



2013 Languages: Chinese Second Language Advanced GA 3: Examination

Written component

GENERAL COMMENTS

Many students performed very strongly in the 2013 Chinese Second Language Advanced examination. Most students demonstrated good skills in all language areas – listening, reading and translating, as well as essay writing – and achieved good results. A small number of students struggled in all sections.

In Section 1 – Listening and responding, most students handled the questions readily and competently. Students performed much better in Part B (answer in Chinese) than in Part A (answer in English). However, in both sections, many students gave incomplete responses that very often were missing detailed information.

In Section 2 – Reading, responding and translating, students managed the reading component very well, with many students gaining high marks for Questions 5 and 6. However, it is important that students read the questions carefully, making sure that the information they provide is relevant to the questions. Most students managed the translation tasks well. Students should note that knowing how to use dictionaries effectively will not only assist them to improve the quality of their translation, but will also help them to manage their time well. Students should also be aware of the importance of keeping a balance between a commitment to faithfulness to the source and the natural flow of the target language. For example, to achieve fluency, the words might not be in the same order in the translation as they are in the original texts.

In Section 3 – Writing in Chinese, most students showed an excellent understanding of the requirements of their chosen question. Many students were able to produce well-planned and well-structured essays covering a range of highly relevant information, using the correct features of their chosen text type, and varied and sophisticated sentence structures and vocabulary. However, some students failed to provide all the information needed to address the question fully, while a small number of students showed insufficient language skills to express their ideas accurately and clearly.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

This report provides sample answers or an indication of what answers may have included. Unless otherwise stated, these are not intended to be exemplary or complete responses.

Section 1 – Listening and responding

Part A – Answer in English

Most students handled this section well; however, many students failed to score full marks because their responses had insufficient details. For example, in Question 1, incomplete answers would include ‘purchase houses’ instead of ‘purchase big houses’, ‘purchase cars’ instead of ‘purchase good cars’, ‘holidaying’ instead of ‘holiday in China and overseas’ and ‘participate in sports activities’ instead of ‘participate in expensive sports activities’.

Text 1

Question 1

Increased wealth has enabled modern Chinese people to

- purchase big/large houses
- purchase expensive/good cars (not sports cars)
- holiday in China and overseas
- participate in expensive sports activities.

Text 2

Question 2

- Wang Ming likes to watch celebrity interviews and Chinese cartoons because they help him learn more Chinese characters and enrich his knowledge.
- He dislikes television series/dramas and children’s programs because they are long and boring, and he does not have much time/needs to get on with his homework.

Students needed to provide the names of programs and reasons for watching/not watching these programs.

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Part B – Answer in Chinese

In this part, students were required to understand the information as well as respond to the questions in Chinese characters. Students need to pay attention to detail when writing characters in order to avoid careless mistakes. The entire response was assessed for accuracy of language. When answering in Chinese, students are reminded to write in full sentences.

Text 3

Question 3

张明喜欢他的新房子，因为他的新房子比以前大了很多，有 11 间房间，4 间洗手间，后院（not: 后面）还有一个大篮球场。新房子的 风水很好，因为前面有小河，后面有山。

Section 2 – Reading, responding and translating

Part A – Answer in English

Students were required to read two texts and use the information in the texts to complete three tables. Most students completed this task successfully; however, many students mixed up the content of the two texts and completed the tables with the wrong information. It may be useful to prepare similar activities during the year to raise students' awareness of the importance of reading questions carefully, and to practise under examination conditions.

Text 4

Question 4a. – Geographic and demographic features

David's place

- is in the countryside and more than 200 kilometres away from Melbourne
- covers more than 2000 square kilometres
- has a population of about 1000.

Wang Le's place

- is a seaside city and not far from Beijing
- has a population of more than two million people
- covers 400 square kilometres
- is a small city in China.

Question 4b. – Historical background

David's place

- has a short history
- is where many Chinese people came to work in the 1850s.

Wang Le's place

- has 3000 years of history
- has historical sites everywhere
- is where many famous people have stayed/lived before.

Question 4c. – Type of work

David's place offers rural work/farm work/farming.

Wang Le's place offers

- industrial work
- commercial work/business (not economy).

Part B – Answer in Chinese

A large number of students handled this section confidently, demonstrating their competence in both understanding the text as well as producing accurate answers in Chinese. However, some students missed out on full marks because of careless character and grammar mistakes or they failed to write in full sentences.

Text 5

Question 5a.

中餐的特点有历史很长，做起来要花很长时间也不容易。中餐要又好看，又好吃。

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**Question 5b.**

西餐的好处是做起来不太难，不用太多的时间，而且比较健康。

Question 5c.

这些变化有在澳洲做中国餐用的东西和做的方法不一样。在中国近年来出现了很多西餐快餐店，很受中国中小学生的欢迎。

Students needed to answer in full sentences and provide all the requested information.

