
GCSE
CHINESE (MANDARIN)

8673/LF: Listening Foundation
Report on the Examination

8673
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General Comments

The paper proved to be reasonably accessible for most of the students. Many were able to gain some marks for each question, regardless of the question type. It was pleasing that only very few students, assumed to be native speakers, wrote their answers in Chinese. In a minority of papers, students left blanks, including multiple-choice questions. Students should always be encouraged to attempt such questions. In some cases, basic items of vocabulary were not well known by students and answers were occasionally difficult to decipher. Students must make sure that they make their final answer clear to the examiners by writing legibly and using the spaces provided. If students change their minds about an answer, the final choice must be clearly signalled to the marker and be placed as near as possible to the appropriate space.

Teachers should remind students to maximise the 5 minutes' reading time by:

- reading all the questions carefully;
- looking at any examples given, as these point out the level of detail required;
- highlighting or underlining key words which have been highlighted in the rubrics/questions;
- identifying the questions which have two or three parts to answer, e.g. 12.1, 12.2 and 12.3.

Questions 1-2

This was found to be an accessible start to the paper and students answered all questions well. Question 01 attracted the most correct answers (95%) and an impressive 87% gained a mark on question 02.

Questions 3

Students did well on this question with around 60% able to pick out the two correct answers. The words 海边 and 市中心 were recognised well.

Question 4-6

There were variations in performance in this section, with the most successfully answered questions being question 05 (92% correct) and the least successfully answered question 04 (only 38% correct). In question 06, 家 was well recognised, but the use of 书 for the reference to “a library” in question 04 was not well understood.

Question 7-9

In these questions, the nationality of the singer was well answered and the majority of students coped well with the frequency 每天. However, the country 西班牙 was not as well-known as 美国 or 中国.

Question 10

53% of students chose both correct answers (B and D) and 37% were able to score one mark. Option A “street performers” was a popular choice of distractors as many students are familiar with 地铁站 and therefore guessed the wrong activity, as one might assume that is the common place for street performance.

Question 11

This was a similar question type to question 10 but surprisingly this was not as well answered as expected. The words 数学 and 容易 proved to be difficult for some students to pick out the meaning.

Question 12

This was a section requiring written answers in English and was the most challenging section of the paper. Students are advised to read the questions carefully, it was important to distinguish between 最爱, 最不喜欢 and 更好.

Question 13-15

This section was successfully answered, with most students scoring at least a mark in one of the three questions.

Question 16-17

These were designed to be challenging questions but were handled quite well by students, especially question 17, where 乒乓球 was picked out with some ease.

Question 18

This section was successfully answered with the exception of question 18.1 where 圣诞节 is a less familiar word in the vocabulary for festivals. However, students had the opportunity to pick up the adjective 冷 to deduce the festival is in the winter.

Question 19-23

This section discriminated well and caused problems for some students. Whilst 朋友 and 玩电脑游戏 are familiar words to most of the students, many students were unable to make a link between 学打太极拳 and “learn a new sport”; over two thirds of the students did not recognise the verb 睡觉.

Question 24-25

After a challenging section, question 24 provided an excellent buffer with 96% of students scoring a mark. However, 教室 caused trouble to more than half of the students and only 45% of students gave the correct answer.

Question 26

This question on sports and feelings seemed surprisingly demanding for some. It caused some difficulty to many students where a familiar sport 网球 was said in the middle of a longer sentence. Most also found 累 to be an unfamiliar adjective.

Question 27

Although question topics relating to charity work are often considered challenging, this question proved to be accessible, with the vast majority managing to score at least one mark amongst two.

Question 28-29

This section was a pleasing end to the paper. The specification topic of career choices is one which students handle well. In question 28, however, only nearly half of students gained the mark. Students should have identified the familiar job of 医生 to rule out the answer of a zookeeper and considered 高中 to be a logical equivalent to the Sixth Form.

Advice to students

With questions where you have to give a written answer in English:

- Make sure you read the question carefully so that you know exactly how to answer.
- Always follow the example, if one is given, as in question 03. The example suggests that you should give a short answer.
- Ensure that you give precise answers as vague answers will not be correct. For example, in question 03.1 you hear that the girl says she lives at the seaside, so the answer 'home' is not detailed enough. The answer 'sea' is too vague to be acceptable.

Use of statistics

Statistics used in this report may be taken from incomplete processing data. However, this data still gives a true account on how students have performed for each question.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.