
GCSE

CHINESE (MANDARIN)

8673/LF: Listening Foundation
Report on the Examination

8673
June 2022

Version: 1.1

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General Comments

This was the first time that our students have sat an external Listening examination in June since the start of the pandemic. The paper proved to be reasonably accessible for the majority of students. It was pleasing to see students knew what was required of them and attempted questions across the paper.

Nevertheless, this year's paper provided evidence that the pandemic has had a particular, and in some cases tremendous, effect on students' learning during their GCSE course, affecting their listening skills especially. Whilst many students were able to gain some marks for each question regardless of the question type, in some cases basic items of vocabulary were not known well by students. There was an increase in answers that were left blank this year. In questions requiring responses in English, the answers often lacked precision and/or clarity.

Teachers should remind students of the following techniques:

- maximise the 5 minutes' reading time by -
 - reading the questions carefully
 - using the question title, the rubric and any examples given to help focus on the topic and understand the context
 - identifying the questions which have more than one part, e.g. 12.1, 12.2 and 12.3;
- listen to the whole utterance once before writing down your answer;
- follow the examples given, as these indicate the level of detail required;
- pay particular attention to the words which have been emboldened;
- ensure that you give precise answers and avoid giving alternatives and/or unnecessary additional information;
- cross out clearly the answers you do not want to be marked;
- write down option letters carefully and legibly;
- only write answers which are possible, e.g. A, B or C in an A B C multiple-choice question.

Questions 1-2

These questions were designed to be an accessible introduction to the exam. The majority of students were able to score at least one of the two marks about sport activities.

Question 3

This question required a response written in English and was fairly well answered. Over two-thirds of the students were able to pick out 冷 and/or 雨, but 冷 seemed a less familiar word. Students were able to note that, as indicated in the example, only a very short one- or two-word answer was required and not a whole sentence.

Question 4

This question proved to be more challenging than expected, with nearly 60% of students failing to understand 三十多 and gain the mark for Question 4.1. Around half of students were confused by 中国学生 and 美国电影.

Questions 5-7

This section caused difficulties for many students at this tier, with Question 5 being the least well-answered question on this paper. Most issues stemmed from the students' lack of precision in their answers. In Question 6, it was evident that 黄 was an unfamiliar word for colour. Students should be trained to listen carefully for negative expressions like 不喜欢 as they often flag up a distractor. In Question 7, students should have read the question more carefully and noted that the question wording was 'easy to use the phone to...' with the answer being 'play games', rather than fast speed surfing the internet.

Question 8

This question was universally successfully well answered, which was pleasing. The specification topic of free-time activities is one which students generally handle well. 喝咖啡 and 听音乐 appeared to be very familiar to students.

Question 9

This question proved more challenging than anticipated and was completed with varying degrees of success. In Question 9.1, 牛肉 seemed to be an unfamiliar word for most students and there were many guesses made of commonly known Chinese food items. In Question 9.2, many students misunderstood 汽水 as water and, once again, students should be frequently reminded to read questions carefully to improve their exam technique.

Questions 10-12

There was a reasonable number of correct responses to Question 10, which was testing students' ability to distinguish between the number of days (四天) and days of the week (星期二). Many students misunderstood Question 11 'how do they often travel to work?' as 'how often do they travel to work?', and hence did not manage to provide the relevant answer. A number of students did not answer Question 12, or made a guess based on their general knowledge, i.e. recycle, use less paper, etc.

Questions 13-15

These questions were well answered by students who had a good knowledge of the vocabulary for jobs. However, 司机 was a comparatively less well known word.

Questions 16-17

These questions were also on the Higher tier paper and were found to be challenging. Lack of knowledge of the verbal phrases 赚很多钱, 回家, 爱我, was usually what let students down. Only a small minority managed to score marks in Question 16. Question 17 was answered more successfully, with family members (三个哥哥) providing the clue which led to the correct answer of 'the speaker has 3 brothers'.

Question 18

This question was accessible to most students, especially Question 18.3, which was answered the most successfully. In Question 18.1, 两年 distracted some students, who incorrectly picked Option A.

Question 19

This question proved challenging, particularly Question 19.2. Many students were unable to draw the correct conclusion from the text. Although 学习 and 教室 seemed reasonably accessible words, students found it hard to relate them to 'school'. Students need to be better trained at inferring information from texts.

Question 20

This question differentiated well as students not only had to ensure that they chose the right problem, but also had to pair it with the correct time frame. A minority of students scored both marks for past and future problems. A number of students produced the answer of 'homework' or 'lots of homework' for 没有做作业, which were both rejected due to lack of precision and clarity.

Question 21

In this question, almost all students managed to score at least one mark. It was much more of a challenge to get all four options correct, and this was achieved by only 13% of the students. Options C, E and F were often chosen correctly by students. The option most frequently incorrectly chosen by students was A, most likely because of the unfamiliar expression 干杯.

Question 22

This question was targeted at the higher grades available at Foundation tier and, not surprisingly, it was rare to see students getting both marks here. Question 22.2 was answered better, but Question 22.1 was more challenging. The vocabulary in Question 22.1 would normally not be considered too challenging, but many students were unable to choose the correct answer 大学 after rejecting the distractor 买东西.

Question 23

This overlap question proved a fairly accessible end to the paper. Question 23.1 was testing students' ability to listen for detail and draw a conclusion. Incorrect answers were given if students did not understand the structure 和他一样 and hence were unable to associate it with the answer 'her role model'. There was a reasonable number of students who answered Question 23.2 correctly, with 电视 being a familiar word, allowing students to deduce the correct answer as 'in a TV drama'.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.