

**MARK SCHEME for the May/June 2015 series**

**0547 MANDARIN CHINESE (FOREIGN LANGUAGE)**

**0547/42**

Paper 4 (Writing), maximum raw mark 45

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.

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Page 2	Mark Scheme	Syllabus
	Cambridge IGCSE – May/June 2015	054

## 1 General Marking Principles

### 1.1 Crossing out:

- (a) If a candidate changes his/her mind over an answer and crosses out an attempt, award a mark if the **final** attempt is correct.
- (b) If a candidate crosses out an answer to a whole question but makes no second attempt at it, mark the crossed out work.

1.2 For Questions 2 and 3, if the candidate has written an answer in the space provided for that purpose, you should ignore anything written anywhere else, unless:

- (i) there is an indication from the candidate that other material should be considered
- (ii) the candidate has continued their answer outside the space provided
- (iii) there is no answer in the space provided

### 1.3 Annotation used in the Mark Scheme and/or Marking:

- (a) tc = 'tout court' and means that on its own the material is not sufficient to score the mark.
- (b) BOD = Benefit of the Doubt and is used to indicate material considered by the Examiner and judged to be more correct than incorrect: the benefit of the doubt is given to the candidate and the mark is awarded.

### 1.4 No response and '0' marks

Award NR (No Response):

- If there is nothing written at all in the answer space or
- If there is only a comment which does not in any way relate to the question being asked (e.g. 'can't do' or 'don't know') or
- If there is only a mark which isn't an attempt at the question (e.g. a dash, a question mark).

Award 0:

- If there is any attempt that earns no credit. This could, for example, include the candidate copying all or some of the question, or any working that does not earn any marks, whether crossed out or not.

1.5 **Optional questions:** you must mark all questions attempted by the candidate. Where a question has not been attempted then a NR must be entered. (For Question 3 only, after marking the question(s) the candidate has answered, NR is populated automatically when you click on 'Complete'.) Where the candidate attempts more than one of the alternatives in Question 3, RM Assessor will automatically only aggregate the candidate's best result.

Page 3	Mark Scheme	Syllabus Paper
	Cambridge IGCSE – May/June 2015	054

## 2 Detailed Mark Scheme

### SECTION 1

#### Question 1

Candidates are required to list 5 items in Chinese. Read all the items the candidate has listed and award marks as follows:

- **Select the most correct items up to a maximum of 5**
- **Award 1 mark for each correct item up to a maximum of 5**
- **Stop ticking once 5 items have been rewarded**
- **On Question 1 award marks for items wherever the candidate has written them**
- **If the candidate offers more than one word per line, award a mark for each acceptable item**

#### Generic mark scheme for Question 1

- Mark for communication. Tolerate inaccuracies, provided the message is clear
- Do not award marks for words written in pinyin

Miswritten characters:

- (a) Look-alike test: does what the candidate has written look like the correct answer, e.g. strokes missing or added but character still recognisable. Note, if the miswritten character creates a new character with a different meaning, the mark cannot be awarded.
- (b) If a prefix or suffix is missing, or a modifier word is miswritten, award a mark if meaning is still communicated, e.g. 面条: if a candidate has only written 条, it does not mean anything and a mark shouldn't be awarded. If a candidate has written 面 which contains the main meaning of the word *noodle*, the mark should be awarded.

**Session specific instructions for Question 1: Make a list in Chinese of 5 items you might see in a restaurant. (请用中文写出在饭店你可能看到的五种东西。)**

- If there are five clearly acceptable items, award marks wherever these are in the list. This approach may allow questionable versions to be ignored.
- **Accept any item of food and drink/ name of particular dish.**
- **Accept a maximum of 2 family members, e.g. 爸爸、妈妈、姐姐.**
- **Accept a maximum of 2 'people' with the same character in the category, e.g. 法国人, 英国人, 中国人.**
- If candidates list a single item with different descriptive word/adjectives, a maximum of 2 marks can be awarded, e.g. 蓝盘子、大盘子、小盘子 award 2 marks
- Accept words which are not specific (e.g. accept 食物, 饮料, 蔬菜) in addition to the specific items e.g. award 1 mark each to 蔬菜、青菜 and 白菜 or 肉、鸭肉 and 羊肉.
- ignore measure words and verbs.
- accept verb-object construction words, e.g. 吃饭, 唱歌, but not just 吃 or 唱

The following are examples. Accept anything the candidate might see in a restaurant.

