

Written examination

The written examination consisted of three sections: Section One: Listening; Section Two: Viewing and reading; Section Three: Written communication (Stimulus response in Part A and Extended response in Part B). Candidates were required to attempt all questions in Section One, Section Two and Section Three: Part A. Candidates had to complete one question from a choice of three in Section Three: Part B.

Attempted by 95 candidates Mean 64.17% Max 91.36% Min 29.47%

Section means were:

Section One: Response: Listening	Mean 62.23%		
Attempted by 95 candidates	Mean 18.67(/30)	Max 28.57	Min 7.14
Section Two: Response: Viewing and reading	Mean 60.87%		
Attempted by 95 candidates	Mean 24.35(/40)	Max 36.49	Min 5.61
Section Three: Written communication			
Part A: Stimulus response	Mean 67.37%		
Attempted by 95 candidates	Mean 8.08(/12)	Max 11.00	Min 1.50
Section Three: Written communication			
Part B: Extended response	Mean 72.63%		
Attempted by 95 candidates	Mean 13.07(/18)	Max 18.00	Min 5.50

General comments

In the practical examination, candidates performed equally well in both Parts B and C. The majority of candidates demonstrated a good understanding of the course content and most were aware of the examination process. In Part B candidates were able to answer most questions while in Part C quite a few candidates required prompting from the marker. Most candidates lacked depth of information and some did not read the stimulus carefully and as a result did not answer the question correctly. Candidates also neglected to add grammatical structures from the syllabus and therefore Language range was a weakness. Language accuracy was good in Part B whilst more grammatical problems occurred in Part C. Candidates' pronunciation and intonation were mostly acceptable; however, flow of speech and pausing appropriately seemed to be a problem for many candidates.

Marks in the written examination were slightly higher than the previous year. Candidates demonstrated a sound overall understanding of all texts and questions. Most candidates attempted all questions, and they appeared to spend the appropriate time on each section. There were very few cases of candidates not completing questions or leaving questions blank. In the Listening and Viewing and reading sections, many candidates did not provide all the details required to answer each question and they also did not use the correct verbs or nouns when attempting to answer questions. For true/false statement questions, it appears as though quite a few candidates failed to make sure all the information was correct in each statement. There was also notable lack of producing full sentence answers and correct English. This led to answers not including grammatical structures or all the information that the question required. Candidates did not translate some phrases and vocabulary well. The written section required candidates to demonstrate their proficiency in writing the Chinese language, including characters, knowledge of grammatical structures and vocabulary related to each topic. Some candidates failed to write characters for some words and resorted to Pinyin. A few candidates appeared to have relied on rote learning to complete this section and were possibly able to merge previously learnt content to produce an answer. Most responses were authentic and natural in their answers. Accuracy in grammar and vocabulary appeared to be a problem for most candidates when answering the

Extended response questions in the Written communication section and quite a few candidates failed to abide by the text type conventions.

Practical examination

Advice for candidates

- Prepare well by improving your content knowledge, building vocabulary and complex sentence structures. Preparing well will assist in not relying on simple repetitive sentence structures.
- Work on your accuracy of grammar and vocabulary use when using spontaneous conversation.
- Provide comprehensive answers relevant to the topics/stimulus.
- Answer the question in the stimulus and refer to the image in your answer.
- Include more in-depth information and a range of grammar and sentence structures in responses.
- Answer open-ended questions in Part C in more depth, using the third person to respond.
- Work on flow of speech and pause appropriately by practising with other students and native speakers.

Advice for teachers

- Teachers are encouraged to run through the oral examination process with students, so students know what to expect on the day. This includes discussing the process and the language involved, by referring to the *Chinese: Second Language ATAR course Practical (oral) examination requirements* document.
- Provide students with opportunities to summarise information, practise with spontaneous conversation and produce more in-depth responses.
- Provide opportunities for students to experience the examination process with different markers so that they are used to being asked different questions and gain good habits when answering questions. This includes learning not to repeat the question back or pausing inappropriately. This practice may also allow students to gain an understanding and ability to answer the standard questions and instructions of the practical examination process. Exposing students to different markers will also allow students to adjust to and understand the marker on the day. They will also be able to better handle the pace, flow and accent of markers.
- Provide students with opportunities to build vocabulary beyond each individual topic so that common words used frequently in Chinese conversation are accessible for students to understand and apply.
- Provide students with opportunities to review the *Chinese: Second Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination marking key* so that they have an explicit understanding of how marks are awarded.
- Train students as to how language should flow and how to group words, by pausing appropriately. This will improve candidates' flow of speech.

