



# CONTENTS

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CHINESE.....	
GCE Advanced Level and GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level.....	2
Paper 8669/04 Texts.....	2

# FOREWORD

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This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned**

# CHINESE

## GCE Advanced Level and GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level

Paper 8669/04

Texts

### General comments

Most candidates performed well on this paper. Short answers and essays were largely well-planned with the information asked for in the question provided in a carefully thought-out and systematic fashion. Candidates should ensure that their essays are supported by specific examples/information/quotes from the text to back up their answers.

Candidates should remember that it will always be very apparent to the Examiner if they have not read, or have little knowledge of, the text. Where candidates have no real knowledge of the text, this will have a significant impact on the marks they can gain, even if they write in fluent Chinese.

Candidates are required to answer one question from **Section 1**, one from **Section 2** and one other. Candidates should therefore ensure that they do not mistakenly answer three questions from the same section.

### Comments on specific questions

#### **Section 1**

##### **Question 1**

- (a) A large number of candidates answered this question and answered it well on the whole. In order to gain high marks for this question, candidates, in (ii) and (iii), needed to show knowledge of the whole story, the meeting of Xiang Lin's wife with Liu Ma, the attitudes and ideas of the author etc. However well candidates are able to understand and comment on the excerpt printed on the question paper, if they are not able to relate this to the text as a whole, their mark will be affected.
- (b) Candidates choosing this question discussed Fourth Uncle's views and contrasted them with those of the author very well.

##### **Question 2**

- (a) This question was well answered. Some candidates muddled the course of events in Act IV. A few candidates were insufficiently conversant with the play to be able to answer correctly.
- (b) There were too few responses to this question to make any general comments appropriate.

##### **Question 3**

- (a) Candidates responded to this question with sensitivity. Some of the answers were a delight to read. In (i), candidates were asked to *explain* the metaphors used. It was insufficient merely to quote them.
- (b) There were too few responses to this question to make any general comments appropriate.

**Question 4**

- (a) Some candidates answered this well, showing a thorough knowledge of the story. displayed no knowledge of the story beyond what was quoted in the question.
- (b) There were too few responses to this question to make any general comments appropriate.

**Section 2****Question 5**

- (a) There were some good, well thought-out and well-structured answers to this question.
- (b) The answers to this question were variable. There were some well-planned essays full of examples from the text. However, some essays lost sight of what was required, with candidates either writing about marriage in general without sufficient reference to the text or getting sidetracked into unnecessary details about parts of the story unrelated to the question. A third type of answer discussed arranged marriages without any reference to the text whatsoever.

**Question 6**

There were too few responses to this question to make any general comments appropriate.

**Question 7**

- (a) Candidates showed a good knowledge of the text in their answers. Rather than merely saying the *yi yuan huo* was successful, the best answers showed that the candidate was aware of what happened after the immediate success of the sales policy.
- (b) Those candidates choosing this question presented Mr Lin in a rather two dimensional light, thus overlooking some of the intentions of the author.

**Question 8**

- (a) Candidates answered this well. The question was looking for an answer with predominant reference to the set chapter and not the whole book.
- (b) Candidates answering this question needed to plan their answers more carefully before beginning their response.