



2013 Languages: Chinese Second Language GA 3: Examination

Written component

GENERAL COMMENTS

Overall, students performed well on the 2013 VCE Chinese Second Language examination. Most students finished the examination in the allocated time.

Most students appeared to be familiar with the format of the examination and almost all responded in the appropriate language for each section. However, some students did not read the instructions carefully and wrote their responses in the wrong place. By the time of the examination, students should be well-trained in how to handle Section 2 – Reading and responding. Students should remember that the amount of answer space is a good indication of the length of the response required. Students should check if a question requires them to present their answer in point form or in full sentences. This is important as they are required to answer in full sentences in Chinese in Part B of Section 1 – Listening and responding and Part B of Section 2 – Reading and responding.

Many students understood the translation tasks well. Other students seemed to understand the Chinese texts but were unable to translate them into appropriate English. Students are advised that they should not translate word for word from Chinese.

The majority of students answered all questions satisfactorily in Section 2, despite some questions in this section requiring some analysis. However, quite a few students did not read the questions carefully and provided inappropriate or incomplete answers. Students must understand that analytical and evaluation skills, as well as comprehension skills, are required in this section. The questions in this section may require students to look at a whole passage, not only one sentence or paragraph, to arrive at an answer. Students are advised to consult their dictionaries when answering questions as many responses contained spelling mistakes and grammatical errors. Furthermore, students should not provide information beyond the scope of the question and should not include prior knowledge of the topic if it is not included in the texts.

Most students performed well in Section 3 – Writing in Chinese. The majority of students chose Question 10, 11 or 12. They completed the questions in the correct register, format and style. However, some did not read the instructions carefully and did not meet the requirements of the task. A few students did not adhere to the formats required for the different writing styles and text types. Students are advised to develop a plan before they start the writing task and practise different kinds of writing tasks throughout the year.

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

Many students appeared to understand the two listening texts well and demonstrated their ability to summarise and analyse information. However, some students struggled to convey their meaning in English. Students should use the reading time to focus on the questions in this section so they can predict what the listening texts might be about. Students should also learn note-taking skills and provide as much relevant information as possible when answering each question. Most questions contained two or three aspects that needed to be answered, but some students focused only on one aspect of the question.

Text 1

Question 1

Any three of

- do not need to spend much time/save time every day
- do not need to walk with them every day
- can be your friend
- playful/fun
- does not cost much (do not have to spend a lot of money/save money as they eat less).



Text 2

Question 2

- He watches Chinese cartoons in order to improve his Chinese/help him learn Chinese.
- He does not like to watch TV series because he wants to make good use of time for his homework.

Students received no marks for 'He likes watching Chinese cartoons'.

Part B – Answer in Chinese

In this part, students were required to demonstrate their capacity to understand general and specific aspects of a Chinese listening text by responding in Chinese. Most students showed a sound understanding of the content of the text.

Marks were awarded for comprehension of the text as well as the capacity to convey information accurately and appropriately in Chinese.

Most students did well in this part. However, students must ensure that they respond in complete sentences and that their sentences communicate their ideas in their own words. Some students answered in point form, taking extracts directly from the spoken text. This did not allow them to demonstrate their ability to communicate fluently in the language. Some students did not provide complete answers.

Text 3

Question 3a.

今年澳大利亚网球公开赛成功的原因:

1. 很多有名的网球明星都来了
2. 今年来看网球的人比去年的多(得多), 而且
3. 天气非常好, (不冷也不热, 也没有下雨)

Question 3b.

马丽明年会去看澳大利亚网球公开赛, 因为

1. 她喜欢看中国球星打网球, 而且
2. 大华会为她买票。

Section 2 – Reading, responding and translating

Part A – Answer in English

Most students successfully completed the questions relating to the comprehension of a Chinese reading text in this part of the examination. Part A was worth 15 marks and was based on one text in Chinese. Students should be prepared to comment not only on the content of the text, but also on the purpose of the text and the type of audience it is addressing.

Some students misunderstood Question 4c. The question was about the type of work, not about whether the industries were advanced or not. In order to handle this section of the examination, students should read the questions carefully. They should also practise identifying and summarising the main points and ideas in the texts. It is not necessary to know the meaning of all words if they are not key words in the text; instead, students should try to understand the gist of the text. Students are also reminded that all answers must be based on the information provided in the text and not on prior knowledge.

Text 4

Question 4a.

David's place

- is in the countryside/a rural area/a farming area
- covers 2000 square kilometres/has a population of more than 1000.

Wang Le's place

- is a seaside (coastal) city
- is not far from Beijing
- has a population of more than two million people
- covers 400 square kilometres only

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- is a small city/town in China.