Written examination

Advice for candidates

- Take time to read and understand each question and read over your answers to make sure it is answering the question.
- Make sure all multiple-choice and true/false questions are answered.
- Write concise answers that make sense when expressed in English, while remaining faithful to the Chinese text.
- Do not use English slang in your answers; use the correct translation of vocabulary and grammar, in its entirety to answer the question fully.
- Make sure your writing is easily readable.

- Make sure your answer makes sense in English when applying words from the dictionary.
- Include all your ideas in your answer and do not cross any out.
- Include grammatical structures from the syllabus as full sentences in your answers, when asked for in a question.
- Do not use Chinese characters when required to write in English.
- Do not use Pinyin in the Written communication section, even if running out of time.
- Be aware of and apply all conventions of each text type in the examination.

Advice for teachers

- Provide opportunities for students to develop proficiency in searching for specific words in the dictionary.
- Assist students in developing word lists associated with the topics from Units 3 and 4.
- Provide students with opportunities to produce written pieces of work for a variety of questions and in relation to the topics in the syllabus. Provide feedback including if the question is answered fully, the text type applied and explanation of language accuracy.
- Provide students with appropriate salutations, sign-offs and formal and informal language for each of the text type conventions.
- Provide students with opportunities to practise and improve their knowledge of text types and text conventions.
- Provide students with opportunities to build vocabulary beyond each individual topic so that common words used frequently in Chinese are accessible for students to understand and apply.

Comments on specific sections and questions

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

Practical examination

Part B: Discussion of stimulus (24 Marks)

All candidates attempted this section. They were well prepared and demonstrated a satisfactory to excellent range of knowledge of the course content. Candidates achieved higher marks for Criteria 1, 4 and 5, indicating that they were well prepared. However, candidates did not perform as well in Criterion 2, Language accuracy and Criterion 3, Language range.

Criterion 1: Comprehension

Attempted by 94 candidates	Mean 3.74(/4)	Max 4	Min 1
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Candidates generally achieved well in this criterion. They demonstrated a good understanding of the questions on the stimulus as well as the questions from the markers.

Criterion 2: Language accuracy

Attempted by 94 candidates	Mean 4.06(/6)	Max 6	Min 2
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Candidates demonstrated a satisfactory level of language accuracy for Part B. Major grammar issues such as the influence of English were not common. However, many small grammatical issues such as missing verbs in sentences and misusing conjunctions appeared.

Criterion 3: Language range

Attempted by 94 candidates	Mean 3.36(/5)	Max 5	Min 2
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Language range was weaker in Part B with a lack of conjunctions and grammar structures from the syllabus used by candidates. Some did not do well based on the criteria, as they

Written examination

Section One: Response: Listening (42 Marks)

Many candidates had difficulty with content from most of the texts, revealing a lack of understanding of vocabulary commonly used in everyday Chinese language and vocabulary related to the topics. Many candidates did not provide all the content required to answer questions and some left questions unanswered. Some did not use full sentence answers when required. At times, their English was not clear when providing answers in Section Three: Written communication.

Question 1 attempted by 95 candidates Mean 0.82(/1) Max 1 Min 0
The majority of candidates answered this question well.

Question 2 attempted by 94 candidates Mean 0.78(/2) Max 2 Min 0
Quite a few candidates were unable to include 'make (paper) dragon boats' in their answers. They appeared to use prior knowledge of the Dragon Boat festival, including answers such as 'watching dragon boat races'.

Question 3 attempted by 87 candidates Mean 0.52(/2) Max 2 Min 0
Few candidates were able to answer this question correctly, indicating that they did not notice the information about getting to the dragon boat race early. They incorrectly gave 'please give me a call' as their answer.

Question 4 attempted by 95 candidates Mean 2.63(/4) Max 4 Min 0
Most candidates achieved two marks for completing 'as an exchange student' and 'not understanding Chinese', however some could not identify 'patient and friendly'.

Question 5 attempted by 94 candidates Mean 0.27(/1) Max 1 Min 0
Many candidates neglected to add 'Chinese' in their answer whilst some incorrectly translated 古典 as traditional instead of classical.

Question 6 attempted by 95 candidates Mean 0.80(/1) Max 1 Min 0
The majority of candidates answered this question well, with few not making sure that all the details in the statement were correct.

