

**MARK SCHEME for the May/June 2014 series**

**0547 MANDARIN CHINESE (FOREIGN LANGUAGE)**

**0547/42**

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, 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.

Cambridge will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge is publishing the mark schemes for the May/June 2014 series for most IGCSE, GCE Advanced Level and Advanced Subsidiary Level components and some Ordinary Level components.

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## Introduction

**Total marks for paper: 50**

25 marks per question.

### 1 Communication: 5 marks

Put a stroke in the left hand margin for each of the 5 relevant points.  
Record 0 for a failure to score a point.

### 2 Accuracy: 15 marks

Award a mark out of 5 for Accuracy of Characters and a mark out of 10 for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures according to the tables on page 7.

### 3 General Impression: 5 marks

**The pro rata mark based on the Accuracy mark should serve as the first guide.** This mark can be adjusted up or down by one mark where this is justified by positive qualities, such as unusually good vocabulary or ambitious use of language, or by negative qualities, such as excessive repetition.

## Recording of marks

Marks should be recorded **in red** at the end of the answer as follows:

$$\begin{array}{rcccccc} C & + & A/C & + & A/G & + & I & = & \text{Total} \\ \text{e.g. } 5 & + & 5 & + & 10 & + & 5 & = & 25 \end{array}$$

Enter each of the two marks on the front of the Script and record the total out of 50. Circle the total mark.

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### **Irrelevant material**

In the case of a deliberately evasive answer which consists almost entirely of irrelevant material exploited in defiance of the rubric, a score of 0/25 is given. These are rare in IGCSE. The genuine attempt to answer the question which fails due to a misunderstanding of the rubric will normally lose Communication marks but will score for Accuracy and Impression.

When part of an answer is clearly irrelevant, bracket it and do not consider it when deciding on the Accuracy mark. (e.g. bracket and do not consider for Accuracy an introduction to a question consisting of an unwanted self-portrait on the lines of: ‘我叫小明。我十六岁。我住在Sheffield。’ or letter etiquette where a letter is not required.)

However, please bear in mind that as long as candidates do not disturb the requirements of the rubric, they are allowed to develop their essays in the direction that suits them/their imagination takes them: Examiners should always hesitate before bracketing material as irrelevant, especially if it is integrated into an essay which fulfils the requirements of the rubric in other ways, and must consult their Team Leader if they are unsure.

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**Session specific instructions for Communication marks**

A maximum of 5 Communication marks is available for each question. Points may be made in any order. Indicate the award of a Communication mark with a stroke in the left-hand margin. Marks are awarded for the following points:

- **Question 1(a): letter to your parents about visiting a restaurant in Beijing**

(a) 上个月你去了北京，你的中国朋友带你去了一家饭馆。请给爸爸妈妈写一封信。

Tick	Accept	Mark
1	<b>What the candidate ate</b> Allow any type of food	1
2	<b>What the restaurant was like</b> Allow any description, either of the building/the service/waiters/food, etc.	1
3	<b>What the candidate did afterwards</b> Allow any activity using past time frame, e.g. 以后、了、过。	1
4	<b>What the candidate's favourite food was and why</b> Allow anything sensible	1
5	<b>Appropriate beginning or ending to letter</b> the letter must <u>also</u> include the name of the person to whom it is being sent at the beginning or the name of the person sending it at the other end for the communication mark to be awarded.  e.g. 'hello' given at the beginning of the letter, and 'Xiao Wang' given at the end = 1. But, just 'Jing Jing' given at the beginning and 'Xiao Wang' given at the end = 0.	1

or 或者

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- **Question 1(b): letter to a magazine about young people’s views on healthy living**

(b) 最近你的学校要了解一下学生对健康生活的看法。请给《学校周报》写一封信。

Tick	Accept	Mark
1	<b>What sport do you generally do?</b> Allow a description about activities relating to sport / exercise	1
2	<b>What healthy food the candidate eats</b> Allow anything sensible	1
3	<b>Candidate’s views on whether too much homework is healthy</b> Allow anything sensible. Expect opinions.	1
4	<b>What the school could do to encourage students to be healthier</b> Allow anything sensible.	1
5	<b>Appropriate beginning or ending to letter</b> the letter must <u>also</u> include the name of the person to whom it is being sent at the beginning or the name of the person sending it at the other end for the communication mark to be awarded.  e.g. ‘hello’ given at the beginning of the letter, and ‘Xiao Wang’ given at the end = 1. But, just ‘Jing Jing’ given at the beginning and ‘Xiao Wang’ given at the end = 0.	1

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- **Question 2: Last weekend you went to a department store with a friend. A lot of people were gathered together. Describe what happened next. (narrative)**

This composition allows candidates to use their imagination. It is an open ended task and anything which could reasonably have happened and which the candidate chooses to tell us must be rewarded. However, where candidates write a lengthy account of events only marginally relevant to the question, the examiner should consider reducing the Impression mark by 1. If in doubt you should consult your Team Leader.

Narratives should be written using a past time frame. A past time frame must be referenced for the award of the full 5 Communication marks. Indicate the award of a Communication mark with a stroke in the left-hand margin, up to a maximum of 5. Communication marks should be awarded for each relevant point which progresses the story of what happened that day in the department store.

If candidates copy the question given on the question paper as part of their answer, **bracket** and ignore it; it should not be considered when awarding marks.

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### 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	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 the 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

5 marks are available for impression. The pro rata mark based on the Accuracy mark should serve as the first guide. This mark may be adjusted up or down by one mark where this is justified by the positive or negative qualities of the candidate's work.

### Conversion Table for 0547/4

Mark out of 15 (for Accuracy of Language)	Pro rata (General Impression) Max 5
15	5
14	5
13	4
12	4
11	4
10	3
9	3
8	2
7	2
6	2
5	1
4	1
3	1
2	0
1	0
0	0