

GCSE  
**CHINESE (MANDARIN)**

8673/LH: Listening Higher  
Report on the Examination

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## General Comments

There were a number of pleasing, high scoring scripts. Most students scored marks consistently throughout the paper. Questions requiring a written answer discriminated well. Many of these questions were aimed at the highest grades and required precise answers. Some also required students to draw simple conclusions and to understand material which contained more complex and less familiar language in line with the requirements of the subject content. Although the number of students leaving blanks in multiple-choice questions was fewer compared to the Foundation tier, there were still instances of this. Teachers should continue to encourage students to attempt all such questions. In some cases, answers were 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

These questions about before, now and future were much better answered than at Foundation level. Most of the students were familiar with the vocabulary of sports and were able to identify the different time frames.

### Questions 3-7

This section was accessible to most students. Question 04 attracted the highest number of correct answers (99.57%), most likely due to 朋友 being a very popular word to young learners.

### Question 8

Nearly 95% of students managed to pick out the key word 风. However, it was more difficult for some students to make the correct choice of 'stay indoors' by understanding the message including the common expression of 家里 or 不要出门.

### Question 9-11

Students found question 09 more accessible than 10 and 11. 99% of students scored a mark in 09. In 10, although 健身房 may be a less familiar word, many made the link between 健康 and a sports centre. In 11, many misunderstood 画家 as 花 and 家 and wrote a range of answers, e.g. 'gardener', 'florist' or 'stays home', etc.

### Question 12-14

As expected, these questions were universally well answered, each question faring equally well. In question 12, option E was popular with some students who may have found it challenging to pick out the word 快乐 but misunderstood 美国乡村音乐; a negative opinion towards the music.

**Question 15-17**

These questions caused difficulties for many students, particularly question 16 and 17. In 16, the lexical item 地图 was the main issue so there were many guessing answers of classroom equipment, such ‘interactive whiteboard’, ‘desk’, ‘bookshelves’, etc. Question 17 was aimed at the most able students who were capable of understanding the structure of 就要…了 when talking about how the teacher is about to leave next month, and realising it was a future event. On the other hand, a number of students thought the teacher left last month when they heard 了 and confused the meaning of 下个月.

**Question 18-21**

These were designed to be challenging questions and it was pleasing to see that almost all students had gained at least one mark. In general, P+N answers are not always straight forward for students to grasp and this proved to be the case here: in 20, many students heard the rhetorical question but did not pick up that the film critic obviously disapproved in his answer.

**Question 22**

This question was aimed at the highest grades and was therefore challenging for the majority of students. As with question 22.1, students needed to provide the detailed answer of ‘over half an hour’ but many didn’t fully grasp the phrase 半个多小时. In 22.2, there were many who guessed the answer, eg ‘a discount’, ‘a bottle of wine’ etc, some students’ answers were too vague to be awarded a mark, eg “a holiday”.

**Question 23**

This question targeted the highest grades. The key to a successful answer to this type of question lies in providing all the details given. The vocabulary used may be in an unfamiliar context or may not be used with high frequency, but students aiming for the highest grades must be able to use higher linguistic skills and convey all the information elicited. For instance, in response to question 23.1, it was not enough to state that the advantage of using mobile phones for Lanlan was listening to music but ‘downloading music’ to be precise; and the disadvantage was ‘being photographed (by others)’ rather than just taking photos. The most accessible part of these questions was 23.2 and 69% of students managed to score at least one mark of two.

**Question 24**

Students seemed to follow the gist of this question well and 50% gained at least one mark out of three. The most popular wrong option was A, as students may have assumed that taking a break is obvious advice on managing exam stress.

**Question 25-27**

These questions were aimed at the most able students and produced a good outcome. In question 25 and 26, the mark scheme was refined to accept a range of answers. In question 26, there was some confusion over the expression 昨天给的作业今天就要交, which many incorrectly understood as the students were given homework every day.

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**Question 28-29**

All questions within this section were answered well, with the only challenging item being question 29 (45% scored two marks). Very few students understood the word 热狗 and therefore missed out the option D, even though 'hot day' was prompted in the question.

**Question 30**

This was an overlap question which sought to cover the new GCSE topic of charity work. There was evidence that most students knew the key vocabulary (贫穷, 钱, 上学, 学校) tested. However, those who did not understand the lexical item 钱 incorrectly picked option C as their answer.

**Question 31-32**

Students coped comfortably with these overlap questions and it was evidenced that study and jobs are two very popular topics that the students are taught very well in school. The most accessible question was 32, where 98% of students gained the mark.

**Question 33**

This was a challenging question and one of the most demanding on the paper. Although there was a range of clues for students to deduce the answers, it might not be easy to conclude that Huanhuan does not want to invite any wedding guests by picking out 反对, 请客吃饭, 两个人的事, 二人世界. Only 48% managed to gain the mark in 33.1 and 58% in 33.2.

**Question 34-35**

These questions were a positive end to the question paper with over 90% of students gaining at least one mark from each question. Those who incorrectly picked option H for question 34 might have confused 家 in 银行家 as a place; whereas 机会 might not be a familiar word to many when choosing a reason other than F in question 35.

**Advice to students**

- Always read the question titles carefully as these will help you to understand the context of what you are about to hear. For example, question 8 indicates that the context is about a weather forecast in China. Another example would be in questions 18-21, where four film critics are talking about a recent film festival, so the questions must revolve around their opinions about films.
- Read the instructions carefully and any examples given so that you know how to answer. For example, questions 01 and 02 require a short answer in English as indicated by the examples which in these questions would be a sport activity relating to three different time frames done by each person. Another example would be in questions 09-11 where the example indicates that the answers should be written in English with a short detail about three young people's partners.
- Be aware that some questions need you to give longer answers. In order to be successful, you should provide all the details you hear. For instance, in questions 25-27, you need to convey exactly what each student sees as a problem when they give feedback about school homework. If the answer is too vague or part of the problem is omitted, then the answer is not accepted as one or two words may not be sufficient to explain the problem.

### **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.