Question 7 attempted by 94 candidates Mean 2.18(/3) Max 3 Min 0
Some candidates stated they should 'share/have the same interests' instead of 'have a lot of hobbies' and therefore provided the incorrect answer. Many were able to provide all of the description required.

Question 8 attempted by 95 candidates Mean 1.54(/2) Max 2 Min 0
Most candidates answered this question well. However, some candidates failed to write their responses in full sentence answers and therefore did not have the verbs 'likes' to go to parties or 'likes to smoke and drink'.

Question 9 attempted by 95 candidates Mean 1.19(/2) Max 2 Min 0
The majority of candidates were able to identify 'they will affect you', however quite a few were unable to identify 'common topics to talk about'.

Question 10 attempted by 95 candidates Mean 1.69(/2) Max 2 Min 0
This question was generally answered well.

Question 11 attempted by 94 candidates Mean 0.05(/1) Max 1 Min 0
The majority of candidates answered this question incorrectly. Most did not include 'researching' and provided 'study pressure' instead of 'peer pressure'.

Question 12 attempted by 95 candidates Mean 2.85(/3) Max 3 Min 0
Most candidates achieved two marks for this question, as they did not make sure that all the information in the statements were correct.

Question 13 attempted by 94 candidates Mean 1.22(/2) Max 2 Min 0
Some candidates neglected to add that the 'colour had changed', in their response.

Question 14 attempted by 94 candidates Mean 2.35(/3) Max 3 Min 0
The majority of candidates identified most of the benefits of the new buses.

Question 15 attempted by 95 candidates Mean 2.95(/5) Max 5 Min 0
Many candidates did not use full sentence answers and therefore neglected to include all the information required to answer the question. Broken English was often used and many did not include 'smog problems'.

Question 16 attempted by 95 candidates Mean 2.01(/4) Max 4 Min 0
A lot of candidates did not include 'more and more' in their response with many just stating 'more'. Candidates also neglected to provide all the points in the text that explained why China was making electric bus fares so cheap.

Question 17 attempted by 94 candidates Mean 0.77(/2) Max 2 Min 0
Many candidates were able to identify that the bus comes every five minutes, however they did not include that 'there is a bus stop next to every station'. Some candidates were able to identify this but incorrectly wrote 'near' instead of 'next to'.

Question 18 attempted by 94 candidates Mean 1.52(/2) Max 2 Min 0
Some candidates did not include 'fares/tickets' in their answer which led to a different meaning of buses being cheap in China and therefore did not provide the correct answer.

Section Two: Response: Viewing and reading (57 Marks)

The majority of candidates attempted all questions. While most showed an overall understanding of the texts, their responses often did not include vocabulary and grammar structures required to answer the questions fully. Incorrect translations of vocabulary was a common issue. Some candidates also provided Chinese characters for their answer and/or some left answers blank.

Question 19 attempted by 94 candidates Mean 2.42(/3) Max 3 Min 0
The majority of candidates answered this well, however some included 'video games' instead of just 'games' and therefore provided an incorrect answer.

Question 20 attempted by 94 candidates Mean 2.08(/3) Max 3 Min 0
Many candidates were unable to identify 'looking forward to it' in the text.

Question 21 attempted by 93 candidates Mean 1.76(/3) Max 3 Min 0
The majority of candidates were able to identify that the brother 'knows/understands him the best', however many did not provide the finer details such as 'cared about his studies and life'.

Question 22 attempted by 95 candidates Mean 2.13(/3) Max 3 Min 0
With the information in each true/false statement provided being close to correct, some candidates did not make sure all the information was correct and therefore indicated some statements as true, when they were actually false.

Question 23 attempted by 91 candidates Mean 1.03(/2) Max 2 Min 0
A lot of candidates did not pick up on the key words required in this question. The word 'maintain' and the structure 'While...' were not included in some responses. Additionally, some candidates did not accurately translate 耽误, and provided answers that did not translate well in English.

Question 24 attempted by 91 candidates Mean 1.04(/2) Max 2 Min 0
Many candidates provided incorrect verbs or did not include any verbs at all in their responses to this question.

Question 25 attempted by 93 candidates Mean 1.77(/2) Max 2 Min 0
The majority of candidates answered this question well.

Question 26 attempted by 94 candidates Mean 0.60(/2) Max 2 Min 0
跟不上 was not translated well by most candidates. Many also wrote 'did not know any friends' instead of 'have any friends' which, in effect, was incorrect in meaning.

