

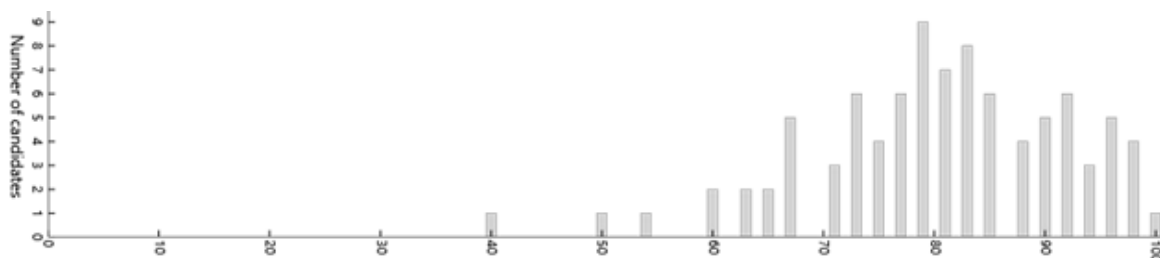


Summary report of the 2023 ATAR course examination report: Chinese: Second Language

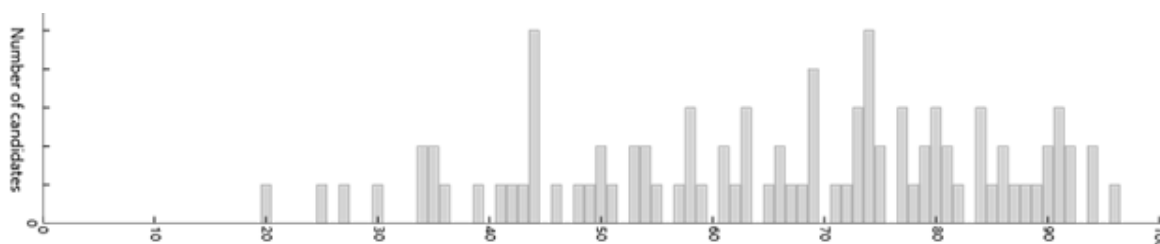
Year	Number who sat all examination components	Number of absentees from all examination components
2023	91	1
2022	94	2
2021	88	1
2020	86	2

The number of candidates sitting and the number attempting each section of the examination can differ as a result of non-attempts across sections of the examination.

Examination score distribution—Practical



Examination score distribution—Written



Summary

The examination consisted of a practical examination and a written examination. Overall, candidates performed better in the practical component than the written component.

Practical examination

The practical examination commenced with time for viewing and preparation of a stimulus in Part A, followed by discussion of the stimulus in Part B and conversation in Part C about the topics from Units 3 and 4.

Attempted by 91 candidates Mean 80.49% Max 100.00% Min 39.58%

Section means were:

Part B: Discussion of stimulus	Mean 81.23%		
Attempted by 91 candidates	Mean 40.61(/50)	Max 50.00	Min 22.92
Part C: Conversation	Mean 79.76%		
Attempted by 91 candidates	Mean 39.88(/50)	Max 50.00	Min 16.67

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 92 candidates	Mean 65.35%	Max 96.00%	Min 20.17%
Section means were:			
Section One: Response: Listening	Mean 57.54%		
Attempted by 92 candidates	Mean 17.26(/30)	Max 29.33	Min 4.00
Section Two: Response: Viewing and reading	Mean 64.56%		
Attempted by 92 candidates	Mean 25.82(/40)	Max 39.17	Min 3.33
Section Three: Written communication			
Part A: Stimulus response	Mean 72.37%		
Attempted by 91 candidates	Mean 8.68(/12)	Max 12.00	Min 0.00
Section Three: Written communication			
Part B: Extended response	Mean 75.45%		
Attempted by 91 candidates	Mean 13.58(/18)	Max 17.50	Min 0.00

