

**GCSE
CHINESE (MANDARIN)
8673/WH**

Paper 4 Writing Higher

Mark scheme

June 2021

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Mark schemes are prepared by the Lead Assessment Writer and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all associates participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every associate understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each associate analyses a number of students' scripts. Alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, associates encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Lead Examiner.

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Part 1 – General marking guidance for GCSE MFL Writing Tests

Level of response marking instructions

Level of response mark schemes are broken down into levels, each of which has a descriptor. The descriptor for the level shows the average performance for the level. There are marks in each level.

Before you apply the mark scheme to a student's answer read through the answer and annotate it (as instructed) to show the qualities that are being looked for. You can then apply the mark scheme.

Step 1 Determine a level

Start at the lowest level of the mark scheme and use it as a ladder to see whether the answer meets the descriptor for that level. The descriptor for the level indicates the different qualities that might be seen in the student's answer for that level. If it meets the lowest level then go to the next one and decide if it meets this level, and so on, until you have a match between the level descriptor and the answer. With practice and familiarity you will find that for better answers you will be able to quickly skip through the lower levels of the mark scheme.

When assigning a level you should look at the overall quality of the answer and not look to pick holes in small and specific parts of the answer where the student has not performed quite as well as the rest. If the answer covers different aspects of different levels of the mark scheme you should use a best fit approach for defining the level and then use the variability of the response to help decide the mark within the level, ie if the response is predominantly level 3 with a small amount of level 4 material it would be placed in level 3 but be awarded a mark near the top of the level because of the level 4 content.

Step 2 Determine a mark

Once you have assigned a level you need to decide on the mark. The descriptors on how to allocate marks can help with this. The exemplar materials used during standardisation will help. There will be an answer in the standardising materials which will correspond with each level of the mark scheme. This answer will have been awarded a mark by the Lead Examiner. You can compare the student's answer with the example to determine if it is the same standard, better or worse than the example. You can then use this to allocate a mark for the answer based on the Lead Examiner's mark on the example.

You may well need to read back through the answer as you apply the mark scheme to clarify points and assure yourself that the level and the mark are appropriate.

Indicative content in the mark scheme is provided as a guide for examiners. It is not intended to be exhaustive and you must credit other valid points. Students do not have to cover all of the points mentioned in the Indicative content to reach the highest level of the mark scheme.

An answer which contains nothing of relevance to the question must be awarded no marks.

Marks will be allocated in the following way at Higher Tier:

	Content	Quality of language	Range of language	Accuracy	Conveying key messages	Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures	Total
Question 1	10	6					16
Question 2	15		12	5			32
Question 3					6	6	12
Total	25	6	12	5	6	6	60

Higher Question 1/Foundation Question 4

10 marks for Content + 6 marks for Quality of language (16 marks in total).

Candidates write approximately 75 characters in total about four different bullet points. All bullet points must be covered, but **there is no need for equal coverage of the bullets**.

When deciding a particular mark, it is advisable to identify the band of marks first, and then decide whether you are tempted by the band above or the band below. This will enable you to award an appropriate mark within a mark range.

The question is marked for Content and for Quality of language, according to the following criteria.

(NOTE THAT THESE CRITERIA ARE DIFFERENT FROM FOUNDATION QUESTION 2):

Content

Marks	Response
9–10	A very good response covering all aspects of the task. Communication is clear and a lot of information is conveyed. Opinions are expressed.
7–8	A good response covering all aspects of the task. Communication is mostly clear but perhaps with occasional lapses. Quite a lot of information is conveyed. Opinions are expressed.
5–6	A reasonable response covering almost all aspects of the task. Communication is generally clear but there are likely to be lapses. Some information is conveyed. An opinion is expressed.
3–4	A basic response covering some aspects of the task. Communication is sometimes clear but there are instances where messages break down. Little information is conveyed. An opinion is expressed.
1–2	A limited response covering some aspects of the task. Communication is often not clear and there may be frequent instances where messages break down. Very little information is conveyed. There may be no opinions expressed.
0	The content does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

The candidate's response must be relevant to the bullet points. Any information which cannot be deemed relevant in the broadest sense must be ignored when awarding the mark for Content.

A **minimum** number of bullet points must be covered for the award of marks for Content, as follows:

- 7–10 marks: 4 bullet points
- 5–6 marks: 3 bullet points
- 3–4 marks: 2 bullet points
- 1–2 marks: 1 bullet point

The information that the candidate gives must be clear. If what is written is unclear, this will have a bearing on the mark for Content. For example, the candidate may convey information in relation to all four bullet points, but lapses in clarity may mean that a lower mark than the 9 or 10 is more appropriate. The more lapses in clarity that there are, the lower the mark is likely to be. All of the information that a candidate attempts to give in relation to a particular bullet point may be unintelligible, in which case that bullet point will not have been covered, meaning that the **maximum mark** will be 6.