Question 4b.

David's place

- does not have a long history
- is where many Chinese people came to work in the 1850s.

Wang Le's place

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

Question 4c.

David's place offers

- rural work/farm work/farming.

Wang Le's place offers

- industrial work
- commercial/business work.

Part B – Answer in Chinese

This part assessed students' capacity to understand general and specific aspects of the text, and their capacity to convey information accurately and appropriately in Chinese. Most students provided the correct information to adequately complete all questions. However, some students lacked the skills needed to analyse and summarise the text and simply copied one or two paragraphs from the text as their response. Students should take advantage of the fact that the questions in this section are given in both Chinese and English.

Text 5

Question 5a.

中餐的特点有：

1. 中餐有很长的历史
2. 中餐做起来要花很长时间
3. 做起来也不容易
4. 中餐要又好看又好吃

Question 5b.

西餐的好处是：

1. 西餐做起来不太难
2. 不用太多的时间做西餐，而且
3. 西餐比较健康

Question 5c.

澳洲的中国餐和在中国西餐近年来的变化是：

在澳洲

1. 又开了很多中餐馆
2. 澳洲的中国饭馆的中国餐用的东西不一样，做法不一样

在中国

1. 出现了很多西餐快餐店

Part C – Translation

Most students understood the translation passages well and conveyed the meaning of these passages accurately and fluently. Some students seemed to understand the passages well in Chinese, but suffered from poor expression in English. Students are reminded that Chinese and English are different in terms of syntax and expression, and they should not translate word for word from Chinese.



Question 6

China is one of the four ancient civilisations in the world. It has a written history of more than 5000 years. The long history of China can be divided into three phases: ancient time, modern time and contemporary times. The ancient and modern periods cover 3000 BC (and earlier) to 1911, and the contemporary period is from 1911 to present.

Question 7

Taiwan is to the east of China and is about 700 kilometres away 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

My mum was born in 1962 in a northern city in China. She has an elder brother, sisters and a younger brother. When she started schooling, she would go home and do her homework as soon as school finished. Then she would either look after her younger siblings or do some household chores. At that time, she hardly had time to play ball games or sports, not to mention watch movies.

Section 3 – Writing in Chinese

This section assessed students' ability to express ideas through the creation of an original text in Chinese using the following criteria.

- relevance, breadth and depth of content
- appropriateness of structure and sequence
- accuracy, range and appropriateness of vocabulary and grammar

Students were required to write in Chinese on one of the five topics given. Each topic represented a different text type and style of writing (personal, imaginative, informative, persuasive and evaluative). All questions were attempted by students, although there was a clear preference for informative and evaluative writing.

Students, on the whole, displayed a good knowledge of the different characteristics of the text type and writing style they chose. However, students must be aware that they need to include the features of the text type or writing style.

Of the three criteria in this section, students did not perform well against 'relevance, breadth and depth of content'. The selected topic should be one that students have a good knowledge of, and one for which they have a good range of relevant vocabulary and are able to express themselves accurately.

Question 9

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 – one year of a student's life in China, including a homestay with a Chinese family
- 一年中学习汉语和中国文化的情况 – the experience of learning Chinese and learning about Chinese culture during the year
- 一年中去了哪些地方旅游，景点的名称和特点 – where you travelled, including the name(s) and features of the tourist spot(s)

Question 10

The following points could have been included.

- 新学校有什么特点 – features of your school
- 新的学习环境的特点 – study environment at your new place
- 新地方有些什么新的休闲活动 – any new leisure activities at your new place
- 你是否喜欢你的新地方 – whether you like your new place

Question 11

The following points could have been included.

- 去年的夏令营有什么特点 – features of last year's summer camp
- 为什么要鼓励学生参加夏令营，三个理由是什么 – why students are encouraged to attend the summer camp, what the three aspects/reasons are

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Question 12

The following points could have been included.

- 人们现在对当名人有什么看法和争论的焦点 – what opinions people have about celebrities and justifications for their opinions
- 当名人有什么好处（至少两个） – the advantages of being a celebrity
- 当名人有什么坏处（至少两个） – the disadvantages of being a celebrity

Question 13

The following points could have been included.

- 人类怎么被机器人控制的 – how human beings have been controlled by robots
- 反机器人俱乐部是一个什么样的组织 – what kind of organisation is your human club against robots
- 你作为俱乐部的会员是如何反机器人的，列举三个行动 – actions you have taken against robots, as a member of the club
- 你的经验和教训是什么 – what experiences you have had and lessons you have learnt

Accuracy, range and appropriateness of vocabulary and grammar

- accuracy of vocabulary and grammar
- variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures