Written exam paper

The Chinese 2012 written exam paper had the same format as the one in the previous year. It covered most of the topics and sub-topics that are prescribed in the TQA Chinese level 3 course. The reading and comprehension section was generally well done and the listening comprehension section appeared to be the hardest section of the whole exam. The results of the examination showed that most candidates did prepare well and achieved good results.

Part 1 – Reading and Responding

The three texts in this part were interesting. They covered the topics of food, travelling, locations and directions, pets and shopping. Some of the phrases and expressions were very authentic and localised Chinese such as ‘想不起来’, ‘这么着’, some less able candidates may have found challenging. Most candidates appeared to be more familiar with the topics and content in the first two texts than text 3. Half of the candidates achieved rating A, 9 rated B and only one candidate rated C.

Question 1

The majority of the candidates did well with question 1 except that one candidate did not get any correct answers. The phrases of ‘西餐’, ‘饭店’, ‘旅游’, ‘教’ were the key words for the understanding of all the text. The use of ‘游’ in front of ‘故宫’ also could be hard and challenging for the candidates to comprehend its real meaning here as it was normally known as ‘swimming’. Some candidates lost marks with question (e) because of this and also the recognition of characters ‘故宫’ and ‘烤鸭’.

Suggested answers and marking guide:
(a)  It is a Western-style (½) restaurant (½) that foreigners often go to (1) (2 marks)
(b)  She has come to China to travel (½) and wants to eat the best food Chinese food (½) [or she doesn’t want to eat Western food in China(½)] (1 mark)
(c)  Because she is a Chinese teacher in Australia (1) (1 mark)
(d)  Because there are too many good things to eat (1) (1 mark)
(e)  The ‘three musts’ are: you must visit the Great Wall (1), you must visit the Forbidden City (1) and you must eat Peking Duck (1). (3 marks)

Question 2

The topics covered by this text were the most familiar to the candidates, and the questions were well designed, however, some less able candidates found they were difficult to understand and to comprehend these phrases. Another cause of heavy loss of marks was the
understanding of ‘一个半月大’. The majority of the candidates thought it was a half month old instead of one and half months old.

**Suggested answers and marking guide:**
(a) (i) $100 each puppy (1)
(ii) The writer can be contacted by mobile ½ from Monday to Friday (½), home phone (½) on the weekend (½) (2 marks)
(b) (i) Two puppies ½ are black (½), three puppies (½) are brown (½), they are one and half months old (1), very healthy (1) and active / lively (1) (5 marks)
(ii) The owner will only give them away to a good family (1) which already has pets (1) (2 marks)
(iii) The best way to contact the owner is by email (1) as he/she is not often at home (1) (2 marks)

**Question 3**

This text appeared to be the most challenging for the candidates. It covered a number of topics such as distance, length of time, clothes, food and buying things. Most candidates managed to answer the questions well in spite of the difficulties with some of the stated characters and expressions such as ‘台阶’, ‘能力’ and ‘越…越…’. Only three candidates scored low marks for this question.

**Suggested answers and marking guide:**
(a) Over (½) 3000 years (½) (1 mark)
(b) Some people believe that you can live up to 100 years-old (1) (1 mark)
(c) Taishan is 1545 metres high (1) (1 mark)
(d) Taishan has 6500 (½) to 7000 (½) steps that covers a distance of approximately 7.5 kilometres (1) (2 marks)
(e) It takes 4 to 7 hours (½) to climb up (½) and 2 to 4 hours (½) to go down (½) (2 marks)
(f) (i) because you can buy food and water at shops and stores along the way (1)
(ii) you need to have a pair of comfortable shoes (1) so that your feet are not hurt (1), and a jack/coat (1) as the summit of the mountain can be very cold even in summer (1) (4 marks)
(g) The prices for food and water become more and more expensive (1) (1 mark)
(h) You can stay at the top of Taishan overnight (1) (1 mark)

