

CHINESE LANGUAGE

Paper 8681/21
Reading and Writing

Key messages

- **Question 1** is a vocabulary recognition exercise, which requires candidates to find words or phrases from the first reading passage that are closest in meaning to those given in the question. Words that are not in the specified paragraphs of the passage are not acceptable.
- **Question 2** is a grammatical manipulation exercise. It requires candidates to rewrite the sentences using the given phrases without changing the meaning.
- **Question 3** and **Question 4** consist of a series of comprehension questions, requiring straightforward and specific answers. Candidates need to read the passages carefully and should answer using information given in the passages. No credit can be given for responses using candidates' general knowledge, or personal experience.
- **Question 5(a)** requires candidates to produce a summary of the information given in both passages, which this year concerned how developing rural tourism and fair trade can help to lift the poor from poverty. **Question 5(b)** requires candidates to give their personal response to the material, which can be their own understanding, experience, and opinion of the issues raised. Responses to **Question 5(b)** should be personal and not a mere repetition of the materials in the given texts. It is helpful if responses to **Question 5(a)** and **Question 5(b)** are kept as two separate sections.

General comments

Most candidates demonstrated a very good understanding of the two reading passages and responded well to the questions asked. Some did an excellent job by responding to the questions fully, using clear expressions and giving focussed answers.

Candidates should be reminded to ensure that all questions are answered. In some cases this year, candidates did not give answers to **Question 3(e)**, **Question 4(e)** and **Question 4(f)**

Many good and clearly expressed responses to **Question 3** and **Question 4** were seen this year. Candidates were generally successful in retrieving key points from the passages instead of lifting material indiscriminately and in great length. Care needs to be taken not to stray from the passages; candidates should ensure that they are not changing the meaning of the information given in the passages in an effort to use their own words, as this may render the answer incorrect. Phrases such as 野餐, 历史遗迹, 农副产品, 办学校 etc. do not need to be rephrased and candidates are not advised to spend a lot of time rephrasing everything they retrieve from the passages.

Centres are reminded to make sure each of their candidates fasten his/her work together at the end of the examination.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

Most candidates successfully found the correct matching words from the passage. Where candidates did answer incorrectly, this tended to be when answering part (d). For **Question 1(b)**, some candidates answered “丰富” instead of “广大”. Candidates need to take care to answer using words from the specified paragraphs.

Question 2

Part (c) was answered correctly by most candidates, and (a) was handled well by many. When answering (a), a few candidates did not include the subject “中国”. A number of candidates had difficulty with part (b), incorrectly inserting “既.....又” at various places in the sentence, but not dropping “在.....的同时”. A few candidates simply copied down the same sentence without any manipulation.

Question 3

Most candidates did very well in this question, and showed good levels of comprehension. Candidates coped well with parts (b), (c) and (e), although some candidates only gave a partial answer to (b). Mistakes were sometimes made in response to part (a), with a few examples of candidates re-phrasing “野餐” as “野营”. In part (d), more careful reading of the question was required by some candidates; the question specifically asked for the *type of area* developing Red Tourism, rather than particular places. A few candidates also misunderstood “革命” as “改革”.

Section 2

Question 4

Candidates gave a strong performance on this question, with most candidates answering parts (b), (c), (d) (e) and (f) with no particular problems. Most candidates also coped well with part (a) although some candidates gave incomplete answers such as “贸易不公平”.

Where candidates did not score full marks, it was often because answers were not full enough for all marks to be awarded. Candidates should be reminded to take note of the mark allocation when they write their answers, in order to ensure that they provide sufficient detail to gain the maximum marks for each answer.

Please note that in **Question 3** and **Question 4**, candidates are not required to rephrase every word they take from the passages to use in their answers. Candidates may use the passages as support to retrieve some vocabulary, but should not lift material from the passages indiscriminately or at length, as this does not show that they have fully understood either the passages or the questions.

Question 5

There were many excellent answers to this question in which candidates drew relevant material from both reading passages in response to the summary question and added to this a convincing personal response. Candidates are reminded that they need to state 10 clear points in order to be awarded the maximum 10 marks for Content in (a).

Where candidates did not do as well it was usually for one of the following reasons:

- not referring to the information in the reading passages for the summary element
- giving a response to (a) that was too brief, and did not include enough distinct points
- not incorporating their own ideas or experiences in the answer to (b)
- writing a general summary of the two reading passages rather than answering the specific question asked.

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Most candidates demonstrated a very good understanding of the two reading passages and responded well to the questions asked. Some did an excellent job by responding to the questions fully, using clear expressions and giving focussed answers.