ACCEPT		REFUSE
饭	桌子	火车站
菜	沙发	洗衣机
酒	叉	汽车
鱼	电视	公园
肉	茶几	
果汁	画	
水果	海报	
杯子	(客)人	
(中国/英国/红/绿/花)茶	洗碗机	
水	狗	
咖啡	椅子	
饮料		
盘子		
碗		
筷子		
刀		
电话		
(电)灯		
电脑		

[Total: 5 marks]

Page 5	Mark Scheme	Syllabus Paper
	Cambridge IGCSE – May/June 2015	054

**Question 2**

Candidates are required to answer the question. Read the whole answer and award marks as follows:

- **Communication: award a mark out of 10 according to the instructions in 2.1**
- **Language: award a mark out of 5 according to the instructions in 2.2**

**2.1: award a mark out of 10 for Communication**

**Generic mark scheme for Communication (Question 2)**

- (i) Place the appropriate ‘numbered’ tick as close as possible to each relevant communication point
  - (ii) Award ticks flexibly across the tasks for each piece of relevant information conveyed up to a maximum of 10. HOWEVER, each of the 5 tasks must be covered to get the 10 communication marks:
  - (iii) If 1 of the tasks is missing, the maximum communication mark is 9.
  - (iv) If 2 of the tasks are missing, the maximum communication mark is 8 (and so on)
  - (v) Add up the ticks to give a mark out of 10 for Communication
  - (vi) For COMMUNICATION be tolerant of time-frames and minor character errors, provided the characters written are clear enough to be understood.
    - **for language, use ‘rules’ in Question 1:** miswritten characters, etc.
    - **incorrect word order will not usually compromise communication**
  - (vii) LISTS = a maximum of 3 marks for communication. 一个LIST最多给三分。
    - 我跟妈妈、爸爸和妹妹一起看电视。 I watch TV with Mum, Dad and younger sister = 3 marks (= a list of 3)
    - 我跟妈妈、爸爸、奶奶、爷爷、弟弟和妹妹一起看电视。 I watch TV with Mum, Dad, Grandma, Granddad, younger brother, younger sister = 3 marks
  - (viii) **Only reward each piece of information once**, e.g. 我喜欢这个节目因为每个星期二我都看。“每个星期二” (Every Tuesday) cannot score both for task (d) and (e)
  - (ix) Up to 5 further marks available for additional details for (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e)
  - (x) Do not penalise factual errors
  - (xi) What the candidate writes may not follow the order of the tasks on the question paper – this is fine
- [Total marks for Communication: 10]**

Page 6	Mark Scheme	Syllabus Paper
	Cambridge IGCSE – May/June 2015	054

Use of pinyin

If a candidate uses pinyin in their answer, examiners should read the work as if the pinyin were not there – they do not count towards the Communication mark. If the Communication requirements are still fulfilled, discounting the pinyin, the mark can be awarded.

e.g. Question: 你要去买什么

Answer 1: 我去买 shu. (pinyin is used for the word 'shu'. This is a key word in the sentence, and relates directly to the question. Therefore, no Communication mark can be awarded.)

Answer 2: 我去买笔 zi. (pinyin is used for the word 'zi'. Ignoring this word in the sentence would not affect comprehension - it is not a key word in the sentence. The Communication mark can be awarded here.)

**How to award marks for extra details:**

An extra detail is defined as any extra detail which is related in some way to any one of the five tasks.

Example: 我喜欢这个节目因为我喜欢做饭。他们吃的东西很漂亮。长大后我要开一家饭店。  
(3 Communication marks are awarded for this response)

In the above example:

- Award 1 tick for 因为我喜欢做饭 as this is a generic statement which addresses the requirements of task (e)
- Award 1 tick for 他们吃的东西很漂亮 as this is an extra detail which is relevant to task (e)
- Award 1 tick for 长大后我要开一家饭店 as this is an extra detail which is relevant to task (e)

Page 7	Mark Scheme	Syllabus Paper
	Cambridge IGCSE – May/June 2015	054

**Session specific instructions for Communication marks (Question 2):** Write about watching television. (请写一写你看电视的习惯)

Tick	Accept	Refuse
1	<p><b>你跟谁一起看电视? Who do you watch TV with?</b></p> <p><b>REWARD:</b> any person</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name</b> (e.g. James, 小林)</li> <li><b>Description of relationship</b> (e.g. friend, parents, cousin, grandmother, pets)</li> <li><b>Description of people</b> (e.g. nobody)</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>你在哪儿看 ; Where do you watch TV?</b></p> <p><b>REWARD:</b> any place</p> <p>At home In my bedroom In the kitchen At my friend's house Public places (e.g. café)</p>	
3	<p><b>你喜欢什么节目 ; What TV programmes do you like?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Type of TV programme</b> Comedy News Cartoons Nature Soap opera Maths / English / Science</li> <li><b>Name of TV programme</b> Eastenders Simpsons</li> </ul>	

