ORAL ASSESSMENT

The oral examination assessed criterion 2 in the examination. The topics of the questions were under the theme of Individual and ranged from personal information, daily routine activities and leisure activities, interests and hobbies, school education, food, seasons and weather, personal inspirations, career choices and future plans.

The majority of the candidates performed very well and demonstrated good language skills. They were able to articulate the information, ideas and opinions without much prompting. The most successful responses were when the candidates fully engaged in conversations, provided detailed information without any prompting and elaborated on their opinions in depth. A few candidates appeared to be nervous and stressed, this consequently affected their performances. The oral examiners tried to provide a friendly environment by smiling at the candidates, trying to comfort them and repeating the questions when they were visibly stressed.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION

Listening and Responding

Although the listening part was always considered the hardest part, the majority of the candidates did perform quite well. The spoken texts covered the topics of going travelling, clothes, leisure activities and sports. Among the five texts, question 1 was the best answered question and question 4 had the lowest mean score. Four candidates achieved full score, but one candidate received only 2 marks.

Question 1

The spoken text 1 covered the topics of weather, travelling and transport which the candidates were quite familiar with. Although the expression of 照顾 was new to the candidates, most of them were able to guess the meaning and answered question (e) correctly based on the context.

The suggested answers and marking guide:

(a) To see his parents first (1) and then go travelling to Beijing (1) (2 marks)
(b) Once (1) (1 mark)
(c) The weather is always very cold (1), often snows (1), the maximum temperature is only 5 degrees (1) and people go to play with snow in the park very often (1) (4 marks)
(d) No/by plane (1) (1 mark)
(e) Her mother is sick (1), she has to stay at home (1) to look after her mother (1) (3 marks)
Question 2

This question included the topics of travelling, weather and clothes. The first two topics were the same as the first spoken text. Some candidates lost marks on question (b), (d) and (e) due to not understanding the expressions 过夜 and 美。Some candidates did not list all the items that Xiaoming needed to take. The majority of the candidates received 6 to 8 points while a few very good candidates received full or near full marks. 8 candidates received 5 or less points for this question.

The suggested answers and marking guide:
(a) Passport (1) and visa (1) (2 marks)
(b) Picked up by car (1) (1 mark)
(c) (i) Melbourne (1) (1 mark)
(ii) One night (1) (1 mark)
(d) Weather is cool (1) and the scenery is beautiful (1) (2 marks)
(e) The things that Xiaoming needs to take are camera (1), a few T-shirts (1), a coat (1), his passport (1) and mobile (1). (5 marks)

Question 3

The topics of the spoken text 3 were about clothes and going shopping, which the candidates should be very familiar with. However, 4 candidates received only 1 or 2 points and 3 candidates only got 3 points. This indicated that the candidates understood very little about the spoken text. Many candidates didn’t know how to say the medium size in Chinese and lost that mark. And the answers from some candidates for questions (c) and (d) were not complete. The markers of the exam paper also adjusted the number of points from 2 to 1 for question (e) as there was not enough information provided in the spoken text to give any more details.

The suggested answers and marking guide:
(a) Yellow colour (1) and medium size (1) (2 marks)
(b) A little bit too short (1 mark)
(c) (i) Black one (1 mark)
(ii) Good looking (1), have a discount (1) and cheaper than the yellow one (1) (3 marks)
(d) It is too big (1) and not comfortable (1) so Xiaoming did not buy (1) that one (3 marks)
(e) He wanted to try the green one (1) (1 mark)

Question 4

This question was quite hard for the candidates to fully understand and answer as the scenario and context was not familiar to the candidates. There were some new vocabularies in the spoken text. The candidates felt it very hard to understand the scenario and consequently affected the quality of the answers for the questions. Apart from three very able candidates who answered the questions very well, the majority of the candidates did not do well. There were 19 candidates who only received 4 or less points. The new words/expressions in this spoken text included: “城市，开放，乱动，进门”．

Due to the limited understanding of the spoken text, a lot of candidates lost marks for questions (a) and (b) heavily. Question (c) also found very few candidates answering the question completely. Most of the candidates guessed the answers for question (d) while question 5 had very few correct answers as well.
The points allocated for question (e) (ii) was adjusted as there was no further information provided for the extra point given originally.