Candidates should be reminded to ensure that all questions are answered. In some cases this year, candidates did not give answers to **Question 3(e)**, **Question 4(e)** and **Question 4(f)**

Many good and clearly expressed responses to **Question 3** and **Question 4** were seen this year. Candidates were generally successful in retrieving key points from the passages instead of lifting material indiscriminately and in great length. Care needs to be taken not to stray from the passages; candidates should ensure that they are not changing the meaning of the information given in the passages in an effort to use their own words, as this may render the answer incorrect. Phrases such as 野餐, 历史遗迹, 农副产品, 办学校 etc. do not need to be rephrased and candidates are not advised to spend a lot of time rephrasing everything they retrieve from the passages.

Centres are reminded to make sure each of their candidates fasten his/her work together at the end of the examination.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

Most candidates successfully found the correct matching words from the passage. Where candidates did answer incorrectly, this tended to be when answering part (d). For **Question 1(b)**, some candidates answered “丰富” instead of “广大”. Candidates need to take care to answer using words from the specified paragraphs.

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Part (c) was answered correctly by most candidates, and (a) was handled well by many. When answering (a), a few candidates did not include the subject “中国”. A number of candidates had difficulty with part (b), incorrectly inserting “既.....又” at various places in the sentence, but not dropping “在.....的同时”. A few candidates simply copied down the same sentence without any manipulation.

Question 3

Most candidates did very well in this question, and showed good levels of comprehension. Candidates coped well with parts (b), (c) and (e), although some candidates only gave a partial answer to (b). Mistakes were sometimes made in response to part (a), with a few examples of candidates re-phrasing “野餐” as “野营”. In part (d), more careful reading of the question was required by some candidates; the question specifically asked for the *type of area* developing Red Tourism, rather than particular places. A few candidates also misunderstood “革命” as “改革”.

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Candidates gave a strong performance on this question, with most candidates answering parts (b), (c), (d) (e) and (f) with no particular problems. Most candidates also coped well with part (a) although some candidates gave incomplete answers such as “贸易不公平”.

Where candidates did not score full marks, it was often because answers were not full enough for all marks to be awarded. Candidates should be reminded to take note of the mark allocation when they write their answers, in order to ensure that they provide sufficient detail to gain the maximum marks for each answer.

Please note that in **Question 3** and **Question 4**, candidates are not required to rephrase every word they take from the passages to use in their answers. Candidates may use the passages as support to retrieve some vocabulary, but should not lift material from the passages indiscriminately or at length, as this does not show that they have fully understood either the passages or the questions.

Question 5

There were many excellent answers to this question in which candidates drew relevant material from both reading passages in response to the summary question and added to this a convincing personal response. Candidates are reminded that they need to state 10 clear points in order to be awarded the maximum 10 marks for Content in (a).

Where candidates did not do as well it was usually for one of the following reasons:

- not referring to the information in the reading passages for the summary element
- giving a response to (a) that was too brief, and did not include enough distinct points
- not incorporating their own ideas or experiences in the answer to (b)
- writing a general summary of the two reading passages rather than answering the specific question asked.

CHINESE LANGUAGE

Paper 8681/23
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- **Question 3** and **Question 4** consist of a series of comprehension questions that require straightforward and specific answers. Candidates need to read the passages carefully and should answer using information given in the passages. No credit can be given for responses using candidates' general knowledge, or personal experience.
- **Question 5(a)** requires candidates to produce a summary of the information given in both passages, which this year concerned issues connected with food and health. **Question 5(b)** requires candidates to give their personal response to the material, which can be their own understanding, experience, and opinion of the subject. Responses to **Question 5(b)** should be personal and not a mere repetition of the materials in the given texts. It is helpful if responses to **Question 5(a)** and **Question 5(b)** are kept as two separate sections.

General comments

Most candidates demonstrated a very good understanding of the two reading passages and responded to the questions well. Some achieved very high marks by responding to the questions fully, using clear forms of expression and giving focused answers.

Candidates generally attempted all the questions.

Many good and clearly expressed responses to **Question 3** and **Question 4** were seen this year. Candidates were generally successful in retrieving key points from the passages rather than lifting material indiscriminately and at great length. Care should be taken not to stray from the text; candidates should ensure that they are not changing the meaning of the information given in the passages in an effort to use their own words. It is not advisable to rephrase everything retrieved from the text. (Please also see the relevant section in the **Comments on Specific Questions** below.)

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

Most candidates successfully found the correct matching words from the passage. Where candidates did answer incorrectly, this tended to be when answering **Question 1(a)**. Incorrect responses included “必须” and “按照”.

Candidates need to take care to answer using words from the specified paragraphs. For example, some candidates answered **Question 1(b)** with 许多 instead of “大量” while in **Question 1(e)** some answered “有益” which was not in the text.

Question 2

Part (a) was answered correctly by most candidates, although a few inserted “是……的” in the wrong part of the sentence. Parts (b) and (c) were generally handled well.