You must accept any information which is a plausible response to the bullet point, even if it does not explicitly mention, for instance, a time or place. For example, if the bullet asks what the candidate did last weekend, and he/she writes 'I went to see my grandparents and then went to a theme park', this can feasibly be an account of what happened last weekend, even though 'last weekend' is not mentioned. Equally, if the student is asked to say what he/she does on a typical visit to a shopping centre and they write 'I bought some clothes and went to see a film', this is also an acceptable fulfilment of the task, even though 'shopping centre' is not mentioned.

The band refers to the amount of information that is conveyed, as follows:

- 9–10: a lot
- 7–8: quite a lot
- 5–6: some
- 3–4: little
- 1–2: very little

All of these have to be considered with reference to the suggested number of characters, which is approximately 75. In other words, a candidate who writes approximately 75 characters, clearly understandable and relevant to all four bullet points, will be able to achieve 10 marks, provided the other criteria are met. Conversely, a candidate may write much more than 75 characters, but the language is so inaccurate that little or very little information is conveyed successfully and the mark will be much lower. If a candidate writes considerably fewer than 75 characters, 'a lot of information' will not be conveyed.

The candidate must give opinions in order to have access to certain marks, as follows:

- 7–10: two opinions
- 3–6: one opinion

This is not an automatic mark and the other criteria within a particular band must be met. If there is no opinion, the maximum mark is 2. An opinion may be expressed simply, for example: 'I like going shopping'. Any positive or negative adjective ('interesting'; 'boring', etc) is classed as an opinion. A neutral or descriptive adjective is only classed as an opinion if it is preceded by something like 'I think that'. For example: 'I think that my town is big'.

Quality of language

Marks	Response
5–6	A variety of appropriate vocabulary is used. Complex structures and sentences are attempted. There are references to three time frames, which are largely successful. Errors are mainly minor. Some more serious errors may occur, particularly in complex structures and sentences, but the intended meaning is nearly always clear. The style and register are appropriate.
3–4	Some variety of appropriate vocabulary is used. There may be some attempt at complex structures and sentences. There are references to at least two different time frames, although these may not always be successful. There may be some major errors, and more frequent minor errors, but overall the response is more accurate than inaccurate and the intended meaning is usually clear. The style and register may not always be appropriate.
1–2	The range of vocabulary may be narrow, repetitive and/or inappropriate to the needs of the task. Sentences are mainly short and simple or may not be properly constructed. There may be frequent major and minor errors. Little or no awareness of style and register.
0	The language produced does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

The whole of the response must be assessed when awarding the mark for Quality of language, even if some of it is irrelevant to the bullet points.

Once you have decided on the mark for Content, you should read through the response once more and decide on the mark for Quality of language. A mark of 0 for Content automatically results in a mark of 0 for Quality of language but, apart from that, the Content mark does not limit the mark for Quality of language. However, a short piece is unlikely to demonstrate sufficient variety for a high mark for Quality of language.

- Each band has five strands: variety of vocabulary; complexity of structures and sentences; reference to time frames; accuracy of the language; style and register. Sometimes it will be necessary to adopt a 'best fit' approach, because the five strands will not be consistently demonstrated. Whether it is the top or bottom mark in the band will depend on whether the criteria are nearer to those of the band above or below.
- In order to score in the 5–6 band, there **must** be reference to all three time frames (past, present and future). For the 3–4 band, there **must** be reference to at least two time frames. Reference to a particular time frame may be demonstrated with one example. The verb used to refer to a particular time frame need not be totally correct, provided the message is clear. These marks are not awarded automatically and the other criteria in the band are equally important. Notice that references are to **time frames**, not tenses. So, for example, the present tense usage in the following sentence is a reference to a **future** time frame: 'I'm going to the concert next week'.
- When considering the complexity of the language, you should bear in mind that a) this is the overlap question and is attempted by both Foundation and Higher candidates; b) that the criteria for Quality of language in this question are not as demanding as the language criteria for Higher Question 2. However, for a mark of 5 or 6, complex structures and sentences are attempted. They may not always be successful and this may lead to serious errors because of the complexity of the structure or sentence which the candidate attempts. Complexity may be shown in some of the following ways: different tenses; intensifiers; time markers; connectives; subordinate clauses; infinitive constructions. This should not be seen as a 'tick list', but rather as an indication of the definition of complexity at GCSE level.

- The setting and bullet points are likely to mean that the style and register of the writing will be appropriate. If informal address is used when the task is in a formal setting, or vice versa, there is no need to penalise the candidate merely for that. It may, however, be a contributory factor in the award of the overall mark if there are other weaknesses.
- There is no requirement for candidates to present their piece of writing in a particular way because of the context, eg a blog or email does not need to look like a blog or email. It is the content which is to be marked.

