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GCSE

**Mandarin**

8673/RH: Reading Higher  
Report on the Examination

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## General comments

This was the first year of GCSE examinations since the pandemic. It was very encouraging to see clear evidence that the students had made a significant effort to respond to the paper. They were able to display good knowledge across the range of topics covered by the paper, despite the huge interruption to teaching and learning. The mean mark on this paper was above 43, which was just 2 marks lower than in 2019.

Students are becoming familiar with the requirements of the different question types and with literary texts, and as a result there were very few cases of students leaving answers blank. This demonstrates clearly that exam technique has improved. It was also pleasing to see that the translation was completed very well, with over 60% of students gaining more than 5 marks out of a possible 9.

Although some students struggled with the comprehension of lengthy paragraphs containing high demand content, uncommon vocabulary and complex sentence structures, these questions differentiated very well.

Students' handwriting was generally legible, although the work of some students proved challenging to decipher.

## Section A

### Question 1

This question was very successfully answered by the majority of students, especially Question 01.1 (92% correct). In Question 01.2, a broad range of spellings/names were accepted, leading to a positive outcome, with an average mark of 1.45 out of 2 marks. In 01.3, some students failed to understand 酒店 and were not able to provide a detailed response to the second part of the answer, which should have been “The bed is comfortable”.

### Question 2

This was based on an adapted literary text, “Two Families”, and was responded to well. It led to pleasingly high scores. Questions 02.2, 02.3, 02.4 and 02.5 were all well answered, with more than 65% of students gaining all marks. Question 02.7 proved to be more challenging, and many students did not understand that 六年不见 means “They haven't see each other for six years” which resulted in them wrongly opting for “They were classmates for six years”.

### Question 3

Students performed extremely well on this question, with over 90% of the students answering all the questions correctly. Students were clearly comfortable with the topic “my studies”. Even questions which were less well answered (Questions 3.4 and 3.5) still had a success rate of over 90%.

#### Question 4

This question required students to demonstrate an ability to find the key idea from a longer text containing distractors. Apart from Question 04.2 and 04.4, the rest of the questions were very successfully answered, with over 90% of students giving the correct responses.

#### Question 5

This question tested the topic of jobs, career choices and ambitions in a more grammatical context and the question type was open response. In Question 05.1, most students were unfamiliar with the concept 生活环境很差 and thus were unable to answer appropriately, giving vague answers like “Life environment is very boring”. Question 05.2, however, was answered well and 63% of students provided the correct response. Those who did not score here often incorrectly guessed “became a teacher”. In Question 05.3, students were usually successful in identifying the answer to the first part of the question, but misinterpreted 见面时间很短, which led to less than half of students scoring two marks.

#### Question 6

This question was aimed at the highest grade. The open response question type differentiated very well here, with less than half of students scoring full marks. A number of students failed to understand the words 记者 and 理想 in Question 06.1. The expressions 如果 ... 就, 亚洲 and 旅游 also prevented students from giving an appropriate response. Question 06.3 was relatively well answered, with more than 50% of students gaining the mark. The most challenging item of vocabulary here was the expression 赚学费.

#### Question 7

The ‘positive aspects’ in Question 07.1 were dealt with very well, although there was some misunderstanding about the expression 十字路口 with some students writing “ten character road”. In Question 07.2, there were some vague answers such as “not enough waiters” which failed to score.

#### Question 8

This was the second overlap literacy question. Students gained some pleasingly high scores in Questions 08.1, 08.2 and 08.3. In 08.4 students had to demonstrate an ability to scan for specific information, namely 四面 and 树, and nearly 40% of students were unable to respond correctly.

#### Question 9

09.1 was generally well answered, with 73% of students gaining 2 marks. Some students, however, were unfamiliar with the sentence structure 离, causing errors in the first part of the question. In 09.2 课外活动 was often missed, with many students responding with “not a lot of lessons” as the past problem. 放学 was another challenging word here, leading to many students responding incorrectly with “go to school at 6.00 am, too early”.

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**Question 10**

Students performed extremely well in this set of questions, with a mean mark of 3.57 out of 4 marks. Students were asked to select 4 correct statements out of 8 options, requiring a good understanding of some specific details in a long text. Many students found it hard to draw the conclusion that Taotao and Ranran had been friends since they were young, failing to infer this information from the sentence 小时候，我最喜欢你爷爷给我做的鸡汤面条。

**Question 11**

Once again, multiple choice questions were popular with students. Most parts of this set of questions were responded to well. 77% of students were familiar with the terms for colours and rooms required in Question 11.1. More than 69% of students showed a good understanding of the connective 既 ... 又 and the adjectives 温暖 and 明亮. Question 11.3 was also well responded to, with 75% of students understanding that Wenwen did homework in the kitchen. Questions 11.4, 11.5 and 11.6 were by far the most successfully answered in this set, with over 82% of students proving able to scan the extended text for specific detailed information.

**Section B****Question 12**

The last question on the paper in section B required students to translate a short passage from Mandarin to English. Specific vocabulary in the specification was targeted and a precise rendering of the Mandarin into English was required. It was pleasing to note that the question produced the full range of marks, with 19% of students gaining full marks and the most common mark being 8 or 9. Only 7% of students failed to score on this task. The mean mark for this task was 5.53, showing that students have been well trained in translation into English.

In the first sentence, 我家附近的书店 proved challenging for many students and was often translated as “my family’s bookshop”. 我最喜欢的女作家 was well understood by the majority of students. In the third sentence, the use of the attribute 她写的 proved particularly challenging. The last sentence was generally well translated. Credit was given for answers such as “funny” to translate 幽默.

Students should be reminded of the need for precision in this task. Every word must be reflected in the translation and students must ensure that they keep closely to the original text.

### **Mark Ranges and Award of Grades**

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