Part C – Translation

Criterion 1: understand the passage and convey the meaning in English

Descriptor	Mark
The entire content of the passage is conveyed in clear English and the student has demonstrated a thorough understanding of all the explicit, cultural and, where relevant, implied meanings.	9–10
The majority of the passage is conveyed in clear English and the student has demonstrated a good understanding of its explicit and cultural content but only some of its implied elements.	7–8
The majority of the passage is conveyed in English, although not always clearly, and the student has demonstrated an understanding of the main ideas. Some ideas have been missed, including important details.	5–6
A few parts of the passage are conveyed in English, and the student has demonstrated a limited understanding of the content.	3–4
There has been an attempt to convey partial phrases and isolated words in English, but the student has demonstrated only minimal understanding of the passage.	1–2
There is insufficient evidence to make a judgment.	0

Criterion 2: express the passage in fluent English (accuracy, clarity, fluency, structure, style)

Descriptor	Mark
The English is accurate, precise and coherent, free-flowing, logically sequenced and uses good connectives. Style is clearly recognisable and appropriate.	5
The English is proficient and relatively free-flowing, may contain some errors and a lack of precision, although this does not impede understanding. It is generally well structured and uses appropriate style.	4
The response contains errors that impede understanding of parts of the passage. Sequencing is largely governed by the order of the Chinese and style is not clearly marked.	3
The English is a literal translation from Chinese, and errors are so frequent that much of the message is incoherent. There is no attention to style.	2
The English barely conveys the meaning of the passage.	1
The English is insufficient to make a judgement.	0

In this section, students must ensure their spelling and grammar are correct.

Question 6

China is one of the four ancient civilisations of the world. China has a written history of more than 5000 years. The long history of China can be divided into three phases: the ancient time, modern time and contemporary time. The ancient and modern periods cover 3000 BC (and earlier) to 1911, and the contemporary period is from 1911 to the present. In Chinese history, the four inventions, which are marvellous, have had a big impact on people's lives. However, China has also learnt a lot of advanced knowledge from Western countries in contemporary times.

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Question 7

Taiwan is to the east of China and is about 700 kilometres from Shanghai. Not only are there high mountains and beautiful seas, but there are also rainforests. Taiwan is a very large island where there is plenty of delicious food and many fun places. If you have the opportunity to go to Taiwan, you must visit the night markets to taste many different snacks.

Question 8

Everyone has friends. Some people have many friends, while some have only a few. But everyone would have one or two close friends. What is a close friend? It is someone who will help you out when you are in trouble and who will share happiness with you.

Section 3 – Writing in Chinese

Although all questions were selected, Question 11 was the most popular, followed by Questions 12, 10 and 9. Many students demonstrated an excellent understanding of their chosen question. They included relevant information and used the appropriate structures. Nevertheless, it was common for students to miss one or two key elements that were required to achieve full marks. For example, in Question 9, students were required to write a diary entry that reflected a Year 12 exchange student's life, travel and study experiences in China. Many students failed to include information about the student's homestay experience, even though this was clearly stated in the task. Students were also penalised for not developing their written piece using the specific type or kind of writing designed for the question.

Criteria

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • relevance, breadth and depth of content | 6 marks |
| • appropriateness of structure and sequence | 6 marks |
| • accuracy, range and appropriateness of vocabulary and grammar | 8 marks |

Question 9

C1 – content 6 分

应包括以下几点：The following points could have been included.

- 在中国一年的学生生活，包括在中国人家里的寄宿生活
- 一年中学习的情况，包括汉语和另外一方面
- 一年中去了哪些地方旅游，景点的名称和特点

C2 – structure and sequence (日记) 6 分

- 日期；天气
- 开头，正文，结尾
- 结构严谨，段落间发展有序，句子连贯

C3 – language 8 分

整体评估：

- 评为满分者应达到以下五方面：
词汇丰富，表达准确，用词恰当，句型多样,无语言错误
- 评为 7 分者应词汇丰富，表达准确，用词恰当，句型多样,也许有个别语言错误
- 评为 5-6 分者词汇比较丰富，表达基本准确，用词总体恰当，句型有变化,有一些语言错误
- 各方面能力都比较弱，语言错误比较多者从 4 分起
- 各方面能力都差，语言错误很多者从 3 分起，依次递减。

1. 语言错误只是此项评估的一部分。

2. 语言错误包括

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-语法(病句或表达不恰当)

-错别字/繁简体字混用/使用拼音

3. 重复错误按一次考虑。

4. 文章过短, 语言一项也受影响

Question 10

C1 – content 6 分

应包括以下几点: The following points could have been included.

- 新地方的生活情况, 比如: 为什么喜欢, 和过去生活地方的不同之处
- 新学校和那里的学习环境
- 新地方有些什么休闲活动

C2 – structure and sequence (一封信) 6 分

- xx, 你好!, 祝好! 署名, 日期
- 开头, 正文, 结尾
- 段落间发展有序, 句子连贯

C3 – language 8 分 参见 Question 8

Question 11

C1 – content 6 分

应包括以下几点: The following points should have been included.

- 去年参加夏令营的情况和收获
- 鼓励学生参加今年夏令营的三个理由

C2 – structure and sequence (演讲) 6 分

- 大家好; 演讲题目; 我说完了/谢谢
- 开头, 正文, 结尾
- 段落间发展有序, 句子连贯

C3 – language 8 分 参见 Question 8

Question 12

C1 – content 6 分

应包括以下几点: The following points could have been included.

- 为什么要讨论这一问题
- 当名人有什么好处(至少两个)
- 当名人有什么坏处(至少两个)

C2 – structure and sequence (报刊文章) 6 分

- 《华人报》, 标题, 作者
- 开头, 正文, 结尾
- 段落间发展有序, 句子连贯

C3 – language 8 分 参见 Question 8

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Question 13

C1 – content 6 分

应包括以下几点: The following points should have been included.

- 故事发生的背景: 人类怎么被机器人控制的
- 反机器人俱乐部的情况和是如何反机器人的, 列举 2-3 个行动
- 结果, 经验和教训是什么

C2 – structure and sequence (故事) 6 分

- 题目, 作者
- 开头, 正文, 结尾
- 段落间发展有序, 句子连贯

C3 – language 8 分 参见 Question 8