



GCSE

CHINESE (MANDARIN)

8673/RF: Reading Foundation
Report on the Examination

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General comment

This was the first year of GCSE examinations since the pandemic. It was very encouraging to see clear evidence that students had made a significant effort to respond to the paper. Students were able to display some knowledge across the range of topics covered, despite the huge interruption to teaching and learning.

Most students attempted to answer almost all the questions, including the open response questions, although these proved to be the most challenging. Generally speaking, responses on the paper were clear, but in a small number of papers marking was made more difficult due to illegible handwriting.

Section A

Question 1

This question asked students to show their knowledge of food and drink. Nearly half of all students were caught out by the distractors 面包, 苹果汁 and 肉.

Question 2

Around 28% of students in Question 02.2 were unable to work out the correct answer and were caught out by the distractors 明天 and 下雨. It would be worth teachers spending more time practising essential vocabulary like family members (e.g. 爷爷) and hobbies (e.g. 打篮球) with students.

Question 3

Half of all students answered well, but incorrect responses for colours and body parts were frequently seen.

Question 4

This question differentiated well; nearly half of all students responded to Questions 04.1, 04.3 and 04.4 correctly. However, while well over 73% were able to identify time expressions such as 去年 and 明年 and the hobby 听音乐, many students struggled with items like 聊天 and 旅行.

Question 5

Many students were able to work out the meaning of 有很多朋友 and 太忙了. Mistakes were made in the understanding of verb-noun phrases such as 看电视. Question 05.2 was frequently answered incorrectly (only just over 30% of students gained the mark). No mark was awarded for “like his friends” as a response to 喜欢和小朋友在一起 “like being with children”.

Question 6

This was the first overlap literacy question. It was pleasing to see an improvement compared to previous years. More than half of students could identify the words 去, 学校 and 女生 in Questions 06.1, 06.4 and 06.5. Some students were not familiar with the time frame 午饭以后 or the transportation word 坐车, which prevented them scoring in Questions 06.2 and 06.3. Questions 06.6 and 06.7 proved to be challenging. Only 13% students gained the mark in Question 06.7.

Question 7

This question type seemed to be challenging for most students, with only 25% of students providing the correct answers in Questions 07.1 and 07.2. The negative word 不 was not understood, leading to many wrong answers in 07.1. Teachers are advised to make sure that students learn basic vocabulary items like the verb-adjective 吵.

Question 8

Parts 08.1 and 08.4 were answered fairly well, but fewer students gained the mark in Question 08.3, where 不必 and 和 ... 一样 were not identified. Similarly, 不用 was also not widely recognised and hence many students incorrectly opted for answer B in Question 08.2.

Question 9

Pleasingly, over half of students scored two marks in this three-mark question. Students were familiar with the vocabulary items for family and jobs.

Question 10

In this question students had to demonstrate an ability to scan for specific information in a paragraph. The topic was foundational and generally familiar to students, but some words such as 一家人, 听京剧 and 看动画片 were unfamiliar, preventing students from scoring full marks.

Question 11

This was another difficult open response question and proved to be very challenging. Many students didn't offer a sufficiently precise answer to Question 11.1, which prevented them from scoring marks. Less than 10% of students were able to identify the key idea and many were distracted by the incorrect details in 11.3 and 11.4. Those who gave an incorrect answer to 11.3 were often caught out by the distractor 红色的运动服.

Question 12

This was another overlap literacy question based on an adapted text “荷塘月色”. It was targeted at the more able students and worked well as a differentiator, with only the top 23% of students

answering Question 12.4 correctly. Students were more successful in answering Questions 12.1, 12.2 and 12.3, with more than 49% of students answering correctly.

Question 13

This was the third overlap question and proved to be a challenge for the majority of students. Those who answered Question 13.2 incorrectly often did not understand the expressions 课外活动和 放学. In Question 13.1, however, nearly half of all students were able to identify key information such as 离家太远 and 太小了. Some students did not use the correct boxes to write down the relevant details for past and future problems, which prevented them from scoring marks.

Section B

Question 14

This was an unpopular question for Foundation Tier students. There were many gaps in students' responses, leading to a failure to gain marks. Only 3.3% of students scored five marks or more. Some students were reduced to making up answers from the few words they did know, and hence what they wrote often had very little relation to the original text. Students should be made aware that linking words such as 不但 are very important in translations, and that to score highly in a task of this type precision is essential. Details such as 海边, 上个, 海里 and 舒服 must be conveyed fully in English. Overall, despite having a very low mean mark (1.69 out of 9), this question differentiated very well.

Advice to Students

- Read all the information in both the rubric and the questions. This will help you to respond correctly.
- Make sure your handwriting is clear and legible when you are answering the questions.
- Re-read through your answers to the open response questions carefully and make sure that they make sense.
- Read the text from beginning to end before selecting your answers, being careful to avoid distractors.

Advice to Teachers

- Draw students' attention to the list of key verbs and time expressions and practise them frequently in lessons.
- Train your students to spot distractors.
- Encourage your students to attempt all questions in the literary texts.

- More than half of the questions are targeted at the lower grades, so ensure that students are familiar with basic vocabulary items.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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