

MARK SCHEME for the May/June 2008 question paper

0547 MANDARIN CHINESE (FOREIGN LANGUAGE)

0547/04

Paper 4 (Continuous Writing), maximum raw mark 50

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began.

All Examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes must be read in conjunction with the question papers and the report on the examination.

- CIE will not enter into discussions or correspondence in connection with these mark schemes.

CIE is publishing the mark schemes for the May/June 2008 question papers for most IGCSE, GCE Advanced Level and Advanced Subsidiary Level syllabuses and some Ordinary Level syllabuses.

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Each essay is marked out of 25, making a total of 50 marks awarded for the paper.

Marks for each essay are awarded under the following headings:

RELEVANT COMMUNICATION

Q1 (a) Letter to grandmother about visit to China to visit penfriend: ticks will be awarded in the righthand margin up to a maximum of 5. 1 tick available for each of the 4 guidelines in the question and then 1 left over to be awarded for an appropriate beginning and ending to the letter.

Accept letters to grandmother/mother/older/younger sister.

(b) Letter to a magazine about studying Chinese: ticks will be awarded in the righthand margin up to a maximum of 5. 1 tick available for each of the 4 guidelines/sub-questions in the question and then 1 left over to be awarded for an appropriate beginning and ending to the letter.

Q2 Description of village and what happens when you alight there: this composition allows candidates to use their imagination. Ticks will be awarded in the righthand margin, up to a maximum of 5, for each point relevant to the development of the story.

ACCURACY

The 15 marks for accuracy will be divided into:

Accuracy of Characters: 5 marks

5 marks	Highly accurate, with a wide range of characters including some more difficult or unusual ones correctly written, with occasional minor slips.
4 marks	Not as consistently accurate nor as wide a range as the highest level, but a good range of characters attempted with easy and moderately easy characters correctly written.
3 marks	Limited range, but with most easy characters correctly written (or a wide range with a lot of errors).
2 marks	A number of examples of easy characters correctly written.
1 mark	Substantially inaccurate, with only isolated examples of correctly written characters.

Accuracy of Grammar and Structures: 10 marks

10/9 marks	Highly accurate including use of more complex structures, but with occasional minor slips.
8/7 marks	A little more ambitious than the 5/6 band. Accurate in use of simple structures, except for occasional more serious errors/more frequent slips.
6/5 marks	Limited in range, but displays some control of simple structures.
4/3 marks	Inconsistent, but a number of examples of accurate usage.
2/1 marks	Substantially inaccurate, with only isolated examples of accurate usage.

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IMPRESSION

The good candidate will be further rewarded for the use of 'extended' language in making the point of relevant communication, i.e. by using a range of vocabulary and structure or idioms to clarify or define, or to develop further the points made. 5 marks are available for impression.

The Examiner has to decide whether the candidate has used vocabulary and structures which go beyond the minimum required to convey adequately the thought involved and has so given him/herself greater flexibility or self-expression.

5 marks	Comprehensive range of vocabulary and sentence structure with more complex language predominant.
4 marks	Considerable variety of vocabulary and sentence structure with more complex language clearly in evidence.
3 marks	Some variety of vocabulary and sentence structure with several items of more complex language.
2 marks	Limited variety of vocabulary and sentence structure with occasional more complex language.
1 mark	Only isolated examples of variety of vocabulary and sentence structure and more complex language.
0	No examples of variety of vocabulary or more complex language.