Higher Question 2

15 marks for Content + 12 marks for Range of language + 5 marks for Accuracy (32 marks in total).

Candidates write approximately 125 characters in total about two different bullet points. Both bullet points must be covered, but **there is no need for equal coverage of the bullets**.

When deciding a particular mark, it is advisable to identify the band of marks first, and then decide whether you are tempted by the band above or the band below. This will enable you to award an appropriate mark within a mark range.

The question is marked for Content, for Range of language and for Accuracy, according to the following criteria:

Content

Marks	Response
13–15	An excellent response which is fully relevant and detailed, conveying a lot of information. Communication is clear with little or no ambiguity. Opinions are expressed and justified.
10–12	A very good response which is almost always relevant and which conveys a lot of information. Communication is mostly clear but there are a few ambiguities. Opinions are expressed and justified.
7–9	A good response which is generally relevant with quite a lot of information conveyed. Communication is usually clear but there are some ambiguities. Opinions are expressed and may be justified.
4–6	A reasonable response with some relevant information conveyed. Communication is sometimes clear but there may be instances where messages break down. An opinion is expressed.
1–3	A basic response which conveys a limited amount of relevant information. Communication may not be clear and there are instances where messages break down. An opinion may be expressed.
0	The content does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

The candidate's response must be relevant to the bullet points. Any information which cannot be deemed relevant must be ignored when awarding the mark for Content. However, as the bullet points are much more open-ended, there is scope for candidates to include information which is still relevant but not in direct response to a bullet point. For example, when addressing a bullet point requiring a response about a memorable holiday, candidates may refer to where they might go on a future holiday. Any information which cannot be deemed at all relevant must be ignored when awarding the mark for Content.

As with the overlap question, you must accept, as an accomplishment of the task, any plausible response to a bullet point, even if an element such as time or place are missing.

- In order to score a mark of 13 or more for Content, both bullet points must be covered. However, there is no requirement for an equal coverage of both bullet points.
- A candidate who conveys information in relation to one bullet point only can score a maximum of 12 marks for Content.
- Provided at least some coverage of both bullet points is evident, candidates will have access to full marks where the other criteria are met.
- The bands refer to the amount of information that is conveyed, as follows:

13–15: a lot
 10–12: a lot
 7–9: quite a lot
 4–6: some
 1–3: a limited amount

All of these have to be considered with reference to the recommended number of characters which is approximately 125. In other words, a candidate who writes approximately 125 characters, clearly understandable and relevant to both bullet points, will be able to achieve 15 marks provided the other criteria are met. Conversely, a candidate may write much more than 125 characters, but the language is so inaccurate that only a limited amount of information is conveyed successfully. If a candidate writes considerably fewer than 125 characters, 'a lot of information' will not be conveyed.

- The candidate must give and justify opinions in order to have access to certain marks, as follows:

10–15: at least two opinions are expressed and justified
 7–9: at least two opinions are expressed
 4–6: at least one opinion is expressed

This is not an automatic mark and the other criteria within a particular band must be met. If there is no opinion, the maximum mark is 3. Any opinion may be expressed simply, for example: 'I like going shopping'. Any positive or negative adjective ('interesting'; 'boring', etc) is classed as an opinion or a justification of an opinion. A neutral or descriptive adjective is only classed as an opinion or a justification if it is preceded by something like 'I think that'. For example: 'I think that my town is big' (opinion); or a neutral adjective can be given as a justification of an opinion: 'I like my town because it is big' (opinion + justification).

- Once the correct band has been decided upon, the middle mark in the band will be given to a candidate whose writing fits the band well. If the band above was a consideration, then award the higher of the three marks; if the band below was a consideration, then award the lower of the three marks.

Range of language

Marks	Response
10–12	Very good variety of appropriate vocabulary and structures. More complex sentences are handled with confidence, producing a fluent piece of coherent writing. The style and register are appropriate.
7–9	Good variety of appropriate vocabulary and structures. More complex sentences are regularly attempted and are mostly successful, producing a mainly fluent piece of coherent writing with occasional lapses. The style and register are appropriate.
4–6	Some variety of appropriate vocabulary and structures. Longer sentences are attempted, using appropriate linking words, often successfully. The style and register may not always be appropriate.
1–3	Little variety of appropriate vocabulary. Structures are likely to be short and simple. Little or no awareness of style and register.
0	The range of language produced does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

The whole of the response must be assessed when awarding the mark for Range of language, even if some of it is irrelevant to the bullet points.

