



## **2012 Languages: Chinese Second Language GA 3: Examination**

### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

Students' performance in the 2012 Chinese Second Language examination was very good. It was evident that students and teachers had worked together and students achieved remarkable results.

In Section 1 – Listening and responding, students demonstrated good understanding of different texts and responded appropriately. In the past, the listening comprehension part of the examination has been the most challenging part for Chinese Second Language learners.

The new format of Section 2 – Reading, responding and translating required students to read two different texts and then combine the information to show their understanding (Question 5). The majority of students understood the task and responded appropriately. The key to success in this section is for students to read the texts carefully to ensure they comprehend all the elements before answering any questions. Students should check their dictionary if they are unsure of English or Chinese characters, phrases or expressions.

More attention should be paid to sentence patterns, Chinese idioms in the translation (Questions 6 and 7). Ideally, the translation should reflect the students' skill in thorough understanding of both Chinese and English. A literal translation is not an appropriate response. Checking words in the dictionary is strongly recommended.

Students coped better with Section 3 – Writing in Chinese than other sections and their choice of question was varied. The most common question chosen was Question 9. Only a small number of students choose Question 12 (imaginative writing).

Students are reminded to write clearly, as, if an assessor cannot read what is written, marks cannot be awarded.

### **SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

#### **Section 1 – Listening and responding**

##### **Part A – Answer in English**

Students should check their answers to ensure they have provided sufficient information to answer the questions, such as 一半的钱..., 还有一半... Special attention should be paid to Chinese grammar. Some students used ...和... to connect two separate sentences where a comma should be used.

##### **Question 1a.**

Because he is very nice/friendly/like a friend and often plays tennis/ball games with the students.

##### **Question 2a.**

He doesn't know what to buy for his girlfriend's birthday.

##### **Question 2b.**

She suggested buying a copy of the latest novel/buying the novel called *Beautiful Tomorrow/Tomorrow is Beautiful*.

Many girls love reading romantic novels/love stories.

##### **Part B – Answer in Chinese**

##### **Question 3a.**

因为打电话的时候大为可以看见别人, 别人也可以看见他。

##### **Question 3b.**

一半的钱是他爸爸妈妈春节的时候给他的, 还有一半是他做家教的钱。



## **Section 2 – Reading, responding and translating**

### **Part A – Answer in English**

Students should ensure that they include all relevant information when answering questions. They should read both the article and questions carefully and then ask themselves whether they fully understand what information is required. Irrelevant information should not be included. In Question 5, special attention was needed to give comprehensive and accurate information, and to use correct grammar and spelling.

#### **Question 4a.**

Their lives immediately become faster/quicker.

#### **Question 4b.**

It is very common for people to spend between one and two hours on the way to work or on the way home from work. They have to wait a long time for public buses but want to be the first onto the buses as well. Sometimes elderly and very young people find it almost impossible to get on the bus. The public buses are so crowded that people can even sleep without falling over.

#### **Question 4c.**

They work eight hours each day. Many people have to work overtime at night. There is no time for dinner, and it is difficult to predict when they can go home.

#### **Question 4d.**

The individual: Those living in the metropolis have neither the time nor the inclination to do what they love as they are extremely busy and exhausted.

Society: The relationship among the friends is disintegrating further.

### **Part B – Answer in Chinese**

#### **Question 5**

王为会借《中国学校》，因为他/她想研究中国的大、中、小学。马明想去中国很多地方玩，他/她会借《在中国旅游》。谢红会借《穿在中国》，因为她想研究中国人的衣服。李秋要借《北京游》和《北京的茶馆》，因为她想去北京玩一个月，还想晚上出去喝喝茶。白雨对中国的天气很有兴趣，所以他/她会借《中国气象》这本书。高山会借《中国家常》和《中国风味小吃》，因为他/她想研究中国人的日常生活和吃的东西。

### **Part C – Translation**

In this section, some students performed at a very high level. With the help of the dictionary, the majority of the students were able to cope with the two questions. Students should ensure that they present a proper English translation with correct tenses, sentence patterns and a proper understanding of the use of some Chinese idioms. Students should ensure that they manage their time well.

#### **Question 6**

Xiao Li's dad runs a restaurant and he can cook dishes/food that are/is both yummy and beautifully presented. Therefore, his business is prosperous. His mum is a Chinese teacher. Her teaching is lively and interesting, so all the students like her. Xiao Li's elder sister is a doctor, who works conscientiously. All the patients want to see her. Xiao Li is also a good student at school and is liked by all the teachers. Everyone in his family is outstanding.

Students are reminded that punctuation may not be identical when Chinese is translated into English. For example, a Chinese comma may be a full stop in English.



**Question 7**

In the past, the number of foreigners who were able to live in China for a long time could easily be counted. Sometimes they had very little freedom with their activities. Nowadays, China is very open to foreigners and they are treated equally. Hundreds of thousands of foreigners have a Chinese 'Residential Permit'. Thus it is a common occurrence for them to travel, work and live in China. They travel in and out of China with much more freedom. The 'Residential Permit' is not only the symbol of China as an open society but also very convenient for foreigners who live and work in China. It is believed that even more foreigners will have their dreams come true in the future.

**Section 3 – Writing in Chinese**

Questions 8 and 9 were the most popular. Some students wrote good answers that had a proper structure and sophisticated language. Students should read and understand all questions before choosing which one to answer, and plan what information to include and in what sequence. When responding to personal topics, ideas, opinions or feelings should be included.

**Question 8**

The following points could have been included.

- 庆祝圣诞节 – Christmas celebration
- 观看或参加夏季体育运动 – watch or participate in summer sports
- 参观名胜古迹 – visit some historic sites and famous tourist attractions
- 体验不同文化、风土人情 – experience a different culture and local customs
- 交新的女/男朋友 – meet a new girlfriend/boyfriend
- 品尝美味佳肴 – taste some delicious food

**Question 9**

The following points could have been included.

- 学习如何踢澳式足球/板球/女子无板篮球/橄榄球/冲浪/滑雪/潜水 – learn how to play footy/cricket/netball/rugby/surf/ski/dive
- 新鲜、刺激 – new and exciting experience
- 锻炼身体 – physical exercises
- 磨练意志 – developing willpower
- 有趣的休闲活动，回中国后能向中国同学推荐、推广 – interesting leisure activity that can be recommended to other Chinese students when they go back to China

**Question 10**

The following points could have been included.

- 过去一起淘气、冒险的秘密，一些只有你们俩才知道的事 – some secrets of mischief and adventure only between the two of you
- 这些事极大地增进你们之间的友谊与信任 – those anecdotes significantly increased the friendship and trust between the two of you
- 现在回想起来还觉得回味无穷，如有机会你还愿意再去尝试 – feel enormous happiness when you recall them and would like to do it again

**Question 11**

The following points could have been included.

- 非常方便、干净卫生 – very convenient and good hygiene
- 小卖部品种多，既有美味可口的食品又有大家所喜爱的饮料 – variety of things, very tasty food and drink loved by all
- 一些没有办法带到学校的东西，如冰淇淋 – ice-cream that students can't prepare beforehand
- 每天如果去晚了要排长队，费时费力 – queue if late every day, waste a lot of time and energy
- 食品饮料价格不菲 – too expensive
- 有些是垃圾食品（如油炸食品） – junk food such as deep-fried dishes

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## Question 12

The following point could have been included.

- 你应邀和这一人物一起去冒险,如何一步步陷入困境,又如何和他/她一起一步步化险为夷。 - You are invited to set out on an adventure with this character. You gradually land yourselves in a predicament, but then manage to head off a disaster.