The suggested answers and marking guide:
(a) More than (0.5) 50 years (0.5)  
(b) 9am (0.5) to 5pm (0.5), and open 6 days (1)  
(c) Not loud talk (1), can’t move the books without permission (1) and no photo (1)  
(d) (i) they can borrow the dictionary (1)  
(ii) to help their Chinese (1)  
(e) (i) 10:30 (1)  
(ii) 11:30 (1) to go to the next place (1)  

Question 5

The topics of this spoken text were about sports/leisure activities and a touch of school study. Very few candidates got the correct answer for questions (c) and (d). Question (h) was an open ended question and some candidates guessed wildly. The markers of the exam paper also thought that only one mark should be allocated to this question based on the information provided in the spoken text.

The suggested answers and marking guide:
(a) Chinese team (1) vs Australian team (1)  
(b) More than (0.5) 50 min (0.5)  
(c) 2 goals (1)  
(d) (i) The famous player (1) got a foot injury (1)  
(ii) The performance of the Chinese team became worse and worse (1)  
(e) (i) Yes (1)  
(ii) More interesting (1) and played better (1)  
(f) Chinese homework (1)  
(g) He wanted to borrow Xiaolan’s work (1)  
(h) School mates / friends (1)  

Reading and Responding

The topics covered in this part were about health and medicine, travelling (including sight-seeing, shopping and a little bit of transport), and job advertisements (including personal information, communication, and materials required). The candidates were not familiar with the context and some of the expressions in the passages, consequently affected their understanding of the texts and correctness of their answers.

The new word lists for the passages in this part needed some improvements. In the first passage in Section A, a number of new words/expressions were not included in the new word list. In the second passage, there was a phrase in the new word list, but that phrase could not be found in the text of the passage. The candidates were confused as to why the phrase was listed in the new word list, but did not exist in the text. In the passage in Section B, there was no new word list in the passage at all where there were a lot of words and expressions which were not required by the course and the candidates had not learnt. This created great difficulty for the candidates to understand the text and answer the questions in Chinese, consequently the candidates performed very poorly.
A number of candidates did not even attempt the questions in Section B due to the level of difficulty.

**Question 6**

The mean score was 14.1 out of 19 which was very high. The new words for the passage but not listed in the new word list were: “突然”，“建议”，“按照”，“说明”“用法与用量”“尽快”。The points in question (d) were changed from 2 to 5, while the last question (g) was changed from 4 to 2 points.

Suggested answers and marking guide:
(a) An Australian (1) candidate (1) who is studying (1) in China (3 marks)
(b) Her friend (1 mark)
(c) (i) Take the medicine according to the instructions (1), drink a lot of water (1), eat a lot of fruits (1), and have a lot of rest (1) (4 marks)
(ii) Go to see the doctor (1) (1 mark)
(d) Headache (1), cough (1), sneezing (1), fever (1) and diarrhea (1) (5 marks)
(e) After meals (1) (1 mark)
(f) 3 times a day (1), 2 tablets each time (1) (2 marks)
(g) Stop taking the medicine (1), visit the doctor asap (1) (2 marks)

**Question 7**

The candidates performed relatively poorer than the first passage in this one. The topics covered were good, but there were some of the expressions the candidates had not learnt and this consequently affected the answers to some questions. These included: “国际性”，“名胜古迹”，“蚂蚁”，“可惜”“修”, “发展” and “镇”。The phrases “害怕”，“普通话”，“夜里” and “船” also might not be familiar to the candidates and they directly affected the answers to some of the questions. One point was deducted from question (f) and (g) due to an insufficient number of facts for the answers.

Suggested answers and marking guide:
(a) (i) True (1) (1 mark)
(ii) True (1) (1 mark)
(iii) False (1) (1 mark)
(iv) False (1) (1 mark)
(b) 600 metres (1 mark)
(c) The cars look like ants and he feels scared (2 mark)
(d) His friend (1) (1 mark)
(e) As the houses (1) and roads (1) were all on water (1) long time ago (2 marks)
(f) Shanghai dialect (1), Standard Mandarin (1) and English (1) (1 mark)
(g) Because it is too noisy (1) and gives her a headache (1) (2 marks)
(h) As the shops open to very late (1) (1 mark)
(i) The second or the third choice(2) (2 marks)