Once you have decided on the mark for Content, you should read through the response once more and decide on the mark for Range of language and for Accuracy. A mark of 0 for Content automatically results in a mark of 0 for Range of language but, apart from that, the Content mark does not limit the Range of language mark. However, a short piece is unlikely to show sufficient variety for a high mark for Range of language.

- Each band has five strands: variety of vocabulary; variety of structures; complexity of sentences; fluency of the writing; style and register. For a mark of 12, there will be good evidence that the criteria for all five strands have been met comfortably. Sometimes it will be necessary to adopt a 'best fit' approach, because the five strands will not be consistently demonstrated. Once the correct band has been decided upon, the middle mark in the band will be given to a candidate whose writing fits the band well. If the band above was a consideration, then award the higher of the three marks; if the band below was a consideration, then award the lower of the three marks.
- There must be more complex sentences for the candidate to score 7 marks or more. For a mark in the 10–12 band, the complex sentences are produced confidently, with few errors in structure; for a mark in the 7–9 band, the attempts at complex sentences are **mostly** successful. Complex sentences may be formed in some of the following ways across the languages: use of subordinate clauses; use of relative clauses; use of infinitive constructions; the use of object pronouns within a sentence to lend greater fluency. This should not be seen as a 'tick list', but rather as an indication of the definition of complexity at GCSE level.
- The setting and bullet points are likely to mean that the style and register of the writing will be appropriate. If informal address is used when the task is in a formal setting, or vice versa, there is no need to penalise the candidate merely for that. It may, however, be a contributory factor in the award of the overall mark if there are other weaknesses.
- There is no requirement for candidates to present their piece of writing in a particular way because of the context, eg a blog or email does not need to look like a blog or email. It is the content which is to be marked.

Accuracy

Marks	Response
5	Accurate, although there may be a few errors, especially in attempts at more complex structures. Verbs and tense formations are secure.
4	Generally accurate. Some minor errors. Occasional major errors, usually in attempts at more complex structures. Verbs and tense formations are nearly always correct.
3	Reasonably accurate. There are likely to be minor errors and there may be some major errors, not only in complex structures. Verb and tense formations are usually correct.
2	More accurate than inaccurate. The intended meaning is generally clear. Verb and tense formations are sometimes correct.
1	There may be major errors and frequent minor ones, and the intended meaning is not always clear. There is only limited success with verb and tense formations.
0	The accuracy does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

The whole of the response must be assessed when awarding the mark for Accuracy, even if some of it is irrelevant to the bullet points.

A mark of 0 for Content automatically results in a mark of 0 for Accuracy but, apart from that, the Content mark does not limit the Accuracy mark. However, a short piece is unlikely to show sufficient evidence for a very high mark for Accuracy.

- For the award of 5 marks, the writing need not be perfectly accurate. There may be errors in attempts at more complex language and the occasional minor error, but these will be infrequent. A minor error is one which has no bearing on communication (for example, incorrect gender), whereas a major error is one where communication is affected.
- For a piece of writing that contains a good number of errors, a useful starting point will be to decide whether overall it is more accurate than inaccurate. If it is, then the **minimum** mark will be 2.
- A major consideration in awarding marks for Accuracy is correctly formed verbs and tense formations. All verbs and tense formations should be considered here but as there are only two bullet points in this question, only two time frames will be elicited. While some candidates will develop their ideas and, in doing so, use a third time frame and different tenses, there is not the same requirement as there is in Foundation Question 4/Higher Question 1 to refer to all three time frames.

Higher Question 3

6 marks for Conveying key messages + 6 marks for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures (12 marks in total).

Candidates translate into the target language a passage in English, totalling at least 50 words. The translation is marked for Conveying key messages and for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures, according to the following criteria:

Conveying key messages

Marks	Responses
6	All key messages are conveyed.
5	Nearly all key messages are conveyed.
4	Most key messages are conveyed.
3	Some key messages are conveyed.
2	Few key messages are conveyed.
1	Very few key messages are conveyed.
0	The content does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

The translation is divided into 13 key messages. A tick will be awarded for each key message that is communicated, despite any minor inaccuracies. The total number of ticks awarded equates to a mark according to this table.

Total ticks	Mark
13	6
11/12	5
8/9/10	4
5/6/7	3
3/4	2
1/2	1
0	0

When deciding on whether a key message is conveyed, you should ask yourself the question: 'Would a native speaker understand the target language version without reference to the original English?' If the answer is 'yes', award a tick.

Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures

Marks	Response
6	Excellent knowledge of vocabulary and structures; virtually faultless.
5	Very good knowledge of vocabulary and structures; highly accurate.
4	Good knowledge of vocabulary and structures; generally accurate.
3	Reasonable knowledge of vocabulary and structures; more accurate than inaccurate.
2	Limited knowledge of vocabulary and structures; generally inaccurate.
1	Very limited knowledge of vocabulary and structures; highly inaccurate.
0	The language produced does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Once you have decided on the mark for Conveying key messages, you should read through the translation once more and decide on the mark for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures.

