



GCSE **Chinese (Mandarin)**

8673/RF Paper 3 Reading Foundation Tier

Report on the Examination

8673
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General Comments

It was encouraging to see that the performance on the 2024 reading papers was very similar to 2023, with students achieving similar grades. The mean mark overall was 27, an increase of nearly 2 marks on 2023. This year's paper proved to be accessible to all students and it is clear that a majority of students had been appropriately prepared for a wide range of topics across the paper. Among the questions, Q5 and Q13 appeared to be most challenging, because students were not familiar with the topic areas. The foundation translation again proved challenging for nearly all students. However, Q7, Q8 and Q11 showed that the students performed well in those topic areas with familiar vocabulary and that they understood basic opinions.

Unfortunately, handwriting continues to be an occasional issue for examiners and students should be reminded of the need to write their answers, and any changes that have been made, as clearly as possible.

Question 1

More than 50% of students demonstrated a good understanding of this question and gained more than 2 marks. The success rate for 01.1 was 64%. The topic 'My studies' was accessible to students and the question style familiar.

Question 2

This question met with mixed responses and proved challenging to many students, even though it was designed to be of low demand. The vocabulary 弹吉他 was not well known to students, which led to less than 30% of students scoring marks on 02.2. Students performed well in 02.1 and 02.4, with success rates of 67% and 72% respectively.

Question 3

The success rate for this question was mixed. 68% of students gained full marks on 03.1, but only 29% on 03.2. Students at this tier were not familiar with some of the vocabulary used, such as 美术 and 演员.

Question 4

This question required students to identify key ideas from a longer text containing three tenses. Apart from 04.1, the rest of the questions were reasonably successfully answered, with 60% of students giving the correct response for 04.2 and 50% for 04.3.

Question 5

This question tested the topic of family (marriage), and the question type was challenging. The majority of students were unfamiliar with the vocabulary 男朋友, 结婚, 女朋友 and 早结婚 and thus were unable to answer appropriately, either failing to respond or giving vague answers like 'love her friends' and 'lots of money.' With only 4% of students gaining full marks on 05.1 and 65% of students scoring zero, this question clearly represented a big challenge to most students. Furthermore, as few as 1% of students gained full marks on 05.2. Students were unfamiliar with the expression '太早结婚,' which led to very few scoring more than 2 marks overall.

Question 6

This question was aimed at the highest levels for this tier and tested scanning skills. Students performed quite well. The most challenging parts of a T/F/NT question type tend to be the NT parts and there was one NT at the end of Question 6. Despite this, 75% of students correctly answered 06.3, which was very pleasing.

Question 7

Students had been well prepared for this type of question and performed well. Overall, over 80% of students gained marks on 07.1, 07.2 and 07.3. It was pleasing to note that students performed better in choosing P+N sentences because they could identify ‘但是,’ despite the presence of distractors like ‘对眼睛不好.’

Question 8

08.3 and 08.4 were generally well answered, with 67% and 83% of students respectively gaining full marks. However, some students were unfamiliar with the vocabulary 队 and 队员 in 08.2, causing confusion and incorrect responses. It was disappointing to note that only 36% of students could recognise and translate ‘累’ successfully, despite this being part of the vocabulary for basic opinions.

Question 9

Students performed very well in this set of questions, with over 85% of students gaining at least 2 marks. Students were asked to select 3 correct statements out of 6 options, requiring a good understanding of some specific details in a long text.

Question 10

The topic of food is always accessible to students. The format of this question was selecting answers from a table. Nearly 90% of students gained 2 out of 3 marks, despite the presence of the distractors ‘没有’ and ‘不想’.

Question 11

Students performed extremely well in most parts of this question, with 92% of students answering 11.1 correctly, 62% gaining a mark for 11.2 and 55% for 11.4. Students were clearly comfortable with this multiple-choice question format. Although the topic seemed generally challenging, the questions were accessible to this tier of students. Even 11.3, which proved the hardest part of the question, still had a success rate of 28%.

Question 12

This was the second overlap literacy question. Despite the question style being one that students were familiar with, it proved challenging. It tested various topics including where you live, time phrases, verbs, and festivals. Questions 12.2 and 12.4 proved particularly challenging, with only 25% of students gaining a mark for 12.2 and 30% for 12.4, despite the glossary support. Many students chose answer A due to ‘朋友’ appearing in the first sentence and missed ‘study room’ in the second sentence. Performance on 12.1 and 12.3 was better.

Question 13

This is a challenging type of question and only about 20% of students gained 2 or more marks out of 4. Those who answered incorrectly did not understand the expressions 很晚才回家 and 没有时间和家人在一起. However, some students correctly identified 太忙 and 工作. In addition, all examiners noticed that some students wrote the answers in the wrong boxes, which prevented them from scoring marks.

Question 14

In the reading paper, the translation task is always rather challenging for students. In Question 14, the majority of students performed poorly in the translation of the first two sentences, with only very small numbers of students gaining full marks. It demonstrated that most students at this tier were not familiar with the comparison structure, time expressions and certain hobbies. It is pleasing to see that most students translated the past tense well and were familiar with basic hobbies.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.