**Part 2 – Writing in Chinese**

The candidates were asked to write a text with a word count of 170 to 200 characters in Chinese. As prescribed in the course document, there were 5 questions in this part including the requirements of text types of conversation, email, diary, speech and postcard. The majority of the candidates (65%) chose question 7, a speech about personal and family information that covered the topics of personal identification, interests, hobbies, favorite food and house. Five candidates chose question 4, a conversation between two friends discussing a
weekend plan. Two candidates chose question 6, a diary about a day at school that should cover the daily routine, school studies, school activities and some after school activities. No candidates attempted question 5 and 7.

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

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<tr>
<th>Relevance and coherence (topics covered):</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>3</td>
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<table>
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<td>t+</td>
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<td>t</td>
<td>&lt;4</td>
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</table>

In general candidates did well in this part. Candidates who were able to produce the writing in Chinese with good coherence, a wide range of vocabularies and expressions, correct grammar, characters and right format of text type were rewarded with a high score. Most candidates used the dictionary to help with the characters that they were not sure of. But it was interesting to see that some easy characters such as 我们家里弟弟学校马，狗，猫 and 叫 were wrong and candidates possibly were over confident about using them because they could easily find out if they checked up the characters in the dictionary.

**Question 4**

Five candidates chose this question and scored well. As it was a telephone conversation, the examination markers were expecting to see the words and expressions for telephone such as ‘喂’, ‘你好’, or ‘您是哪位’. A penalty was give to the candidates who omitted the essential telephone words and expressions. The candidates were also expected to cover a number of topics such as leisure activities, locations and directions, how to get there and/or whether etc. Another common grammar error was to put the time after the activities, which should be the other way round.
Question 5

No candidate selected this question.

Question 6

Two candidates attempted this question and achieved good results. The candidates were asked to write a diary about one day at school. The topics of daily routine, school study, school activities and some after school activities were expected to be covered in the diary. Some descriptions of their school might also be relevant to the topics as well. Marks were deducted if the text type was not correct or complete, the variety of sentences were limited and for minor grammar mistakes.

Question 7

This question was most popular and did attract the majority of candidates. Two candidates achieved a near full score with very good writing that met all the requirements of the question. Marks were deducted if the format was wrong or incomplete, less variety, incorrect grammar and wrong characters.

Question 9

No candidate attempted this question.

Part 3 – Listening and Responding

This part of the examination consisted of 5 spoken texts that covered a range of topics such as family, pets, leisure activities, school studies, seasons, weather, clothes, locations and directions. The passages were read clearly and with reasonable speed. As in previous years, the marks from this part were lower than the other two parts in the written examination. Some words and expressions appeared to be difficult for candidates to pick up and understand and they are detailed below.

Question 9

The topic of this spoken text was about locations and directions. A lot of candidates got the number of the bus wrong by missing the last digit. Some candidates can’t understand ‘银行’ and ‘旁边’ consequently lost marks for question (b).

Suggested answers and marking guideline:
(a) bus 719 (1) (1 mark)
(b) The bus stop is located in front of (½) the bank (½) and next to (½) the post office (½)
(c) Around (½) 25 minutes (½)

Question 10

Most candidates found this spoken text difficult to understand. Two thirds of the candidates received around or less than half of the full marks that were allocated to this question. Some of the words and expression were not familiar to the candidates. These included: 重，难用，念，别担心 and 轻. The use of ‘比’ is in conjunction of ‘轻得多’ also appeared hard for the candidates to comprehend.