- This mark is not limited by the Conveying key messages mark, unless the mark for Conveying key messages is 0, in which case the mark for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures must also be 0.
- There is no direct correlation between the two marks, but your first thought should be to see if the same mark is appropriate. For example, a candidate may have been given 5 ticks and you have awarded a mark of 3 for Conveying key messages. You may have had to hesitate when deciding on one of the ticks but gave the benefit of the doubt. This may then encourage you to consider a mark of 2, rather than 3, for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures.
- If a candidate leaves gaps, you must assume that any attempt would have been highly inaccurate and award a mark accordingly. Not to do so will penalise unfairly those candidates who make an attempt but commit serious errors in so doing.
- Perfection is not required for full marks. For example, occasional missing accents and minor spelling errors do not preclude a top band mark. However, if there are numerous minor errors and incorrect use of accents which change the meaning of a word, this is likely to have an impact on the mark for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures.

Appendix 1

Notes on the use of language

The following notes are a guide to the kind of language that may help to fulfil the criteria for higher bands of marks in the Quality of language and Range of language categories. They should **not** be seen as a checklist.

Variety of vocabulary

Consider particularly:

- the use of vocabulary from different themes/topics
- the use of synonyms, such as, using 打算 instead of 想/要
- the emphasise of measure words where they may not be seen as essential, such as 我喝了一杯茶 instead of 我喝了茶
- use of more sophisticated vocabulary – though the emphasis is on avoiding a lot of conspicuous repetition.

Variety of structures

Consider, for example:

- use of connectives such as 因为……所以……, 虽然……但是……, 不仅……而且……, 除了……还……, 又……又……, 一边……一边……, 如果……就……, 一……就……
- use of indirect speech 我觉得
- use of modal verbs
- use of comparative expressions (比, 跟……一样)
- use of superlatives (最)
- use of complex sentences and a range of time frames
- use of exclamations (太……了).

Use of complex/longer sentences

Consider:

- use of 得 structure
- use of time clauses, such as ……的时候, ……以后
- use of sequence words 先, 然后/再, 最后
- use of 是……的 structure to express emphasis
- use of disjunctive pronouns (妈妈送我去……, 爸爸给我过生日)
- use of 对 structure (对……影响很大).

Use of time frames/tenses

- The criteria for Quality of language in Foundation Question 4/Higher Question 1 include ‘references to two/three time frames’. In Chinese a verb does not inflect or change its form to indicate tense: therefore a time word/or a time expression, or a time reference or context for the action of the verb must be clearly provided when referring to past, present or future events and actions. Modal verbs such as 想, 会, 打算, 计划, 希望 or 要 + verb, etc can indicate the future. Aspectual particles/(aspect marks) can also be accepted for actions with different time references, eg verb + 过 or 了 can indicate past experience.
- The criteria for Accuracy in Higher Question 2 refer to ‘tense formations’. In this question, a candidate can impress by showing that he/she can use a good range of tenses, thereby adding to the range and complexity of language.

Appendix 2

A glossary of terms used in the Writing assessment criteria

NB This alphabetical list corresponds to all questions on both Foundation and Higher papers.

ambiguity	A problem with immediate communication caused by grammatical inaccuracy or a contradiction (eg 'I love it because it's boring').
appropriate	Language which is suitable for the requirements of the task.
coherent	Language which is easy to follow with a logical sequencing of ideas. See 'fluent'.
complex sentences	Sentences which contain a subordinate clause or clauses. See Appendix 1 for examples.
complex structures	See Appendix 1 for examples.
confidence	Accurate use of language.
delay in communication	A problem with immediate communication caused by grammatical or lexical inaccuracy.
fluent	Language which is easy to follow with a logical sequencing of ideas. See 'coherent'.
grammatical structures	Structures which are listed in the specification.
justified	The reason for holding a stated opinion.
key messages	With reference to the translation questions on both papers, these are the key messages as identified in the mark scheme.
lapses	A problem with communication caused by grammatical inaccuracy.
linking words	Words such as 因为, 但是 used to create longer sentences.
longer sentences	These may be complex, with more difficult subordinations, or more simple through the use of linking words such as 因为……所以……, 虽然……但是……
major errors	Errors which impair communication.
minor errors	Errors which do not have a bearing on communication.
opinions	A positive/negative verb or adjective used to give an opinion; or a neutral adjective, such as 'big', preceded by something like 'I think that'. For example 'I think that my bedroom is very small'.
secure	Accurate.
structures	See 'grammatical structures'.
style and register	The style of writing. Usually this will be determined by the nature of the task, requiring informal or formal register.
time frames	The use of time markers, which refer to past, present or future events, eg 昨天早饭我吃面包 (past); 今天我吃面条 (present); 明天我想吃鸡蛋 (future).
variety	Use of different verbs, nouns and adjectives which avoid a lot of conspicuous repetition.