**Question 8**

This passage appeared to be the most difficult one in the Reading and Responding part and was performed poorly. Four candidates received zero points, 2 candidates scored one point and 2 candidates
scored two points. Only 3 candidates achieved 13 to 16 points and 7 candidates received half of the points. There were some expressions in the questions new to the candidates therefore they could not fully understand what was being asked. Although the dictionary was allowed to be used in the exam, the candidates still could not find the meanings of the words due to the time limit for the exam and the skill required to use a dictionary. The new words for this passage include: “招聘，信息，兼职，处理，业务，条件，优先，符合，联系，任何，递交，申请，咨询，接受，材料，证明，成绩单，复印件，履历表，推荐人，成功，薪，培训，机会”。 There were also a number of new words in the questions which were in Chinese: “全职”，“一致”，“必须”，“原因”。

Suggested answers and marking guidelines:
(a) The second choice is the correct answer (1 mark)
(b) The last choice is the correct answer (1 mark)
(c) 3个 (1 mark)
(d) 500 元 (1 mark)
(e) 上培训课程的机会 Can have training opportunities (1) 和去日本旅行的机会 go travelling in Japan (1) (2 marks)
(f) (i) 对(1) ; (ii) 错(1); (iii) 错 (1) ; (iv) 对 (1) (4 marks)
(g) (i) 不能 (1); (ii) 因为这个工作需要一年以上 (1) 的工作经验 (1) (as the job needs a person with more than one year work experience) (2 marks)
(h) 需要联系李先生(1), 星期三下午5点前(1) 交申请(1) (3 marks)

Writing in Chinese

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question No</th>
<th>Theme and sub-topics</th>
<th>Required text type</th>
<th>Number of candidates chose</th>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>The changing world - The world of work</td>
<td>Conversation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>The changing world - The world of work</td>
<td>Diary</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The changing world – Travel and Tourism; The individual – Daily life</td>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>The changing world - The world of work; The Individual – daily life</td>
<td>Resume</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>The Chinese-speaking community – people and places; The individual – daily life</td>
<td>Story</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the statistics above, we could see that all the questions were attempted which was really good to see. Among the questions in this part, question 12 was the favourite one which attracted more than half of the candidates. Question 11 was the second favourite one which 8 candidates tried. From the selection of the questions in writing, we could see that the candidates were more confident in the area of personal world and daily life under the theme of Individual. The analysis of the questions in this part showed that the design of the questions was focused on The World of Work under the theme of The Changing World as three out of five questions were related to jobs.

The performance of the candidates in this part was the best of the three parts in the exam and achieved relatively better results in general. There were some very good pieces of writing across all the questions
in this part which showed that the candidates had a very good understanding of the questions, use of characters and grammar. The use of the dictionary in the exam might have helped a lot in this part as well. There was one candidate who produced a very good piece of work, but was not responding to the question chosen, this consequently affected the mark for the work. It is strongly recommended the candidates are reminded to read the questions carefully and answer the question accordingly.

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

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<th>Relevance and coherence (topics covered):</th>
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**Question 9**

Only one candidate chose this question and it was very well done. The candidate was able to articulate a conversation with the teacher that covered a range of topics such as people and place, travel and tourism, and the working world with a good use of characters and no grammatical errors.

**Question 10**

One candidate selected this question and performed quite well. The candidate created a scenario of catching a thief in a shop where she/he was working. It was very interesting to read. A few points were taken off due to the errors of a few wrong characters and grammar.

**Question 11**

The question was a letter to a friend in China. The topics required to be covered in this question were very familiar to the candidates and therefore attracted more than a quarter of the candidates to try it. The overall performance for this question was quite good with a mean score of 11.3 out of 15. Wrong characters and grammar were the most common causes for penalizing marks. The depth in the writing differentiated the scores among the 8 candidates.
Question 12

This question was the most popular one and had the largest number of candidates attempting it. Most of them performed very well with only two candidates just passing the line. A few candidates did not produce enough words in their writing, consequently they did not cover all topics with limited variety. Some of the candidates were penalised due to incorrect grammar and wrong characters. The majority of candidates received good scores in this question.

Question 13

The format of writing for this question was a story based on four pictures. Candidates seemed to be less confident about this and consequently only three candidates selected this question. One of them did very well and achieved excellent results, one received 12 out of 15 and one candidate only scored 9. The topics in this writing should cover daily life under the theme of the Individual, the people and places under the theme of The Chinese-speaking Community. Penalties were given to work which had insufficient topics, word and variety, and also errors in characters and grammar.
### Award Distribution

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<th>SA</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>30% (8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Previous 5 years</td>
<td>38 %</td>
<td>30 %</td>
<td>24 %</td>
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<td>19 %</td>
<td>39 %</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8 %</td>
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### Student Distribution (SA or better)

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<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
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