

2022 ASSESSMENT REPORT

CHN315114 - CHINESE

ORAL EXAMINATION

Criterion 2: Communicate in spoken Chinese

The Chinese 3 oral examiners were very impressed by the level of confidence, proficiency and enthusiasm that Chinese 3 students showed in their oral examination. The students were able to understand and answer most of the questions without much hesitation or requests to repeat the questions. The students who achieved a higher standard in the oral examination had very few errors in pronunciations, tones and intonation. They also demonstrated a wide range of vocabulary, appropriate use of both simple and complex sentences, and a very high degree of fluency and accuracy. Some students were marked down due to the short and simple answers provided, fragmentary speech and frequent hesitations, poor fluency, errors in pronunciations and failure in answering some of the questions accordingly.

The topics of conversation that were managed very well by the students were self-introduction, hobbies and leisure activities, school and studies, travel, seasons and weather. Some students had some difficulties in answering the question about school life, elaborating on the weather and one of the seasons in detail. The conversations about the topic of festivals appeared to be challenging for some students.

Some suggestions from the oral examination markers are as below:

1. When students were talking about their school life, they should talk about their daily routine during the school day (such as the time and activities of 起床, 吃早饭/午饭/晚饭, 上学和放学, 做作业, 睡觉 etc) instead of just talking about their schools and subjects.
2. When students were asked about “今天的天气怎么样? ”, the examiners would like to have some more information about the weather conditions rather than just “今天天气很好/不好/不错”.
3. When students were talking about the dates for the traditional Chinese festivals, it would be much easier for them to say the dates based on the Chinese Lunar Calendar (中国农历) instead of the Solar Calendar. When they elaborate how the Chinese people celebrate Chinese Spring Festival, it would be good to include the food and activities instead of just a few names of the food.
4. When the students were talking about the celebration of Christmas, it would be beneficial to include the special food and activities as well.

5. The oral examiners were also look for some good use of the conjunction words such as 因为... 所以..., 又 ...又..., 不但...而且... in their answers.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION

The markers of the Chinese exam paper were impressed by the quality of the exam paper. The students performed confidently and well, and the results were very consistent with the internal assessment. The speed of the spoken texts was considered very realistic, and the reading of the spoken texts was authentic and clear.

SECTION A – LISTENING AND RESPONDING

This section consisted of four spoken texts with two conversations (one male and one female), and two individual spoken texts read by one female and one male separately. The balance of male and female spoken texts was perfect and the reading of the spoken texts was very well done, with clear voices and constant speed. The intonation sounded natural and authentic.

The topics in this section were broad and common to the students' daily lives. These included the topics of Personal World, Education and Daily life that were under the theme of Individual, the topics of People and Places, Arts and Entertainment under the theme of the Chinese-Speaking Communities and the topic of Travel and Tourism under the theme of The Changing World.

QUESTION 1

Spoken text 1 was a conversation between Helen (female voice) and a person on the street (a male voice) asking for the direction and guidance to the Bank of China. The question included the vocabulary and sentence structural knowledge of the topic of directions, transport, and public facilities. The majority of students performed well with this question and scored more than 10 out of the 13 marks. Some students were not familiar with the name of “post office – 邮局” and missed some marks on question 1(d), and some students missed marks on 1(b) due to incomplete answer for the direction to get to the Bank of China. The word list included at the beginning of this question was very helpful to students.

QUESTION 2

This spoken text was a conversation between Jack and a clerk in a post office, asking for the price of sending two books and also the purchase of postcard. The topics included shopping, people and places, and a mention of the seasons. The students may not have been so familiar with some of the vocabulary regarding things such as sending letters, envelopes, stamps and postcards, but they were all included in the word list which was really beneficial and helpful. The students who used the word list well should have found this question relatively easy, if

they paid close attention to the numbers and prices. Some students lost marks on question 2(d) and (e) due to the incorrect amount of money and prices, and question 2(c) due to the understanding of the illustration of the seasons and incomplete answers.

QUESTION 3

This spoken text was a female mono-voice (Mary) reading of a diary, talking about her new classmate Anna. It was one of the best completed questions as the students were very familiar with the topics of personal world (introduction and descriptions of the person), education (school and studies) and daily life. Students were very well-prepared and confident with these topics and consequently achieved good results from this question. The students should be familiar and able to comprehend the characters and phrases listed in the exam Word List.

