

# 2024 ASSESSMENT REPORT

## CHN315114 CHINESE

### Oral Component

The oral component of the external examination assessed Criterion 2. The oral examiners observed that the candidates were well prepared and performed well in the Chinese oral exam this year. Most candidates demonstrated a strong understanding of the oral questions and communicated with confidence and accuracy. Those who received higher ratings for Criterion 2 provided detailed answers, used a broader vocabulary and more complex sentence structures, made fewer pronunciation and tone errors, and displayed greater fluency. Conversely, some candidates received lower ratings due to brief responses, limited vocabulary, simple sentence structures, frequent pronunciation and tone errors, fragmented speech, and frequent hesitation.

The oral exam markers observed that the following questions were more challenging for some candidates. The fluency of their speaking, as well as the relevance and detail in their answers, were key factors in differentiating the levels and ratings for Criterion 2 the candidates received.

- 请你说说你的学校。
- 今天的天气怎么样？请你说说霍巴特/朗塞斯顿的一个季节。
- 中国有哪几个传统节日？在什么时候？
- 中国人怎样过春节？
- 澳大利亚人怎样过圣诞节？

### Written Component

The markers of noted that candidates performed well overall in the written examination, with the Reading and Responding section remaining the area where students performed most strongly, as in the previous years.

### Section A – Listening and Responding

This section was for the external assessment of Criterion 1. It consisted of four spoken texts: two conversations, one telephone message and one speech. These texts covered a wide range of topics, including food, shopping, studies, transportation, travelling, sports and hobbies and work. The examiners noted that the spoken texts were clear and accurate, with a moderating speed. The intonation and accent were very natural and authentic.

#### Question 1

Spoken text 1 was a conversation between Paul and a Chinese fruit vendor. Most candidates demonstrated an understanding of the names of the fruits in Chinese, and the conversations about

shopping. However, there were some challenges related to various prices for different sizes of fruits and shopping bags, resulting in a number of candidates losing marks on the items d) and e).

## Question 2

Spoken text 2 was a dialogue between a Tasmanian student, David, and his Chinese friend Xiaoyu about David's study experience in Beijing. Candidates generally performed well, demonstrating confidence and familiarity with the topics covered. However, items d) and e) again had more losses of marks compared to other questions. The word list provided for this question greatly assisted students' understanding of the spoken text.

## Question 3

This spoken text was a voice message left by Gao Fei to his Australian friend Simon, talking about their holiday plans for the long weekend. The topics in this spoken text included transport, time, duration, prices and places. For Question 3a), some candidates provided the actual date of Mid-Autumn Festival, the 15th of August on the Lunar Calendar, instead of "This Friday", as stated in the message. This response was accepted by the marking examiners due to the design of the question. Some candidates lost marks on Question 3d) due to the confusion about the times of departure and arrival.

## Question 4

This spoken text was a speech given by Anna talking about her grandpa's study and working experiences. It covered the topics such as travelling, education, art and profession. The spoken text included some advanced grammatical structures, such as ....跟.... (不)一样, and 一边..... 一边...... Some candidates lost a few marks due to limited understanding of these sentence structures.

## Marking guidelines for Listening Section

Spoken Text	Question No	Indicative Answers	Mark Allocation Notes
1	a)	ii	2 marks
	b)	9 Chinese yuan/kuai	2 marks
	c)	Red apples; 20 Chinese yuan/kuai	1 mark; 2 marks
	d)	30 Chinese yuan/kuai	2 marks
	e)	i, ii, v	1 mark each. 3 marks in total
2	a)	Three months	2 marks
	b)	Cheap and delicious	2 marks
	c)	1) Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 2) 4 hours a day.	1) 1.5 marks (0.5 mark for each). 2) 0.5 mark
	d)	1) 15 students; 2) Japan, U.S.A, Britain, Australia	1) 1 mark 2) 2 marks (0.5 mark for each)
	e)	i, ii, iv	1 mark each

3	a)	This Friday	1 mark
	b)	ii	2 marks
	c)	Two of the following reasons: 1) Trains are both fast and frequent 2) Train tickets are cheaper than plane tickets 3) They can enjoy the scenery while travelling by train.	4 marks (2 marks each)
	d)	Friday 7:30am; 12pm	2 marks (1 mark each)
	e)	i, ii, iii	3 marks (1 mark each)
4	a)	Five years old	1 mark
	b)	iii	2 marks
	c)	He found Chinese painting is different from Western painting and he likes Chinese painting very much	2 marks (1 mark each)
	d)	i, ii, v	3 marks (1 mark each)
	e)	iv	2 marks
	g)	Like real horses	2 marks

## Section B – Reading and Responding

Students performed strongest in this section. Most candidates displayed a high level of confidence, particularly in Part A. The word list provided with the reading text greatly assisted candidates in comprehending the material and answering the questions. Part B featured a well-designed reading text that covered a range of topics and included advanced grammatical structures.

### Part A – Question 5

This reading text was well understood by most candidates, who performed well overall. However, some candidates lost marks on Question 5b) due to misunderstanding the phrase “没说过.” Additionally, a few candidates missed marks on Question 5g) because they failed to grasp the implications of the last sentence, which referred to different time zones.