Question 27 attempted by 93 candidates Mean 2.23(/3) Max 3 Min 0
Many candidates provided the incorrect translation of 认真。

Question 28 attempted by 95 candidates Mean 3.56(/5) Max 5 Min 1
Part (a) was answered well, however in part (b) quite a few candidates did not translate 'environmental awareness' well or understand 'socially responsible'.

Question 29 attempted by 93 candidates Mean 1.02(/3) Max 3 Min 0
Many candidates incorrectly translated the vocabulary required to answer this question.

Question 30 attempted by 92 candidates Mean 3.02(/4) Max 4 Min 0
Many candidates did not include 'although they were only at the school for Year 12'.

Question 31 attempted by 94 candidates Mean 2.27(/3) Max 3 Min 0
In part (a), some candidates wrote characters in their answer while some wrote the wrong age. Candidates answered part (b) very well, while in part (c) many could not identify the benefit of the idea, instead writing that 'it is better to receive a big present'.

Question 32 attempted by 94 candidates Mean 2.49(/6) Max 6 Min 0
In part (a), candidates could not identify both suggestions and confused gaming console/machine with video game. In part (b), many candidates did not provide the finer details for each of the questions. They left out 'extremely/very' from 'very addicted to video games'. They also often left out 'more' in the answer 'encourage him to go out and exercise more'.

Question 33 attempted by 90 candidates Mean 0.61(/2) Max 2 Min 0
Many candidates did not understand or misinterpreted 'completely replace mobile phones'. Some did not identify 'an indispensable part', in their response.

Question 34 attempted by 94 candidates Mean 2.06(/3) Max 3 Min 0
Many candidates provided the incorrect vocabulary in their response to this question. For example 'clean' instead of 'clear' and many did not identify 'various/many types' and responded with 'a lot of fish' instead.

Question 35 attempted by 92 candidates Mean 1.14(/2) Max 2 Min 0
Many candidates wrote the incorrect vocabulary, for example, providing 'peers' instead of 'classmates' and 'lake' instead of 'river'.

Question 36 attempted by 91 candidates Mean 2.16(/3) Max 3 Min 0
Many candidates did not provide all the information required for each answer. For example 'many people got sick from the water' neglecting to add 'from drinking the water'.

Question 37 attempted by 90 candidates Mean 0.74(/2) Max 2 Min 0
Quite a few candidates did not identify 'reuse water resources' and 'treat sewage water'.

Question 38 attempted by 91 candidates Mean 0.56(/1) Max 1 Min 0
Some candidates did not state 'better and better' indicating that either they didn't understand the grammatical structure 越来越 or just neglected to express it in their answer.

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

In the Written communication section, candidates appeared to spend adequate time on each question, with few not completing their answer or not attempting the question. Candidates did not perform as well in Part A as in Part B. Some did not refer to the stimulus when answering the question.

Question 39 attempted by 95 candidates Mean 8.08(/12) Max 11 Min 1.5
Many candidates were able to describe what they witnessed and how they felt in answer to this question, however quite a few did not include a wide range of vocabulary and sentence structures. Most candidates were unable to refer or provide an example of how the reader should deal with peer pressure, often only listing what was in the stimulus. Some candidate's writing was also inaccurate, and they did not apply the correct conventions of an email.

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

Candidates generally performed well in Part B with most responses being authentic and natural. Very few candidates relied on memorised texts and most displayed a good knowledge of the topics and associated vocabulary. Accuracy in grammar and language range seemed to be a problem for most, while quite a few candidates did not abide by the text type conventions. Some candidates also used Pinyin in their response instead of Chinese characters.

Question 40 attempted by 49 candidates Mean 12.65(/18) Max 17 Min 6
Many candidates successfully adapted vocabulary and grammar to respond. However, many did not use all the key conventions of a letter, leaving out the date or not using formal language. Candidates applied a good range of vocabulary and grammar, however accuracy seemed to be a problem, and some relied on Pinyin instead of characters.

Question 41 attempted by 33 candidates Mean 14.09(/18) Max 18 Min 5.5
Most candidates did not mention 'one or more social media accounts'. Some candidates talked about the disadvantages of social media, which the question did not directly ask for,

and they appeared to use rehearsed language. Some candidates did not include the structure of an article and language was inaccurate at times.

Question 42 attempted by 13 candidates Mean 12.08(/18) Max 14 Min 9
Some candidates did not provide elaborated content and many candidates did not use a range of grammar and or accurate language. Most candidates did however apply the correct conventions of a diary entry.