

Chinese

Course Code: CHN315114

Oral Examination

The Chinese oral examination assessed Criterion 2 – Communicate in Spoken Chinese. The questions asked were on the topics of Personal World, Education and Daily life under Theme 1 – The Individual from the Chinese 3 course document. An additional question about knowledge of Chinese traditional festivals under Theme 2 was also available to the advanced students.

The vast majority of the candidates successfully achieved a satisfactory or higher result in their oral examination. The oral examination examiners were very pleased to see that most of the candidates appeared to be very confident and well prepared although they were nervous at the beginning of the conversations. They were quite focused and demonstrated very good listening, comprehension and conversational skills. The candidates were able to ask the examiners to repeat the questions in Chinese if they were not clear or sure.

The very successful candidates demonstrated very good listening skills in the questions asked, and strong conversational skill in terms of appropriate Chinese words and expressions, correct grammar, high fluency and good pronunciation. Some of the candidates were able to use authentic expressions and even idioms to elaborate the topics. The less successful candidates were found to have limited vocabularies. Their answers were very short, sometimes with wrong selections of words and incorrect grammar. Poor fluency and inaccurate pronunciations were also penalised.

The following questions were found challenging for some of the candidates.

请你说说你的学校生活；
你平常怎么去学校？
从你家去学校要多长时间？
请你说说霍巴特的季节；
这个暑假你有什么旅行计划？
圣诞节你打算怎么过？

Overall, it was clear that the majority of the candidates had put a lot of effort in to the preparation and performed very well in the oral examination. The candidates this year have set a very high standard for themselves. They deserve the very good results achieved and congratulations to all of them and their teachers.

Written examination paper

Part 1: Listening and Responding

Question 1

Most of the candidates performed well with this question. This showed that the candidates had a very good knowledge of theme-based vocabulary and understanding of its function in the daily settings. Some of the candidates missed a few marks due to the confusion of colours of the apples.

The suggested answers and marking guide: (total 9 marks)

- (a) All are tasty (1), and not expensive (1)
- (b) ¥2.5 (1/2) per kg (1/2)

- (c) 5kg (1)
- (d) (i) Bananas (ii) too expensive (1), they are both small (1/2) and expensive (1/2)
- (e) First choice/box (2)

Question 2

This question combined the topics of travelling and food.

The suggested answers and marking guide: (total 11 marks)

- (a) 5 years (1)
- (b) Last year (1)
- (c) To learn Chinese culture (1) and history (1)
- (d) He wants to see the beautiful scenery (1) or [mountains(1/2) and water views (1/2)]
- (e) 1. Taste good /tasty (1/2); 2. Playful / fun (1/2); 3. People can eat and drink while chatting to friends (1/2); lively/bubbling atmosphere (1/2)
- (f) (i) to eat hot pot (1); (ii) is a good idea (1) as the weather is very cold (1) that night
- (g) Second choice/box (2)

Question 3

This topic was supposedly quite familiar to the candidates, but the performance of this question was not as good as expected. Some of the candidates confused the wording of question (a) "Tick the correct answer" and ticked all the symptoms mentioned. Most of the candidates missed the marks for question (g).

The suggested answers and marking guide: (total 13 marks)

- (a) Third box (1)
- (b) Last night (1) after dinner (1)
- (c) Watching TV (1)
- (d) His temperature is normal (1) and he hasn't had a fever (1)
- (e) 3 times (1/2) a day (1/2), two tablets (1/2) each time (1/2)
- (f) (i) should become better (1); (ii) If she starts vomiting (1) or having diarrhoea (1)
- (g) 1. The weather becomes cold (1); 2. If one hasn't a good rest (1)

Question 4

The suggested answers and marking guide: (total 15 marks)

- (a) Australia (1)
- (b) Wear more clothes (1/2) as the temperature is lower (1/2)
- (c) Last choice /box (2)
- (d) By aeroplane / flight(1)
- (e) Two days (1)
- (f) Disadvantages: 1. Expensive (1); 2. Longer time (1)
Advantages: 1. Relaxing and having good rest (1); 2. Enjoy the scenery (1)
- (g) (i) the group of people who want to take boat back (1)
(ii) to book /buy the boat ticket
- (h) Second choice /box (2)

Question 5

The suggested answers and marking guide: (total 12 marks)

- (a) At home from his father (1)
- (b) (i) 10 years-old (1); (ii) to earn money for the family/his family was poor (1)
- (c) (i) One of his friends came back from France (1) and brought some French oil paintings for him (1);
(ii) very different (1)
- (d) Second choice/box (2)
- (e) 1919 (1) to 1923 (1)
- (f) 3rd choice/box (2)

Reading and Responding

Question 6

Most of the candidates performed well with this question.