Suggested answers and marking guideline:
(a) The present dictionary is too heavy (½), hard to use (½), the words in the dictionary are too small (½), and hard to read (½) (2 marks)
(b) (i) On September 15th they can buy Teacher Wang’s new dictionary (1) (1 mark)
(ii) Teacher Wang has been teaching Chinese (½) for 25 years (½)
(c) The new dictionary is quite light (1), its characters are large (½) and easy to read (½) (2 marks)
(d) If you buy within one month (1), you can buy it at half price (1). (2 marks)

Question 11

The topics covered in this spoken text were about seasons, weather, travelling, clothes and buying things. About half of the candidates did very well and achieved full or nearly full marks for this question. The difficult words and expressions included 不一定，参加，买票，期望，羡慕，另外，足够的. The last four expressions were new to the candidates and should be listed in the new word list.

Suggested answers and marking guideline:
(a) because it is too hot (1) (1 mark)
(b) in two weeks (1) (1 mark)
(c) it can be 30 degrees below zero (1) (1 mark)
(d) because he doesn’t have warm enough clothes (1) (1 mark)
(e) to borrow (½) her father’s clothes (½) (1 mark)
(f) if he can borrow money (1) to buy an airplane ticket (1) (2 marks)

Question 12

This spoken text was quite difficult for nearly half of the candidates who only achieved half or less than half of the full marks for this question. Some of the words and expressions that results in this situation included 一边…一边…，谈话，麻烦，付 etc. The examiners also agreed to change the allocation of the marks of b) (i) and (ii) due to the mark allocation of the answers.
Suggested answers and marking guideline:
(a) Fang Lin’s grandpa (1) and grandma (1) are coming down to Hobart on Sunday afternoon (1) (3 marks)
(b) (i) she will take them to the Chinese restaurant (½) she works at (½) (1 marks)
(ii) Because her grandparents do not like Western-styled food (1) (1 marks)
(iii) Fang Lin has planned to take them to an AFL (1) match (1) (2 marks)
(c) Fang Lin called Mary to invite her to the dinner(1). This is because Fang Lin’s grandparents want talk to one of Fang’s friend(1) in English(1) while having dinner(1)

Question 13
The marking results showed that this spoken text was not easy for the candidates although it was relatively short. Nearly half of the candidates lost marks heavily and achieved less than half of the full marks that were allocated to this question. Some of the authentic expressions that were not familiar to the candidates and might have resulted in the loss of marks included: ‘说好，第一场，第二场，男队 and 女队’, ‘工人体育场’, a very authentic and common name for sports stadium in China, might be hard for Australian candidates to pick up as it is not common here at all. As one of the sport facilities, candidates might be more familiar to ‘体育馆’ rather than ‘体育场’.

Suggested answers and marking guideline:
(a) He had originally planned to watch a movie (1) (1 mark)
(b) He ended up going to watch a volleyball match with her friend Xiaoming (1). It was at the Worker’s Stadium (1). The first match was a Beijing female team (½) vs a Guangdong Women’s team (½), the second match was a Shanghai Men’s team (½) vs a Xi’an male team (½) (4 marks)

Oral Examination
Criterion 2 and 5 were assessed in this part of the examination. The candidates were asked to carry a conversation with two examiners for about 10 minutes. The majority of the candidates were very well prepared and performed accordingly but a few of them were extremely nervous and stressed. The examiners created an easy and relaxed atmosphere by greeting them in a very friendly manner and starting with some basic lead-in questions such as 你好吗？你叫什么名字？你今年多大了？你家有几口人？你有什么宠物？

As the conversation went along, higher-level questions and more topics were followed. These included personal interests and hobbies, leisure activities, daily routine, detailed school studies, seasons and weather, food, personal aspirations, career choices and future plans. Some traditional festivals and cultural activities were also included in the conversation.

In general, most candidates could understand well the questions that the examiners asked although the level of accuracy and the complexity of answers varied. Some candidates could
use 对不起，请再说一遍 to ask the examiner to repeat the question. There were a few of them who were really nervous and this consequently affected their normal standard of understanding and fluency. Higher ratings were awarded to the candidates who answered the questions and elaborated well with more details, a wider range of words and expressions, fewer grammatical mistakes, correct pronunciation, better tones, intonation and fluency.