Part 2 – Marking guidance for June 2021 series**Question 01**

For this question, there are four compulsory bullet points which are assessed for Content (10 marks) and Quality of language (6 marks), as specified in the criteria below. The maximum mark is 16. The student is expected to produce approximately 75 characters for this task. The number of characters is approximate and you must mark all work produced by the student.

[16 marks]**Content**

Level	Marks	Response
5	9–10	A very good response covering all aspects of the task. Communication is clear and a lot of information is conveyed. Opinions are expressed.
4	7–8	A good response covering all aspects of the task. Communication is mostly clear but perhaps with occasional lapses. Quite a lot of information is conveyed. Opinions are expressed.
3	5–6	A reasonable response covering almost all aspects of the task. Communication is generally clear but there are likely to be lapses. Some information is conveyed. An opinion is expressed.
2	3–4	A basic response covering some aspects of the task. Communication is sometimes clear but there are instances where messages break down. Little information is conveyed. An opinion is expressed.
1	1–2	A limited response covering some aspects of the task. Communication is often not clear and there may be frequent instances where messages break down. Very little information is conveyed. There may be no opinions expressed.
0	0	The content does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

There may be some imbalance in the coverage of the four compulsory bullet points but, provided at least some coverage of all bullet points is evident, students will have access to full marks where the other criteria are met.

Quality of language

Level	Marks	Response
3	5–6	A variety of appropriate vocabulary is used. Complex structures and sentences are attempted. There are references to three time frames, which are largely successful. Errors are mainly minor. Some more serious errors may occur, particularly in complex structures and sentences, but the intended meaning is nearly always clear. The style and register are appropriate.
2	3–4	Some variety of appropriate vocabulary is used. There may be some attempt at complex structures and sentences. There are references to at least two different time frames, although these may not always be successful. There may be some major errors, and more frequent minor errors, but overall the response is more accurate than inaccurate and the intended meaning is usually clear. The style and register may not always be appropriate.
1	1–2	The range of vocabulary may be narrow, repetitive and/or inappropriate to the needs of the task. Sentences are mainly short and simple or may not be properly constructed. There may be frequent major and minor errors. Little or no awareness of style and register.
0	0	The language produced does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

- (a) A major error is one which seriously affects communication.
- (b) A mark of zero for Content automatically results in a mark of zero for Quality of language. Apart from that, the Content mark does not limit the mark for Quality of language.

Question 01.1 Content

Bullet	Comments
what lunch at your school is like	Any type of food is acceptable, providing it makes sense within the school context.
your views on cooking	Reference to positive and/or negative views are acceptable.
your last experience of eating out	There needs to be reference to the past, either by a past time expression or through a past time particle.
who you would most like to have a meal with in the future	There needs to be reference to the future, either by a future time expression or appropriate verb. eg. 想 or 计划 etc.

Question 01.2 Content

Bullet	Comments
why you want to go to China	Any valid reason is acceptable, providing it makes sense within the context.
a place in China you like	This can be a city in China or any place in China.
your past experience of eating Chinese food	There needs to be a reference to the past, either by a past time expression or through a past time particle. References to positive and/or negative experiences are acceptable.
what you will do in China	Any activity is acceptable, and there needs to be a reference to the future, either by the use of a future time expression or appropriate verb, eg 在中国的时候 or 我要……

Question 01.3 Content

Bullet	Comments
how you usually travel to school	Any type of travel method is acceptable, providing it makes sense in the context.
which subject(s) you like/dislike	Any subjects and references to positives and/or negatives are acceptable.
what you did last week at school	There needs to be a reference to the past, either by a past time expression or through a past time particle.
something you will do next year	There needs to be a reference to the future, either by the use of a future time expression or appropriate verb. e.g. 明年

The following indicative content is an example of the response that students may give to this question. It demonstrates a balanced coverage of the compulsory bullet points.

