clear manner but there are some definite lapses such as “第一的课目开始八点半，昨天我学了中文课，但是今天我有英语课”. Those flaws point to a mark in the 7-8 band (level 4) rather than in the 9-10 band (level 5) but the inclusion of opinions justifies a mark of 8.

Quality of language

There is a good range of appropriate vocabulary and three time frames are in evidence. Coupled with those there are successful attempts at more complex language. There are major and minor errors there and although the intended meaning is clear, the level of inaccuracy is such that one must consider the 3-4 band (level 2). The higher of the two marks is awarded as the errors are more minor than major.

Total: 8+4=12/16

Higher Writing Question 2.1

Content

Both bullet points are addressed and there are successful attempts not only to express opinions but also to justify them. Clarity does suffer a little on occasion and some information is less deftly communicated, often due to not knowing the correct characters, but quite a lot of information is clearly conveyed and this needs to be credited with a mark in the 10-12 band (level 4). The mid mark of 11 reflects not only what is well communicated but also the lack of clarity in places.

Quality of language

There is a good variety of appropriate vocabulary and attempts are made to form longer sentences using connective words such as “但是”，“如果”，“又...又...” which are successfully employed. Set against that are errors in structures and vocabulary such as “关于”，“知道”，“必须” and “面条”. Nonetheless the piece is mainly fluent and a mark at the top end of the 7-9 band (level 3) is appropriate – 9.

Accuracy

The response is generally accurate; there are a number of minor errors but few major ones and the time frames and characters are mostly correct, as is most of the word order. The minor errors do not really affect communication when read in context. For these reasons, a mark of 4 is appropriate.

Total: 11+9+4=24/32

Higher Writing Question 3

Conveying key messages

Apart from “很贵”, “对面博物馆”, “午饭” and “工作” where there is some ambiguity, and the omission of “门票” and “兼职”, all other key messages are conveyed. A mark of 5 is awarded.

Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures

A good knowledge of the appropriate vocabulary is demonstrated but there are errors which means that the piece can be described only as being generally accurate rather than highly accurate. Some inappropriate use mentioned above means a mark of 4. This rewards the good knowledge of vocabulary and linguistic structures while taking the flaws into consideration.

Total: 5+4=9/12

GCSE Chinese (Spoken Mandarin) Speaking test commentaries

Student 1 Foundation Role-play 2 (1'40")

Task	Commentary	Marks
1	The student provides a type of music (法国的音乐) she likes. The message is communicated without ambiguity.	2 marks
2	The student gives an opinion and a reason. The message is communicated without ambiguity.	2 marks
3	The unpredictable task. This is quite an extensive answer. The message is communicated without ambiguity.	2 marks
4	The message is communicated without ambiguity.	2 marks
5	The student formulates an appropriate question.	2 marks

This performance is an excellent example of how full marks can be achieved through accomplishing tasks using succinct messages and language.

Knowledge and use of language

5 marks (very good knowledge and use of language). The student shows a very good knowledge and use of language in relation to the tasks.

Communication	Knowledge and use of language	Marks
10	5	15

Student 2 Higher Role-play 7 (1'50")

Task	Commentary	Marks
1	There is a minor grammatical error (太玩儿), but the task is already accomplished and the message is clear so that is ignored.	2
2	The task needs reference to 2 activities, both of which are provided. The message is communicated without ambiguity.	2
3	The unpredictable task. The task requires a preference and reason both of which are provided. The message is communicated without ambiguity.	2
4	The task requires a preference and reason both of which are provided. The message is communicated without ambiguity.	2
5	A good question.	2

Knowledge and use of language

5 marks (very good knowledge and use of language). The student produces a confident and sustained performance across all of the 5 tasks.

Communication	Knowledge and use of language	Marks
10	5	15

Student 3 Foundation Photo Card E (1'48")

On the whole the responses to all questions are relevant. Two of the responses are developed beyond minimum, although there is no development of questions 3, 4 and 5. One opinion is given and explained very well. The definition of the 10-12 band states "the speaker replies to all or nearly all questions clearly and develops some answers. He/she gives an opinion." This is a fair and accurate description of the overall performance and a mark of 11 is awarded.

Communication

11

Student 4 Higher Photo Card G Theme 1 (2'45")

The student does respond clearly to nearly all questions. Four responses are developed beyond the minimum, producing accurate details and show the student's clear ability to extend answers. However note that, although extra information is given in response to Question 1, the student fails to develop at least three replies which is required for the 13-15 band. Therefore although there is a lot of development in Question 2 to 5 including a range of valid opinions, as well as the student producing a confident and largely accurate use of language with a good variety of vocabulary, she just falls short of a performance worthy of a mark in the top band because of lacking development in Question 1, otherwise her overall performance would have merited a mark in the top band. She scores 12 marks.

Communication

12

Foundation General conversation

Student 5 Foundation General Conversation (4'20")

Communication

The student's delivery is quite slow and the fact that she has to search for what to say means that the amount of information conveyed is hindered. She tends to go beyond the minimum in her replies but any extension of answers is quite limited due to a lack of vocabulary needed to complete the response. She doesn't ask the teacher-examiner a question which incurs a deduction of 1 mark from her mark for Communication in this section.

Range and accuracy of language

Responses are given in full sentences. There are some attempts to use more complex structures, such as “我觉得中国饭很好吃”, “我跟朋友一起想去看Moana的电影”. There is some success in marking reference to past and future, as well as present, event. The overall performance has features of both of the top bands and is very much on the borderline between them. A mark of 8 is awarded.

Pronunciation and intonation

Pronunciation is good throughout and all basic sounds are enunciated correctly, as well as evidence of good use of intonation, such as “我觉得中国饭很好吃!”

Spontaneity and fluency

This exchange has a natural feel about it. Hesitations occur when the student is searching for the appropriate word and, as such, do not break the flow of conversation. There is no evidence of pre-learnt responses.

Communication	Range and Accuracy	Pronunciation and Intonation	Spontaneity and Fluency	Total Marks
6	8	5	5	24

Higher General conversation

Student 6 Higher General Conversation Theme 2 and Theme 3 (6'45")

Communication

An assured performance. The student responds successfully to all questions and provides a lot of information, in well developed, complex sentences, using a good variety of vocabulary and time frames throughout. The student is successful in asking a question of the teacher (最健康是什么). The criteria for the 9-10 band state, "a speaker who consistently develops responses in extended sequences of speech. Narrates events coherently when asked to do so. Conveys information clearly at all times, giving and explaining opinions convincingly." A mark of 10 is awarded.

Range and accuracy of language

There is a wide range of vocabulary and linguistic structures used throughout the conversation. There is also evidence of a confident use of different time frames. There are a few minor errors, such as "我可以用公共汽车去不同的地方", "没有吃太多的蛋糕或者糖果", "好像是每个人都看一样", but these are few and far between which do not impede communication. Overall the performance fits the criteria for the 9-10 band.

Pronunciation and intonation

This student demonstrates a consistently good level of pronunciation and tones, as well as using intonation convincingly throughout. There are no major mispronunciations and the only conspicuous mispronunciation is "青菜". A mark of 5 is awarded.

Spontaneity and fluency

There is no evidence of pre-learnt responses and the performance has a sense of real flow. An effective conversation has a sense of real natural flow and is sustained throughout. The performance mainly reflects features of level 5, showing the student's clear ability of participating in a spontaneous conversation within the context without major hesitation or pauses.

Communication	Range and Accuracy	Pronunciation and Intonation	Spontaneity and Fluency	Total Marks
10	10	5	5	30