The questions listed below appeared to be quite appropriate to candidates to answer with correct expressions and grammar:

你爸爸／妈妈是做什么的？
请你谈谈你的学校生活。
将来你想（打算）做什么？
你今年暑假有什么旅行计划？
你觉得今天的天气怎么样？你喜欢什么样的天气？
你知道中国有什么传统节日？在什么时候？
今年圣诞节你打算怎么过？

The results of this examination showed that the candidates have prepared well for both oral and written examinations.
### Letter Response:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A+</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C-</th>
<th>D+</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>D-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Convey information and express own ideas in the form of a letter with  
  • a wide range of vocabulary and sufficient details  
  • accurately selected linguistic structures and features  
  • a high degree of accuracy in grammar and characters  
  • the correct convention and format of a letter  | Convey information and express own ideas in the form of a letter with  
  • a reasonable range of vocabulary and insufficient details  
  • a reasonably accurate linguistic structures and features  
  • reasonably high accuracy in grammar and characters  
  • the correct convention and format of a letter  | Convey information and express own ideas in the form of a letter with  
  • a limited range of vocabulary and insufficient details  
  • limited accurate linguistic structures and features  
  • limited accuracy in grammar and characters  
  • sometimes the correct convention and format of a letter  | Attempts but fails to convey information and express own ideas in the form of a letter with  
  • very limited vocabulary  
  • very insufficient details  
  • incorrect grammar  
  • incorrect conventions and/or incorrect format of a letter  |

**Notes:**  
- Relevance of the response to the question.  
- Date, place, signature (not the candidate’s real name an alias is to be used), correct format.  
- Answering questions within the letter, eg, How are you?  
- Topic of the letter to be included eg, the reason why the letter is being written.  
- Paragraphing, punctuation, and accepted forms of grammar, which do not include sms texting.

### Journal Entry Response:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A+</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C-</th>
<th>D+</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>D-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Conveys information and expresses own ideas in the form of a journal entry or diary with  
  • a wide range of vocabulary and sufficient details  
  • accurately selected linguistic structures and features  
  • a high degree of accuracy in grammar and characters  
  • the correct conventions and format of a journal entry or diary  | Conveys information and expresses own ideas in the form of a journal entry or diary with  
  • a reasonable range of vocabulary and insufficient details  
  • reasonably accurate linguistic structures and features  
  • reasonably high accuracy in grammar and characters  
  • the correct convention and format of a journal entry or diary  | Conveys information and expresses own ideas in the form of a journal entry or diary with  
  • a limited range of vocabulary and insufficient details  
  • limited accurate linguistic structures and features  
  • limited accuracy in grammar and characters  
  • sometimes the correct convention and format of a journal entry or diary  | Attempts but fails to convey information and express own ideas in the form of journal entries or diary with  
  • very limited vocabulary  
  • very insufficient details  
  • incorrect grammar  
  • incorrect conventions and/or incorrect format of journal entry or diary  |

**Notes:**  
- Relevance of the response to the question.  
- The entry must be in the 1st person.  
- The entry must be in the correct language.  
- It must be a personal response.  
- The entry must include a date.  
- The tense for the entry must be appropriate.
## Profile Response:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A+ A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+ B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+ C</th>
<th>C-</th>
<th>D+ D</th>
<th>D-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Conveys information and express own ideas in the form of a personal profile with  
  - a wide range of vocabulary and sufficient details  
  - accurately selected linguistic structures and features  
  - a high degree of accuracy in grammar and characters  
  - the correct conventions and format of a personal profile | Conveys information and expresses own ideas in the form of a personal profile with  
  - a reasonable range of vocabulary and insufficient details  
  - reasonably accurate linguistic structures and features  
  - reasonably high accuracy in grammar and characters  
  - the correct convention and format of a personal profile | Conveys information and expresses own ideas in the form of a personal profile with  
  - a limited range of vocabulary and insufficient details  
  - limited accurate linguistic structures and features  
  - limited accuracy in grammar and characters  
  - sometimes the correct convention and format of a personal profile | Attempts but fails to convey information and express own ideas in the form of a personal profile with  
  - very limited vocabulary  
  - very insufficient details  
  - incorrect grammar  
  - incorrect conventions and/or incorrect format of personal profile |