Either or	Question 01.1	This is a possible response (indicative content): 我的学校的午饭很好因为每天都有面包。虽然我喜欢做饭，但是做饭很累。昨天，我去了一家法国餐厅。我吃了鸡肉和很多青菜。法国菜不仅好吃，而且好看。下个周末，我要和我的好朋友一起去吃饭。 (79 characters) [16 marks]
	Question 01.2	This is a possible response (indicative content): 我学中文，所以我想去中国旅游。我喜欢北京，因为北京不仅有长城，而且有故宫。我吃过中国菜。虽然中国菜很好吃，也不贵，但是有些中国菜很辣。在中国，除了看京剧，我还打算吃北京烤鸭。 (75 characters) [16 marks]
	Question 01.3	This is a possible response (indicative content): 我每天走路去学校，因为学校离我家很近。地理是我最喜欢的科目因为我的地理老师很幽默。上个星期一中午，我先去食堂吃了午饭，然后我去了图书馆。明年，我想去中国，因为我越来越喜欢中文。 (79 characters) [16 marks]

However, there may be some imbalance in the coverage of the compulsory bullet points but, provided at least some coverage of all bullet points is evident, students will still have access to full marks where the other criteria are met.

Question 02

For this question there are two compulsory bullet points, which are assessed for Content (15 marks), Range of language (12 marks) and Accuracy (5 marks), as specified in the criteria below. The maximum mark is 32. The student is expected to produce approximately 125 characters over the whole question. The number of characters is approximate and you must mark all work produced by the student.

[32 marks]**Content**

Level	Marks	Response
5	13–15	An excellent response which is fully relevant and detailed, conveying a lot of information. Communication is clear with little or no ambiguity. Opinions are expressed and justified.
4	10–12	A very good response which is almost always relevant and which conveys a lot of information. Communication is mostly clear but there are a few ambiguities. Opinions are expressed and justified.
3	7–9	A good response which is generally relevant with quite a lot of information conveyed. Communication is usually clear but there are some ambiguities. Opinions are expressed and may be justified.
2	4–6	A reasonable response with some relevant information conveyed. Communication is sometimes clear but there may be instances where messages break down. An opinion is expressed.
1	1–3	A basic response which conveys a limited amount of relevant information. Communication may not be clear and there are instances where messages break down. An opinion may be expressed.
0	0	The content does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

There may be some imbalance in the coverage of the two compulsory bullet points but, provided at least some coverage of both bullet points is evident, students will have access to full marks where the other criteria are met.

Range of language

Level	Marks	Response
4	10–12	Very good variety of appropriate vocabulary and structures. More complex sentences are handled with confidence, producing a fluent piece of coherent writing. The style and register are appropriate.
3	7–9	Good variety of appropriate vocabulary and structures. More complex sentences are regularly attempted and are mostly successful, producing a mainly fluent piece of coherent writing with occasional lapses. The style and register are appropriate.
2	4–6	Some variety of appropriate vocabulary and structures. Longer sentences are attempted, using appropriate linking words, often successfully. The style and register may not always be appropriate.
1	1–3	Little variety of appropriate vocabulary. Structures are likely to be short and simple. Little or no awareness of style and register.
0	0	The range of language produced does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

A mark of zero for Content automatically results in a mark of zero for Range of language. Apart from that, the Content mark does not limit the mark for Range of language.

Accuracy

Level	Marks	Response
5	5	Accurate, although there may be a few errors especially in attempts at more complex structures. Verbs and tense formations are secure.
4	4	Generally accurate. Some minor errors. Occasional major errors, usually in attempts at more complex structures. Verbs and tense formations are nearly always correct.
3	3	Reasonably accurate. There are likely to be minor errors and there may be some major errors, not only in complex structures. Verb and tense formations are usually correct.
2	2	More accurate than inaccurate. The intended meaning is generally clear. Verb and tense formations are sometimes correct.
1	1	There may be major errors and frequent minor ones, and the intended meaning is not always clear. There is only limited success with verb and tense formations.
0	0	The content does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

- (a) A major error is one which seriously affects communication.
- (b) A mark of zero for Content automatically results in a mark of zero for Accuracy. Apart from that, the Content mark does not limit the mark for Accuracy.

General rule for this question:

- the use of an infinitive in place of a finite verb **is acceptable** for conveying a message. It would not, however, count as a reference to a present/past/future event (ie no annotation of Pr/P/F).

Question 02.1 Content

Bullet	Comments
the importance of celebrating festivals	Any reasons supporting the importance of celebrating festivals are acceptable; the vocabulary 重要 is not necessary, providing the candidate gives opinions and reasons related to the bullet point.
a memorable event you have experienced recently	There must be a clear reference to the past through the use of the past time frame indicator 了 or through a time word referring to the past, eg, 上个周末, 去年. Any activity that took place in the past is acceptable.

Question 02.2 Content

Bullet	Comments
why it is important to keep fit	Any reasons supporting the importance of keeping fit are acceptable; the vocabulary 重要 is not necessary, providing the candidate gives opinions and reasons why people need to keep fit.
how you plan to stay healthy in the future	There must be a clear reference to the future through the use of the future time frame or through a future time word, eg, 将来. Accept any plans/ideas about how to keep healthy.