QUESTION 4

This spoken text was a male mono-voice talking about the lucky and unlucky numbers in China and also Western countries. It was a cultural topic that all language students are very interested in and know about. Students performed relatively well due on this question to the good understanding of the numbers, which also reflected the sound cultural knowledge that the students have had. Some students lost a few marks on question 4(c) and (d) due to the small details and facts in the spoken texts, and lost one mark in 4(g) due to not stating the fact of paying more money.

Marking guidelines for Listening Section

Spoken text	Question No	Indicative Answers	Mark allocation Notes
1	a) 2	Not too far	
	b) 5	Go straight ahead, turn left at the second intersection, and walk about 50 metres, you will see a post office. Next to the post office is the Bank of China.	1 mark for each key point
	c) 2	Bus routes 401 and 402	1 mark for each
	d) 2	ii, iii	1 mark for each
	e) 2	i, ii	1 mark for each
2	a) 2	Two books; to Shanghai	1 mark each
	b) 2	¥8.3	
	c) 4	1) The autumn Great Wall postcard (or the autumn one) 2) The autumn one is the most beautiful. The tree leaves on both sides of the Great Wall all turn red. They are really beautiful.	1) 1 mark 2) the most beautiful, 1 mark; leaves turn red and really beautiful, 2 marks.

	d) 2	¥20, ¥7.9	1 mark each
	e) 2	i, iii	1 mark each
	f) 3	ii, iii, iv	1 mark each
3	a) 2	i	
	b) 2	iii	
	c) 3	ii, iv, v	1 mark each
	d) 3	Long hair, big eyes, tall	1 mark each keyword
	e) 2	library and tennis court	1 mark each
	f) 2	Two years ago; three times a week	1 mark each
	g) 2	Four years. Not very good	1 mark each
4	a) 3	ii, iv, v	1 mark each
	b) 2	i, ii	1 mark each
	c) 2	i, ii	1 mark each
	d) 3	i, ii, iv	1 mark each
	e) 2	ii	
	f) 2	Select a phone number in which the last number is 8 but not 4.	1 mark each keyword
	g) 2	Pay more money for a car plate which has 888.	Pay more money, 1 mark; 888, 1 mark

SECTION B – READING AND RESPONDING

The Section B – Reading and Responding in this year’s exam paper had two parts: Part A – two Chinese written texts and with two questions answering in English; Part B – one Chinese written text with the question answering in Chinese.

The two Chinese written texts in Part 1 covered a range of topics including Personal World, Education, Daily life, People and Places, Travel and Tourism. Students were generally well-prepared, achieved good results. The word lists for both written texts were really helpful for students to understand the texts and answer the questions that followed.

The Chinese written text in Part 2 was about the celebration of Chinese Spring Festival, which is the topic of Past and Present under the theme of Chinese-Speaking Communities and the topic of the social issues under the theme of The Changing World. The students are supposed to have some cultural knowledge about it, but some of the cultural terms and expressions may have been unfamiliar to them. The word list was very helpful for the students to understand the text and answer the questions that followed. As a result, students performed very well with Question 7.

QUESTION 5

Successful responses to this question demonstrated a very good understanding of the written text, correct selections in the multiple-choice questions and provided detailed and required information for the answers. Some students missed some marks on Question 5(e) if the answers didn't specify that Jack thought it was a good idea to give his friend a basketball as a birthday present.

QUESTION 6

Students performed well on this question as the topics were quite familiar to them. There were a few new words and phrases, but they were all listed in the word list which greatly helped students to understand the written text. The successful response to question 5(a) provided the correct transport to CBD and the details of the reasons. Some students missed a few marks on the multiple-choice questions due to the wrong answer(s) or not ticking all the correct answers.

QUESTION 7

The Chinese text in Part 2 of Section B combined the topics of food, seasons, and celebration of festival as well as some cultural knowledge. Although students needed to answer in Chinese, they were able to understand the text well and locate the information and answers for the questions. Some students lost marks on Question 7(e) due to incomplete information provided. The markers were looking for some particular key words such as “过年的时候”, “爸爸妈妈给孩子的钱” “希望给孩子带来好运气”.

