

Section One, Section Two and Section Three: Part A. Candidates had to complete a question from a choice of three in Section Three: Part B.

Attempted by 72 candidates	Mean 64.58%	Max 94.50%	Min 19.50%
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Section means were:

Section One: Response: Listening	Mean 63.33%		
Attempted by 72 candidates	Mean 19.00(/30.00)	Max 30.00	Min 6.00
Section Two: Response: Viewing and reading	Mean 65.87%		
Attempted by 72 candidates	Mean 26.35(/40.00)	Max 39.00	Min 4.00
Section Three: Written communication Part A: Stimulus response	Mean 61.15%		
Attempted by 71 candidates	Mean 7.34(/12.00)	Max 11.50	Min 3.50
Section Three: Written communication Part B: Extended response	Mean 66.63%		
Attempted by 72 candidates	Mean 11.99(/18.00)	Max 18.00	Min 5.50

General comments

In the practical examination, candidates performed better in Part B when discussing the stimulus compared to dealing with familiar topics in Part C. Candidate performance declined on the criteria of 'Flow of speech' when they were required to engage in spontaneous communication. In the written examination, very few candidates were unable to answer all questions. Candidates occasionally relied on their general knowledge of a topic to construct their answers when responding to listening and reading questions on familiar topics. These answers were often irrelevant to the texts and the questions. A few candidates appeared to have time-management problems, ending their written communication responses abruptly. In most cases, it appeared that these candidates had wasted time responding to questions with irrelevant details.

Practical examination

Advice for candidates

- Candidates need to practise topics related to communicating with parents or friends and how technology influences students' life and study to build up vocabulary on these topics.

Advice for teachers

- Teachers need to assist students to prepare for the stimulus and provide opportunities for more open discussions on topics in the syllabus. There is a need for students to build up vocabulary on every topic.
- Teachers need to provide guidance on how to sequence discussions.

Written examination

Advice for candidates

- You should not rely on rote-learned texts when preparing for the examination. Instead, work with their teachers to develop your listening and reading skills, and your ability to respond appropriately to examination questions.

Advice for teachers

- Teachers are advised to work with students to improve their approach to examination questions. Teachers need to help students build confidence by applying their analytical skills and language abilities to adequately respond to examination questions. This will help students break their reliance on rote-learned texts.

Comments on specific sections and questions

As in previous years, marks for the practical examination were higher than in the written examination.

Practical examination

Part B: Discussion of stimulus (25 Marks)

Candidates achieved a higher mean against Criterion 1, 2 and 5. Criterion 1 had the highest mean, indicating that candidates knew the content and were well prepared. However, some candidates had difficulties responding to less familiar topics or questions.

Part C: Conversation (25 Marks)

Within Part C, Criterion 5 recorded the lowest mean. Candidate performance faltered as they made mistakes, had less control of the conversation and could not use rehearsed language.

Written examination

Section One: Response: Listening (30 Marks)

When candidates answered questions on familiar topics, such as Chinese language learning and environmental protection, they tended to rely on their general understanding of the topics. Candidates need to listen carefully to the recording and provide accurate responses to the listening questions.

Section Two: Response: Viewing and reading (40 Marks)

In past examinations, candidates tended to use verbatim English translations when they had difficulty understanding the questions. The accessibility of the questions this year may have played a role in encouraging candidates to use their own words when they responded to questions about the reading texts.

Section Three: Written communication Part A: Stimulus response (12 Marks)

The mean for Part A was slightly lower than the mean for Part B of the Written communication section.

Section Three: Written communication Part B: Extended response (18 Marks)

Some candidates who attempted Question 37 did not fully address the question. Some candidates who answered Question 38 relied heavily on reproducing generic texts that they may have studied. Candidates who opted for Question 39 had better-developed language skills and were able to provide adequate responses.