Question 3

Most candidates did very well in this question and showed good levels of comprehension. Candidates generally handled parts (a), (b) and (c) well, although some answers in part (b) were partial or unclear. In part (c) some answers lacked sufficient detail and simply said “所有环节”. In part (e) some candidates omitted to mention that in organic farming animals are reared under free-range conditions.

Section 2

Question 4

Candidates performed strongly in this question, and generally answered all parts well. In parts (c) and (f) some candidates gave answers that were unclear, although most answers given were correct. In parts (a), (d) and (e) there were some examples of candidates only mentioning two of the three points required for full marks to be awarded.

Candidates should be reminded to take note of the mark allocation when they write their answers, in order to ensure that they provide sufficient details to gain the maximum marks for each answer.

Please note that in **Question 3** and **Question 4** candidates are not required to rephrase every word that they take from the passages to use in their answers. Candidates may use the passages as support to retrieve some vocabulary, but should not lift material from the passages indiscriminately or at length, as this does not allow them to show that they have fully understood either the passages or the questions.

Question 5

There were many excellent answers to this question in which candidates drew relevant material from both reading passages in response to the summary question and added to this a convincing personal response. Candidates are reminded that they need to state 10 clear points in order to be awarded the maximum 10 marks for Content in (a).

Where candidates did not do as well it was usually for one of the following reasons:

- not referring to the information in the reading passages for the summary element
- giving a response to (a) that was too brief, and did not include enough distinct points
- not incorporating their own ideas or experiences in the answer to (b)
- writing a general summary of the two reading passages rather than answering the specific question asked.

CHINESE LANGUAGE

Paper 8681/31

Essay

Key messages

In order to score the highest marks for essays, candidates are expected to provide a clear focus by selecting relevant pieces of information, and organising them in a logical manner to create a coherent argument. The use of Chinese should be generally accurate and of a suitably advanced nature, as well as showing a good use of idiom and appropriate vocabulary.

General comments

The majority of candidates seemed well prepared for the examination and some excellent performances were seen. Writing to within the word limit was less of a challenge this session, and the level of linguistic ability shown by some candidates was outstanding.

Towards the top of the range, candidates displayed a sound knowledge of their chosen topic and a clear understanding of the issues involved. Ideas and arguments were effectively organised and illustrated with relevant examples. Relevance to the chosen question was maintained throughout. A coherent structure was demonstrated with a logical progression of ideas leading to a sound conclusion.

The work of weaker candidates was characterised by a tendency to write around the topic and use irrelevant material. This lack of precision, generally led by pre-learnt materials that were not a sufficient response to the title.

Candidates should be reminded to read the questions carefully and it is good technique on the candidate's part to refer to the title as often as necessary throughout the essay in order to maintain relevance, develop strong arguments and to reach a solid conclusion. The latter is worth emphasising as many candidates aptly detailed cogent arguments for both sides but failed to draw a conclusion. Candidates should also be advised to pay attention to the use of formal and informal language.

1 工作和休闲

A relatively smaller number of candidates opted for this question, and there were wide spread performances for this topic. The stronger candidates gave well-illustrated arguments on justifying the importance of voluntary work on a practical and moral aspect, whilst some argued that greater competition in the workplace necessitated an immediate move into the career path at the earliest opportunity. Some candidates spent too long providing a definition of voluntary work, listing endless examples rather than answering the question fully.

2 媒体

This title was by far the most popular among candidates. The strong essays effectively explained positive and negative changes that social platforms on the Internet brought into our lives, covering a wide range of aspects, e.g. widening people's social circle; enabling people to find friends who have mutual interests; as well as safety concerns, such as false information provided online; misleading young people etc. Some quotes including: “秀才不出门，能知天下事”；“网络社交平台是一把双刃剑”；It should be noted that a large number of candidates merely listed the merits and disadvantages of such platforms rather than explaining the changes, and a small number of candidates hardly wrote anything to do with social platforms, and instead merely described the Internet. This type of answer was insufficient and not relevant enough to the question asked to access the highest marks for Content.

3 环保

This title was the second most popular topic this year. It was very pleasing to see that the majority of candidates were able to produce relevant, detailed pieces of information. The majority of candidates discussed the concept of recycling, i.e. not to litter etc., and the slogan “保护环境，人人有责”. Apart from the common concept of recycling, some candidates discussed protecting the environment from a wider scope, including sea pollution, forest protection and air pollution, and discussed this using accurate and suitably advanced language. Some candidates included discussions about using solar power. Moreover, some candidates developed their essay from a personal angle to a wider scope, e.g. local government, the whole country and the world.

4 教育

Only a small number of candidates chose this title, but amongst those who did answer this question, some excellent performances with detailed and illustrated arguments were seen.

