

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

Cambridge Pre-U Certificate

MARK SCHEME for the May/June 2015 series

9778 PRINCIPAL SUBJECT MANDARIN CHINESE

9778/03

Paper 03 (Writing and Usage), maximum raw mark 60

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, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

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SECTION 2: LETTER WRITING

Question 3

Communication of required elements = 5 marks

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (i) An aspect/ a task at a workplace | [1] |
| (ii) An aspect of an office/workplace | [1] |
| (iii) An aspect of a city | [1] |
| (iv) An enquiry | [1] |
| Appropriate opening and closing in formal register | [1] |

Language = 15 marks

Accuracy of Characters [5]

| |
|---|
| 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 A more limited range with most easy characters correctly written. |
| 2 marks Substantially inaccurate despite several examples of correctly written characters. |
| 1 mark Substantially inaccurate, with only isolated examples of correctly written characters. |
| 0 marks No relevant material presented. |

Accuracy of Grammar and Structures [10]

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|--|
| 10/9 marks Highly accurate including use of more complex structures, but with occasional minor slips. |
| 8/7 marks Accurate in use of simpler structures, except for occasional more serious errors/ more frequent slips. |
| 6/5 marks Generally accurate, but with increased incidence of more serious errors (or an extremely limited range of structures). |
| 4/3 marks Substantially inaccurate, despite several examples of accurate usage. |
| 2/1 marks Substantially inaccurate, with only isolated examples of accurate usage. |
| 0 marks No relevant material presented. |

[Total marks for Section: 20]

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SECTION 3: OPINION ESSAY

Question 4

- Accuracy and linguistic range (20 marks)
- Development and organisation of ideas (10 marks)

Where only a few relevant points are made it is unlikely that candidates will score more than a satisfactory mark for Accuracy and linguistic range.

| Accuracy and linguistic range | Development and organisation of ideas |
|---|---|
| 19–20 Excellent Almost flawless. Excellent range of vocabulary and complex sentence patterns. Good sense of idiom. | 10 Excellent Implications of question fully grasped. Ideas and arguments very effectively organised, illustrated with relevant examples. Wholly convincing. |
| 16–18 Very good Highly accurate. Wide range of vocabulary and complex sentence patterns. Some sense of idiom. | 8–9 Very good Most implications of question explored. Ideas and arguments well organised, illustrated with relevant examples. Coherent argument. |
| 12–15 Good Generally accurate. Good range of vocabulary and some complex sentence patterns. | 6–7 Good Main implications of question explored. Organisation generally clear but lacking coherence in places. Some relevant examples. Some ability to develop argument. |
| 8–11 Satisfactory Predominantly simple sentence patterns correctly used and/or some complex language attempted, but with variable success. Adequate range of vocabulary, but some repetition. | 4–5 Satisfactory Some implications of question explored. Patchy or unambitious organisation, but with some attempt at illustration. Some irrelevant material. |
| 4–7 Weak Persistent errors. Simple and repetitive sentence patterns. Limited vocabulary. | 2–3 Weak Limited understanding of question. A few relevant points made. Rambling and/or repetitive. Ideas and arguments poorly developed. |
| 1–3 Poor Little evidence of grammatical awareness. Very limited vocabulary. | 1 Poor Minimal response. Implications of question only vaguely grasped. Very limited relevant content. Disorganised, unsubstantiated and undeveloped. |
| 0 No relevant material presented | 0 No relevant material presented |