General comments

Practical examination

The overall practical examination means were better than last year. Candidates performed well in both Parts B and C, with results for Part B being slightly higher. Many demonstrated a good understanding of the course content. Most candidates were aware of the process of the examination including the language that was involved at the beginning of Part B. There were a few candidates who were unsure of the process and instructions in the *Chinese: Second Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination requirements* document. Candidates generally had problems achieving well due to the lack of depth of information they provided. Some candidates did not elaborate on their answers by providing more information to support their opinions. It was evident that many candidates focused on using more conjunctions and sentence structures. However, some candidates did not do well with Language range (vocabulary and sentence structure). This was due to repetitive sentence structures being applied. Grammar problems such as the influence of English were few, however other grammatical problems, such as missing verbs in sentences and misusing conjunctions, still appeared quite often. Some candidates had to repeat the questions before answering them and flow of speech seemed to be a problem for quite a few.

Written examination

Marks in the written examination were slightly higher than the previous year. Most candidates completed the examination paper and demonstrated a sound overall understanding of all the texts and questions. Most questions were attempted by the majority of candidates, and they appeared to spend the appropriate time on each section. There were very few cases of candidates not completing questions.

In Section One: Response: Listening, candidates performed satisfactorily. When answering questions, some candidates did not provide all the details required to answer the question and used incorrect interpretations of vocabulary. In Section Two: Response: Viewing and reading, candidates generally performed well. Full marks were achieved in every question by

different candidates. Presenting correct vocabulary and grammar structures seemed to be a problem for many candidates. For true/false statement questions, it appeared as though quite a few candidates failed to make sure all the information was correct in each statement. There was a notable lack of producing full sentence answers and correct English. This resulted in answers not including grammatical structures or all the information that the question required. Section Three: Written communication Part A: Stimulus response, required candidates to demonstrate their proficiency in writing the Chinese language, including characters, knowledge of grammatical structures and vocabulary related to each topic. Many candidates performed very well in this section. Some candidates resorted to Pinyin and a few candidates appeared to have relied on rote learning to complete this section. Responses in Section Three: Written communication Part B: Extended response were authentic and natural. However, quite a few candidates did not use all the conventions of each of the texts required and neglected to answer the question directly. Accuracy in grammar and vocabulary appeared to be a problem for most candidates when answering the Extended response questions. Overall, most candidates displayed confidence in their knowledge of the topics, grammar and characters.

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.
- When answering questions do not repeat the question back to the examiner.

Advice for teachers

- Teachers are encouraged to discuss the oral examination process with students, so students know what to expect on the day. This includes 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.
- Expose students to different markers, this will 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.
- Encourage students to not repeat the question back or pause 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.
- 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 students' flow of speech.

Written examination

Advice for candidates

- Take time to read and understand each question and review your answers to make sure you are 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.
- Use correct vocabulary and grammar in its entirety to answer the question fully.
- Make sure your writing is easy to read.
- Ensure 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 related to the topics in the syllabus.
- Provide feedback including if the question is answered fully, the text type applied and an 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 high marks for most of the criteria, indicating that they were well prepared. However, candidates did not perform as well in Criterion 4, Language accuracy.

Part C: Conversations (24 Marks)

All candidates attempted this section. They were well prepared and demonstrated a satisfactory to excellent knowledge of the course content. Candidates achieved high marks for most criteria with Criterion 1 being slightly higher and Criterion 2 being slightly lower, revealing Response as an area of weakness. Some candidates lacked the ability to provide more in-depth information and language range when asked more questions.

Written examination

Section One: Response: Listening (45 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 and some responses did not answer the question.

Section Two: Response: Viewing and reading (48 Marks)

Candidates generally performed well in the reading section. Candidates provided extended answers which allowed them to achieve full marks. The majority of candidates attempted all the questions. While most showed an overall understanding of the texts, incorrect representations of vocabulary and grammar appeared to be a common issue. For true/false statement questions, it appeared as though quite a few candidates failed to make sure all the information was correct in each statement.

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. Some did not refer to the stimulus appropriately when answering the question and accuracy was also a problem for some. Candidates generally performed well in Part A.

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

Candidates generally performed well in Part B, with most responses being authentic and natural. Most candidates displayed a good knowledge of the topics and associated vocabulary. Accuracy in grammar and language range appeared 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.