

CHINESE

Paper 8681/02
Reading and Writing

General comments

Once again, the majority of candidates performed well on this paper. They demonstrated a good understanding of the arguments, ideas and information contained in the two articles and the majority of candidates responded well to the questions asked, responding fully and using clear expressions. However, there were a number of candidates who gave answers that were not closely related to the texts, and which were not directly connected to the question being asked. The quality of language demonstrated in written responses was generally good, although there were cases of some inappropriately used expressions and some incomplete or incorrect grammatical constructions.

Many candidates were able to express information in their own words, as well as show engagement with the texts. Some of them did an excellent job in this respect. Many good and clearly expressed answers were seen. However, there were examples of candidates lifting chunks from the original text. Candidates should endeavour to use their own words when phrasing answers, but in doing so should try not to stray too far from the ideas expressed in the texts given on the question paper. A balance needs to be achieved.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

(c) and (e) were answered correctly by most candidates. (a) and (d) caused some problems for candidates, but (b) proved to be the most demanding question.

Question 2

(a) and (c) were answered correctly by most candidates, whilst (b) caused candidates some difficulty.

Questions 3 and 4

Most candidates did very well on these questions, and showed good levels of comprehension. 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. There were some cases of answers produced in response to **Question 4** being unnecessarily long-winded: candidates should ensure that they select the information they need to reply to each question and then produce focused answers.

Question 5

Once again there were many excellent answers in which candidates drew relevant material from both texts in response to the summary question and added to this a convincing personal response.

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

- not referring to the information in the texts for the summary element
- not incorporating their own ideas or experiences in the answer
- writing a general summary of the two texts rather than answering the specific question.

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Essay

General comments

The majority of candidates performed very well on this paper, demonstrating their mastery of Chinese. Candidates wrote fluently, displaying a varied use of vocabulary, with few grammatical mistakes.

Candidates showed a sound knowledge of their chosen subject area and, as a result, were able to discuss the issues raised by the questions ably. In order to access the highest marks for essays, candidates are expected to give their essays a clear focus, selecting relevant pieces of information and organising them in a logical manner to create a coherent argument. Straightforward lists are not sufficient – points should be fully developed and structured, in order for an answer to be highly rewarded.

Candidates should be reminded that on the question paper they will see the general Set Topic, as stated in the syllabus, followed by the specific question they must answer. Candidates should take care to read the questions carefully, and ensure that their answers respond to the specific demands of the question, rather than producing an essay on the broad topic area. Some candidates answering **Question 3**, for example, wrote essays on the broad topic area of climate change, rather than focussing on the impact of climate change on animals, as required by the question.

Some simple errors were also seen as a result of questions not being read thoroughly. For example, where questions have 2 parts, both parts require an answer. A significant number of candidates who chose to answer **Question 3** failed to answer the second part of the question, and therefore could not achieve the highest marks.