### Part A – Question 6

This reading text was a diary by Sue talking about her brother. The candidates performed very well with this question, indicating their confidence and familiarity with the topics covered. However, a number of candidates lost a mark on Question 6d) by answering “the girlfriend of her brother has beautiful hair”, instead of “his girlfriend is beautiful”. Some candidate lost one or two marks on Question 6g) due to incomplete explanations. Additionally, a few candidates lost a mark on Question 6b) regarding where his brother’s girlfriend works, as they failed to recognise the vocabulary of 医院 (which means hospital).

## Marking guidelines for Reading Section – Part A

Section	Question No	Indicative Answers	Mark Allocation Notes
A	5 a)	i, ii, iv	3 marks (1 mark each)
	5 b)	She is worried about her English. Her English is not so good. She's never spoken English.	3 marks (1 mark for each point)
	5 c)	Three years. Not so good either.	2 marks (1 mark for each point)
	5 d)	No. less than two kilometres.	2 marks (1 mark for each point)
	5 e)	Take the bus, 5 minutes. Walk, 15 minutes. Ride a bike, 10 minutes	6 marks (1 mark for each point)
	5 f)	i, ii	2 marks (1 mark each)
	5 g)	No. Xiao Hong asks 'is it 10pm at your place?'	2 marks (1 mark for each point)
	6 a)	Because he's got a girlfriend from China who speaks Chinese	2 marks
	6 b)	Doctor; in the same hospital as Sue's brother.	2 marks (1 mark for each point)
	6 c)	i, iii, iv	3 marks (1 mark each)
	6 d)	Tall, with long hair, pretty	3 marks (1 mark each key point)
	6 e)	7 years, a student at the University of Sydney	2 marks (1 mark for each key point)
	6 f)	Wen/Sue's brother's girlfriend; lots of delicious food	2 marks (1 mark for each key point)
	6 g)	Good. Sue spoke lot of Chinese with Wen, who said Sue's Chinese is good.	3 marks (1 mark for each key point)
	6 h)	i, iii, iv	3 marks (1 mark each)

## Part B – Question 7

This well-designed reading text was a postcard from Mary to her Chinese pen pal, talking about our famous landscape Mt Wellington. The text covered some very good grammar points and sentence structures such ...离... 很近, ... 比.... 矮(高), and the use of “会” with the meaning of “will”. The question was well accepted and understood although some candidates lost a mark on Question 7c) due to the confusion of comparing the height of the two mountains. Question 7e) also had some marks lost due to incomplete answers.

## Marking guidelines for Reading Section – Part B (Question 7)

B	7 a)	黄山明信片；很喜 欢；她说黄山太美了，她去中国一定去黄山。	3 marks (1 mark for each key point)
	7 b)	不远；开车只要30分钟	2 marks (1 mark for each key point)
	7 c)	1200多米(1 mark)； 1800多米(2 marks)	3 marks (1 mark for each key point)
	7 d)	霍巴特(1 mark)，长长的、大大的河(2 mark)	3 marks (1 mark for each key point)
	7 e)	去年11月；跟朋友；很多雪，还有雪人	4 marks (1 mark for each key point)
	7 f)	带她去惠灵顿山	2 marks
	7 g)	i, iii, v	3 marks (1 mark each)

## Section C – Writing in Chinese

This section consists of five questions, from which candidates were required to select only one. The questions covered a variety of topics across the three themes and included different text types, such as speeches, emails, diaries, messages, and stories. Based on the choices made by candidates during the exam, Question 9 was the most popular, selected by about half of the candidates, followed by Question 10. Questions 8 and 11 were each chosen by only one candidate, while Question 12 was not selected by anyone.

The selection of questions in the Writing in Chinese section reflected the text types and topics that candidates felt most confident with, and overall, they performed quite well. Some candidates demonstrated an impressive level of writing skills, showcasing a wide range of vocabulary and complex sentence structures, as well as effective use of punctuation, paragraphing and appropriate text types. The use of connecting words and adverbs was a notable feature in their writing, including phrases such as “因为...所以...”, “一边...一边...”, “虽然...但是...”, and “又...又...”.

In contrast, texts that relied primarily on simple sentences, repetitive vocabulary and structures and contained errors in characters or text format/styles received lower ratings.

### Question 8

The question required candidates to write a speech about “My dream job”. Due to the unfamiliarity of the text type, most candidates steered away from this question, and it only attracted one candidate. As the text type is not required by the syllabus, candidates would not be penalised if they didn’t produce the correct format. However, candidates need to follow the Chinese conventions of punctuation, paragraph structure, and two-space indents for each new paragraph.

Candidates could include the topics of dream jobs they would like to have, state the reasons, and mention prior studies related to the skills needed for those jobs.

### Question 9

This question was the most popular among the candidates, who were likely familiar with the text type requirements and confident with the topic and content. Candidates who received higher ratings for Criterion 4 addressed the questions by providing details of their interests, brief reasons and how often the activities take place, and by using more complex sentence structures.

### Question 10

The candidates were required to produce a diary for this question. It was the second favourite question in this section perhaps because the question included more descriptions and details about the content that candidates needed to produce. The marking examiners also observed that most of the candidates were very familiar with the format of the text type. It was a well-performed question.

### Question 11

There was only one attempt to answer this question among the candidates. This situation was likely caused by the required text type – a mobile message to a friend, which was not commonly asked for or required by the Chinese syllabus. The candidates might have lacked confidence in writing this text type and consequently avoided it, even though the question provided details about the required content and the candidates were familiar with the topics.

### Question 12

There were no attempts for this question, possibly because only two pictures were provided, offering insufficient information to write a 170-character story. Additionally, candidates were likely unfamiliar with the topics and vocabulary.