Marking guidelines for Reading Section

Section	Question No	Indicative Answers	Mark allocation Notes
A	5 a)	iv	
	5 b)	ii, iii, iv	1 mark each
	5 c)	His friend is not 18 yet.	
	5 d)	Running, swimming, playing basketball	1 mark each keyword
	5 e)	1) A basketball. 2) Because he said it was a good idea when Xiaoming suggested him buying a basketball.	1) 2 marks 2) 3 marks
	5 f)	i, iv	1 mark each
	6 a)	1) By subway. 2) It takes longer to go to the CBD by bus because of traffic jams.	1) 2 marks 2) 3 marks
	6 b)	the most interesting place she's ever visited	

Section	Question No	Indicative Answers	Mark allocation Notes
	6 c)	Her parents; the Forbidden City	2 marks each key point
	6 d)	The Great Wall; by train	2 marks each key point
	6 e)	i, iv	1 mark each
	6 f)	i, ii, iv	1 mark each
	6 g)	i, ii	1 mark each
B	7 a)	因为中国新年的第一天是春天的第一天	1 mark for 中国新年的第一天, 1 mark for 春天的第一天
	7 b)	三岁的时候	2 marks
	7 c)	中国菜; 饺子	2 marks each key point
	7 d)	红包; 一百块(压岁钱)	2 marks each key point
	7 e)	压岁钱是爸爸妈妈过年的时候给孩子的礼物, 放在红包里, 希望新的一年给孩子带来好运气。	1 mark each key point: 爸爸妈妈给孩子的 过年的时候 红包 好运气
	7 f)	i, iii, iv	1 mark each
	7 g)	ii, iv	1 mark each

SECTION C – WRITING IN CHINESE

There were five questions in this section, covering all the topics under the three themes. The text types were speech, WeChat messages, diary, email and narrative/story. Q11 (the email to a nearby student) appeared to be the most popular choice and reflected that the students were more confident when talking about themselves and their families. Question 8 and 10 also attracted some attempts and the responses to the questions were well done, Question 12 (story writing) was not a popular one and attracted very few students. Question 9 (the WeChat message) had no attempts, and that may have been because not all students had heard of it, and students were not sure what the text type should be.

The successful responses to the question in this part exhibited full coverage of the topics required in the question, a wide range of vocabulary and complex sentence structures with very few errors in characters and grammar, correct text type and format, and reached the word count requirement of 170 – 200. All students passed this section, and the markers of

the 2022 exam paper would like to congratulate all the students for their good performances in the Chinese writing.

QUESTION 8

This question was set to be a speech, talking about the “Student’s China Dream”. The marker of the exam paper was looking for the content with some of the topics covered, such as language studies, cultural and food interest, people and places. As the text type of speech is not required by the syllabus, the markers were focused on the Chinese writing conventions, such as the structure and sequences of the text, use of punctuation and paragraphs. Less successful responses had only one long paragraph, did not use two spaces indent and had some grammar errors. The variety of vocabulary and sentence structures in the writing also differentiated the level of the standards.

QUESTION 9

This question didn’t attract any student responses. The markers of the exam paper would not penalise the students if their text type was not exactly what was asked. The general convention of the Chinese writing such as paragraphs and structures of the text, the range of vocabulary and sentences structures, the accuracy of the characters and grammar were the focus of marking. The student should cover the specifications of content mentioned in the question.

QUESTION 10

The majority of students who answered this question felt confidently in terms of text type and content required to be covered. The successful responses to this question covered all the specified content with a high degree of accurate characters and a range of complex sentence structures. The text type of diary was also very familiar to the students.

QUESTION 11

This was the most popular question. However, some students lost some marks on the correct format of an email (should be similar to the format of a letter), and also the limited range of vocabulary and complex sentences. Future students are advised to practice the format of a letter or email.

QUESTION 12

Although the story writing was not a popular choice for students, there are usually one or two attempts every year. The pictures illustrated very clearly what would have happened, and it was a matter of how to put the descriptions of each picture together to form a well-structured and sequenced story. The response should have a title and the tense of the text should be past tense. The stronger stories had a few paragraphs instead of one large

paragraph. The markers of the writing were also looking for a wide range of vocabulary and some complex sentence structures, with a high degree of accuracy in characters and grammar.

Overall, the markers of the written exam paper were very impressed by the hard work and good performances by the students, and they all ought to be congratulated.