Some candidates focused too heavily on what an ideal university should be like, i.e. fully-equipped; well-staffed, and could have improved their answers by addressing the question on the standards a principal should set to enrol candidates.

5 文化和传统

This title was less attractive to candidates; however, the performances were strong. Opinions were clearly and equally divided for this task. While some candidates feel strongly that the government's main focus should lie on ensuring economic growth and to sustain people's basic living standard, some candidates valued the cultural heritage too highly to agree to such expenses cuts. Overall, a good range of language and examples were used in the argument.

CHINESE LANGUAGE

Paper 8681/32

Essay

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Candidates should be reminded to read the questions carefully and it is good technique on the candidate's part to refer to the title as often as necessary throughout the essay in order to maintain relevance, develop strong arguments and to reach a solid conclusion. The latter is worth emphasising as many candidates aptly detailed cogent arguments for both sides but failed to draw a conclusion. Candidates should also be advised to pay attention to the use of formal and informal language.

1 工作和休闲

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2 媒体

This title was by far the most popular among candidates. The strong essays effectively explained positive and negative changes that social platforms on the Internet brought into our lives, covering a wide range of aspects, e.g. widening people's social circle; enabling people to find friends who have mutual interests; as well as safety concerns, such as false information provided online; misleading young people etc. Some quotes including: “秀才不出门，能知天下事”；“网络社交平台是一把双刃剑”；It should be noted that a large number of candidates merely listed the merits and disadvantages of such platforms rather than explaining the changes, and a small number of candidates hardly wrote anything to do with social platforms, and instead merely described the Internet. This type of answer was insufficient and not relevant enough to the question asked to access the highest marks for Content.

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4 教育

Only a small number of candidates chose this title, but amongst those who did answer this question, some excellent performances with detailed and illustrated arguments were seen.

Some candidates focused too heavily on what an ideal university should be like, i.e. fully-equipped; well-staffed, and could have improved their answers by addressing the question on the standards a principal should set to enrol candidates.

5 文化和传统

This title was less attractive to candidates; however, the performances were strong. Opinions were clearly and equally divided for this task. While some candidates feel strongly that the government's main focus should lie on ensuring economic growth and to sustain people's basic living standard, some candidates valued the cultural heritage too highly to agree to such expenses cuts. Overall, a good range of language and examples were used in the argument.

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Paper 8681/33

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General comments

Most candidates were well prepared for the examination and there were some excellent performances. Writing within the word count was less of a challenge this session, and the level of linguistic ability shown by some candidates was outstanding.

Towards the top of the range, candidates displayed a sound knowledge of their chosen topic and a clear understanding of the issues involved. Ideas and arguments were effectively organised, illustrated with relevant examples. Relevance to the chosen question was maintained throughout. A coherent structure was demonstrated with a logical progression of ideas leading to a sound conclusion.

The work of weaker candidates was characterised by a tendency to write around the topic and use irrelevant material. This lack of precision generally resulted from a reliance on pre-learnt materials, leading to an insufficient response to the title.

Candidates should be reminded to read the questions carefully and it is good technique on the candidate's part to refer to the title as often as necessary throughout the essay in order to maintain relevance, develop strong arguments and reach a solid conclusion. The latter is worth emphasising as many candidates aptly detailed cogent arguments for both sides but failed to draw a conclusion. Candidates should also be advised to pay attention to the use of formal and informal language.

1 工作和休闲

This title was by far the most popular among candidates, and there was a wide range of performances. The stronger candidates gave well-illustrated arguments to justify the importance of work, despite the practical, and arguably moral, dilemma arising from extreme wealth creation, whilst some argued to the contrary. Unfortunately, some candidates focused too heavily on how to spend their money rather than compose a cogent argument as required by the question.

2 媒体

This was the second most popular topic chosen by candidates and there were many strong performances. The best essays made effective comparisons between newspapers, magazines and Internet blogs. The majority of candidates favoured Internet blogs by focusing on their speedy publication, wider audience reach and cost effectiveness, as well as strength of interaction. The arguments put forward were often very convincing. It should be noted that a small number of candidates reversed the subject by talking about the disadvantages of old fashioned means of media rather than answering the question.

3 环保

This topic was also a popular choice this year. Candidates offered detailed information to show their depth understandings of the current environmental issues. Some candidates clearly wrote pre-learned material to stress the importance of environmental protection and suggest solutions on how to safeguard the planet, which, though insightful, were insufficient to respond to this task as required.

4 教育

A relatively small number of candidates chose this title. Amongst those who did, a number performed extremely well with detailed and illustrated arguments, as well as good quality of language.

5 文化和传统

This title was less attractive to candidates and performances were less satisfactory compared with other topics. A few candidates gave far too much irrelevant background information about the biographies of the celebrities rather than addressing the task by highlighting the influence of celebrity culture on young people.