



Cambridge Pre-U

MANDARIN CHINESE

9778/01

Paper 1 Speaking

For examination from 2020

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 60

Specimen

This specimen paper has been updated for assessments from 2020. The specimen questions and mark schemes remain the same. The layout and wording of the front covers have been updated to reflect the new Cambridge International branding and to make instructions clearer for candidates.

This syllabus is regulated for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

This document has **6** pages. Blank pages are indicated.

Generic Marking Principles

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptors for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:

Rules must be applied consistently e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

PREPARED TOPIC (15 marks)

Examiners will mark the Prepared Topic out of 15: 10 marks for Content/Presentation and 5 marks for Language.

Candidates whose Prepared Topic does not relate to the Chinese world will have their mark for Content/Presentation halved.

Content/Presentation	Language
Knowledge of facts; ability to express opinions and raise issues for discussion.	
9–10 Very good Full and well-organised coverage of the topic; ideas and opinions included as well as factual points; lively presentation; Examiner's interest sustained.	5 Very good Has a very good feeling for the language; speaks fluently and accurately; shows good use of relevant idiom and uses a wide range of structures and vocabulary.
7–8 Good Good exposition and sound organisation of the topic; makes relevant factual points, though may be less good in ideas and opinions; presentation somewhat stilted, though keeps Examiner's interest.	4 Good Speaks fairly fluently and accurately; uses idiom with a reasonable range of structures and vocabulary.
5–6 Satisfactory Adequate exposition of the topic; few ideas or opinions; evidence of preparation but presentation pedestrian.	3 Satisfactory May speak with hesitation; adequate range of structures and vocabulary; no ambiguity of meaning.
3–4 Weak Material thin; rambling, repetitious; hardly any ideas or opinions; in danger of losing the Examiner's interest.	2 Weak Marked hesitation; limited range of structures and vocabulary, leading to some ambiguity of meaning.
1–2 Poor Very little factual information; material irrelevant; vague, arguments incoherent; little effort at presentation.	1 Poor Very marked hesitation; severe limitations of structures and vocabulary; thought processes basically influenced by mother tongue.
0 Communicates no relevant information.	0 Nothing accurate enough to be comprehensible.

TOPIC CONVERSATION AND GENERAL CONVERSATION (30 marks)

Examiners will mark each conversation section out of 15: 5 marks for Comprehension and responsiveness and 10 marks for Accuracy and range of language.

Comprehension and responsiveness	Accuracy and range of language
<p>5 Very good No problems of comprehension. Responses are natural and spontaneous, even to unexpected questions. Able to present and defend a point of view in discussion.</p>	<p>9–10 Very good Consistently accurate. Only occasional minor slips. Extensive range of appropriate vocabulary. Able to use a wide range of structures with confidence.</p>
<p>4 Good Few problems of comprehension. Responds thoughtfully, and copes fairly well with unexpected questions. Reasonably forthcoming but tends to follow Examiner's lead.</p>	<p>7–8 Good Accuracy generally good, with more frequent errors than in the very best candidates. Shows a sound basic understanding of grammatical usage. Has sufficient range of vocabulary and structures to handle reasonably mature subjects.</p>
<p>3 Satisfactory Understands questions on basic situations and concepts, but has difficulty with more complicated ideas. Some delay in response. Needs encouragement to develop topics OR relies heavily on prepared responses.</p>	<p>5–6 Satisfactory Accuracy indicates a measure of competence but with some obvious and significant gaps in grammatical usage. Limited expression of ideas (but not ambiguity) caused by limitations in range of vocabulary and some structures.</p>
<p>3–4 Weak Has general difficulty in understanding. Limited response to questions on the majority of topics raised.</p>	<p>3–4 Weak Generally inaccurate use of the language. Severe limitations of vocabulary and structures restrict discussion to a very basic level.</p>
<p>1–2 Poor Severe problems of comprehension. Very marked hesitation. Limited responsiveness.</p>	<p>1–2 Poor No grasp of grammatical accuracy. Errors constant and repeated. Very restricted vocabulary. Only simple sentences and no variety of structure.</p>
<p>0 Communicates no relevant information.</p>	<p>0 Nothing accurate enough to be comprehensible.</p>

PRONUNCIATION/INTONATION AND FEEL FOR THE LANGUAGE (15 marks)

In addition, 15 marks will be awarded globally for Feel for the language (10 marks) and Pronunciation/Intonation (5 marks).

Feel for the language	Pronunciation/Intonation
<p>9–10 Very good Has a very good feeling for the language and is able to express concepts fluently in appropriate idiom. Negligible influence from the mother tongue.</p>	<p>5 Very good Outstanding pronunciation and intonation; an occasional slight mistake or hesitation. Not necessarily a native speaker.</p>
<p>7–8 Good Has a very good feeling for the language. Shows competent use of relevant idiom. Avoids significant influence from mother tongue.</p>	<p>4 Good Good pronunciation; makes a fair attempt at correct intonation and expression; some mistakes and/or hesitation.</p>
<p>5–6 Satisfactory Feeling for the language evident, with some occasional use of relevant idiom. Thought processes and expression are influenced by mother tongue.</p>	<p>3 Satisfactory A fair degree of accuracy in pronunciation; quite a number of errors; some attempt at intonation and expression.</p>
<p>3–4 Weak Has scant feeling for the idiom. Generally translates literally from the mother tongue.</p>	<p>2 Weak Intelligible, but shows marked influence of mother tongue and very many errors of pronunciation.</p>
<p>1–2 Poor Has very limited feeling for the target language.</p>	<p>1 Poor Very poor; many gross errors; frequently incomprehensible.</p>
<p>0 Has no feeling for the target language.</p>	<p>0 No attempt at correct pronunciation or intonation.</p>

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