Question 02.3 Content

Bullet	Comments
why learning is important for young people	Any reasons supporting the importance of young people learning are acceptable; the vocabulary 重要 is not necessary, providing the candidate gives opinions and reasons why they/young people need to learn.
Suggestions for future improvements to your school	There must be a clear reference to the future through the use of the future time frame or through a future time word, eg, 将来, 明年. Accept any suggestions linking to school.

The following indicative content is an example of the response that students may give to this question.

It demonstrates a balanced coverage of the compulsory bullet points.

Either	Question 02.1	This is a possible response (indicative content): 我觉得节日对我们的生活很重要。要是生活中没有节日，生活就会很无聊。我最喜欢的节日是圣诞节，因为圣诞节可以不去上学，而且我会收到很多礼物。 圣诞节的时候，我们或者在家，或者去我爷爷家。但是去年的圣诞节，我们去了中国。我们是坐飞机去的。我们不但去了香港，而且还去了上海。我觉得上海比香港更好玩。 (129 characters) [32 marks]
or	Question 02.2	This is a possible response (indicative content): 如果你的身体很健康，你就不会常常生病。有了健康的身体，你就可以做你想做的事情，所以健康很重要。为了健康，年轻人应该早睡早起。而且，年轻人应该多吃蔬菜和水果，因为它们对身体好。 从明天开始，我打算每天跑步一个小时。虽然打电脑游戏很有趣，但是我要少玩电脑游戏，因为玩的时间太长对眼睛不好。 (126 characters) [32 marks]
or	Question 02.3	This is a possible response (indicative content): 年轻人应该学习。在学校我学很多科目所以我每天都很忙。我的老师虽然很严格，但是他们教了我很多东西。如果我能上好的大学，将来我就能有好工作。所以，学习对于年轻人很重要。 虽然我很喜欢我的学校，但是我觉得学校应该有一个更大的图书馆，因为看书是我最大的爱好。学生也不应该穿校服，因为校服很不舒服。 (130 characters) [32 marks]

Question 03

The translation is assessed for Conveying key messages (6 marks) and Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures (6 marks) as specified in the criteria below. The maximum mark is 12. When awarding the marks the student's response across the passage should be considered as a whole.

[12 marks]**Conveying key messages**

Level	Marks	Response
6	6	All key messages are conveyed.
5	5	Nearly all key messages are conveyed.
4	4	Most key messages are conveyed.
3	3	Some key messages are conveyed.
2	2	Few key messages are conveyed.
1	1	Very few key messages are conveyed.
0	0	The content does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures

Level	Marks	Response
6	6	Excellent knowledge of vocabulary and structures; virtually faultless.
5	5	Very good knowledge of vocabulary and structures; highly accurate.
4	4	Good knowledge of vocabulary and structures; generally accurate.
3	3	Reasonable knowledge of vocabulary and structures; more accurate than inaccurate.
2	2	Limited knowledge of vocabulary and structures; generally inaccurate.
1	1	Very limited knowledge of vocabulary and structures; highly inaccurate.
0	0	The language produced does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

A mark of zero for Conveying key messages automatically results in a mark of zero for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures, but apart from that, the Conveying key messages mark does not limit the mark for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures.

Key messages

The translation is divided into 13 key messages (see below). As a general rule, the **wrong person** or **wrong tense** of a verb will not receive a tick. Minor inaccuracies, such as in character writing, however, providing it does not lead to different meaning, will not on their own prevent the award of a tick.

	Message	Accept	Reject
1	Last Sunday morning	上个星期天/日早上	any wrong time word
2	I did my homework,	我做(了)作业/功课	any wrong time frame indicator
3	and afterwards	然后	就
4	took the bus to the city centre.	坐公共汽车去(了)市中心	incorrect verb used, eg 坐公共汽车来了市中心 incorrect transport or place
5	My friend and I	我(的)朋友和/跟我	和/跟 is missing
6	ate lunch	... 吃了午饭/餐	without 午
7	in the restaurant near the post office.	在邮局附近(旁边)的餐厅...	Incorrect location, eg 咖啡馆/咖啡厅
8	Before returning home,	回家(以)前	any wrong time indicator
9	I bought a present	我...买了一个礼物	东西 instead of 礼物
10	for my uncle	...给/为(我)叔叔...	without 给/为
11	because I am going to	因为我要去(参加)	without future indicator
12	his birthday party	他的生日会	without possessive pronoun
13	next Thursday.	下个星期四	any wrong time indicator

Other reasonable alternative translations will also be accepted.

A tick will be awarded for each key message that is communicated, despite any minor inaccuracies. The total number of ticks awarded equates to a mark according to this table.

Total ticks	Mark
13	6
11/12	5
8/9/10	4
5/6/7	3
3/4	2
1/2	1
0	0