**Notes:**  
- Relevance of the response to the question.  
- The entry must be in the 3rd person.  
- Biographical and or personality detail.  
- Uses a wide range of descriptive words/phrases, clauses.  
- The tense for the entry must be appropriate.  
- The profile does not necessarily have to be about yourself.

## Narrative Response:

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>B+ B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+ C</th>
<th>C-</th>
<th>D+ D</th>
<th>D-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Conveys information and expresses own ideas in the form of a narrative with  
  - a wide range of vocabulary and sufficient details  
  - accurately selected linguistic structures and features  
  - a high degree of accuracy in grammar and characters  
  - the correct conventions and format of a narrative | Conveys information and expresses own ideas in the form of a narrative with  
  - a reasonable range of vocabulary and insufficient details  
  - reasonably accurate linguistic structures and features  
  - reasonably high accuracy in grammar and characters  
  - the correct convention and format of a narrative | Conveys information and expresses own ideas in the form of a narrative with  
  - a limited range of vocabulary and insufficient details  
  - limited accurate linguistic structures and features  
  - limited accuracy in grammar and characters  
  - sometimes the correct convention and format of a narrative | Attempts but fails to convey information and express own ideas in the form of a narrative with  
  - very limited vocabulary  
  - very insufficient details  
  - incorrect grammar  
  - incorrect conventions and/or incorrect format of a narrative |

**Notes:**  
- Relevance of the response to the question.  
- The narrative is to be a story and not just describing a scene.  
- The candidate uses the accepted forms or grammar.  
- The candidate uses the appropriate tense.  
- The narrative is to contain an introduction and a conclusion.
## Conversation/Interview Response:

| Criterion 4 – Express ideas and information in written form in Chinese. | A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Conveys information and expresses own ideas in the form of a conversation/interview with • a wide range of vocabulary and sufficient details • accurately selected linguistic structures and features • a high degree of accuracy in grammar and characters • the correct convention and format of a conversation/interview | Conveys information and expresses own ideas in the form of a conversation/interview with • a reasonable range of vocabulary and insufficient details • reasonably accurate linguistic structures and features • reasonably high accuracy in grammar and characters • the correct conventions and format of a conversation/interview | Conveys information and expresses own ideas in the form of a conversation/interview with • a limited range of vocabulary and insufficient details • limited accurate linguistic structures and features • limited accuracy in grammar and characters • sometimes the correct convention and format of a conversation/interview | Attempts but fails to convey information and express own ideas in the form of a conversation/interview with • very limited vocabulary • very insufficient details • incorrect grammar • incorrect conventions and/or incorrect format of a conversation/interview |

### Notes:
- Relevance of the response to the question.
- The candidate uses idiomatic expressions, conversational style, agreement and disagreement.
- The candidate uses a broad range of vocabulary and structure.
- The conversation should be set out as follows below. Each of the participants’ names do not count in the overall word count.

## Sample Marking Scheme:

Below is a sample marking scheme that may be used when assessing the candidate responses on the question in Writing in the Language.

The relevance and coherence point under Sentence Structure has been included to penalise those candidates who had obviously just ‘dumped’ a pre-learned essay without modifying it and also to give some marks for the overall impression it gave the marking examiner.

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| A+ | 15 |
| A | 14 |
| A- | 13 |
| B+ | 12 |
| B | 11 |
| B- | 10 |
| C+ | 8.9 |
| C | 6.7 |
| C- | 5 |
| D+ | 4 |
| D | <4 |
# ASSESSMENT PANEL REPORT

## Award Distribution

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## Student Distribution (SA or better)

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