Suggested answers and marking guide: (total 16 marks)

- (a) He is worried whether he could understand what people say on the phone (1)
- (b) People talk very loudly (1) and the people nearby can hear their talk (1)
- (c) Because people don't check the traffic lights (1), people also don't know who should go first (1) where there are no traffic lights(1)
- (d) They are friendly (1/2) and interesting (1/2)
- (e) Third choice/box (2)
- (f) Square/street dance (1)
- (g) He chats with the dancing people (1) when doing a "square dance"
- (h) Second choice/box (1)
- (i) It has been both positive and negative. The negative sides are: people talk too loudly in public areas (1), and they also ignore the traffic rules and he finds it is very hard to cross the roads in China (1); The positive sides are: the Square Dance people are very friendly and nice to him (1) and most importantly his Chinese has improved a lot (1)

Question 7

Suggested answers and marking guide: (total 20 marks)

- (a) University (1)
- (b) The distance to uni or if it is close to uni (1)
- (c) 5 min (1/2) to uni library (1/2)
- (d) B (2)
- (e) (i) By bus (1) or by walking for 15 min (1); (ii) by the real estate agent (1)
- (f) The local shopping centre has all the facilities such as bank (1), supermarket (1) and restaurant (1) including food not only just from China
- (g) She really likes to eat Chinese food (1), but doesn't know how to make it (1)
- (h) To call the agent before she goes to see the house (1)
- (i) Last choice/box (1)
- (j) She is interested in the house (1/2) as it is close to the uni (1/2) and there are a lot of facilities nearby (1/2). She also asked if she could go to see the house (1/2)

Question 8

Suggested answers and marking guidelines:

- (a) (i) 错(1) (ii) 对(1) (iii) 错(1) (iv) 对(1)
- (b) Last choice/box (2)
- (c) 选择喜欢的东西 (1/2), 付钱 (1/2), 留下地址 (1)
- (d) 什么时候都可以 (1)
- (e) 信誉问题/买的东西质量不一定好 (1)
- (f) 贵的东西 (1)
- (g) 有名的商店 (1/2) 或家人朋友推荐的商店 (1/2)
- (h) Second choice/box (2)

Writing in Chinese

The table below shows the question number, the required text type and the number of students who attempted the question in this part.

Question number	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13
Text type	Diary	Email	Conversation	Profile	Story
Number of candidates attempting the question	0	7	3	12	0

From the table, it is clear that Question 10 and 12 were the most popular ones among all five questions. No candidate attempted Question 9 and 13.

The markers of the exam paper commented that the standard and level of this year's writing was quite high. The successful candidates managed to use a wide range of expressions, tenses and sentence patterns to convey their ideas with fewer errors. The flow and format of the texts were good in general. The candidates also made very good use of the dictionary in finding the characters for the texts in their writing. Most of the candidates did write up to or above the required word count. But there were a few candidates who did not produce enough characters and writing in this part. On a few occasions the candidates copied the characters from the dictionary but with no understanding of them. One example was “fly”, the candidate should use the verb “飞”, but instead a noun “苍蝇” was chosen. The other obvious mistake was with the selection of the character for “missing”. The candidate was going to say “我想念你”, but a wrong expression was chosen and it became “我失踪的你” which really doesn't make sense.

The responses for the questions chosen by the candidates were marked and rated as follows:

Relevance and coherence (topics covered):	0	1	2	3	4	5
Sentence structure – grammar and accuracy:	0	1	2	3		
Sentence structure – vocab and variety:	0	1	2	3		
Text format and style:		0	1	2		
Word count:		0	1	2		

A+	15
A	14
A-	13
B+	12
B	11
B-	10
C+	9
C	8
C-	7
t+	6
t	<6

Question 9

No candidate selected this question.

Question 10

This question attracted 7 candidates and they did well with an average mark of 10.71. The format/form of this text was an email. Some of the candidates were able to follow the form of a letter and used the greetings and

separate paragraphs with two spaces indent. But there were very few who had the correct ending of a letter/email. The higher marked writings covered the topics required with a wider variety of expressions, correct grammar and fewer mistakes in Chinese characters.

Question 11

Only three candidates chose this question and one did exceptionally well. The format of this writing is a conversation which was much simpler than the email in Question 10. The very successful writing covered a wide range of topics such as study, weather and goods in Australia and China. The use of characters and expressions was accurate with a range of different sentence patterns and structures. All the writing was neat and attractive.

Question 12

This question appeared to be the most popular one among the candidates because they were very familiar with the person they were going to write to and also might have practiced a lot throughout the year. The high achievers of this question were able to produce a well-structured profile with accurate expressions, correct grammar, a large vocabulary and a variety of different sentence structures. Two writings were penalised because the word count was not achieved and topics were spelled out with insufficient detail.

Question 13

This question was not chosen by any candidate.