Tick	Accept	Refuse
4	<p><b>下星期你什么时候会看这个节目 ;</b> What time will you watch this TV programme next week?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A specific time</b> 下星期一七点半/7.30 (arabic numbers OK)</li> </ul> <p>Note: if a candidate gives both a day and time, this can be counted as 2 points and therefore awarded 2 marks (extra detail).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>candidates must reference a future time frame.</b> This can be done using a time word, e.g. 下星期 or a verbal marker, e.g. 我七点半会看。</li> </ul> <p><b>Accept:</b> a repeated action also implies a future action, and can therefore be awarded a communication mark, e.g. 每个星期二我都看。</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>generic time</b> Lunchtime 午饭时我会看。 after football club 足球俱乐部以后我会看</li> </ul>	<p>我下午三点看 (I watch it at 3 pm) which doesn't fulfil the future time-frame requirement.</p>
5	<p><b>你为什么喜欢它?</b> Why do you like it?</p> <p>Accept any reason for liking the programme.</p>	



**2.2 award a mark out of 5 for Accuracy of Language**

**Generic mark scheme for Language (Question 2):**

If some characters are written incorrectly without hindering communication, candidates should not be penalised in the Language mark.

- Award a mark out of 5 for Language according to the Grade descriptors in the table below (see *Note on using mark schemes with Grade descriptors* (last page of mark scheme):

**Grade descriptors for Language (Question 2)**

<b>5</b>	Highly accurate in the use of simpler structures, with occasional minor slips.
<b>4</b>	Accurate in the use of simpler structures, except for occasional more serious errors/more frequent slips.
<b>3</b>	Generally accurate, but with increased incidence of more serious errors.
<b>2</b>	Substantially inaccurate, despite several examples of accurate usage.
<b>1</b>	Substantially inaccurate, with only isolated examples of accurate usage.
<b>0</b>	No examples of accurate usage

**[Total marks for Language: 5]**

\*Consider the whole answer when awarding mark for language

**[Total for Question 2: 15 marks]**

Page 10	Mark Scheme	Syllabus Paper
	Cambridge IGCSE – May/June 2015	054

**SECTION 2**

**Question 3**

Candidates answer 1 question from a choice of 3. Read the whole answer and award marks, as follows:

- **Communication:** award a mark out of 5 according to the instructions in 3.1
- **Language:**
- award a mark out of 5 for Accuracy of Characters according to the instructions in 3.2
- award a mark out of 10 for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures according to the instructions in 3.3
- award an Impression mark out of 5 according to the instructions in 3.4

**3.1 award a mark out of 5 for Communication**

***Generic mark scheme for Communication (Question 3):***

- (i) There are 5 relevant communication points per question, each worth a maximum of 1 mark.
- (ii) For each relevant communication point, use the appropriate numbered tick and place 1 of these ticks as close as possible to each relevant communication point
- (iii) Add up the ticks to give a mark out of 5 for Communication

**[Total marks for Communication: 5]**

Page 11	Mark Scheme	Syllabus Paper
	Cambridge IGCSE – May/June 2015	054

**Session specific instructions for Communication marks (Question 3):**

**Question 3 (a): letter to pen pal about the area in which you live**

Tick	Accept	Mark
1	<p><b>What candidate’s neighbourhood looks like</b></p> <p>Allow any description / descriptive detail</p>	1
2	<p><b>Which places candidate often goes to</b></p> <p>Allow any places</p>	1
3	<p><b>Where candidate went last weekend</b></p> <p>Allow any places. Insist on past time-frame. A past time-frame word is be needed, e.g. 上个周末</p> <p><i>Note: take into account the presence (or omission) of the verbal marker 了 when awarding the mark for Accuracy of Grammar. This is not needed for the communication mark.</i></p> <p>我上个星期去 ( 了 ) 电影院 ( 了 ) 。</p>	1
4	<p><b>Did candidate like it there and why?</b></p> <p>Allow any justification/ reason</p> <p>Accept responses both where candidates have interpreted ‘there’ as relating to the place mentioned in bullet point 1, or bullet point 3 (i.e. either their own neighbourhood or the place they went to last weekend)</p>	1
5	<p><b>Fifth communication mark</b> to be awarded flexibly for extra detail relating to any of the bullet points</p>	1

**Question 3 (b): article for secondary school magazine about studying Chinese**

Tick	Accept	Mark
1	<b>When candidate started to learn Chinese</b> past time frame	1
2	<b>What is the most difficult/easiest area</b> Allow any skills / activity	1
3	<b>What method candidate uses to learn Chinese</b> Allow any methods	1
4	<b>Why candidate wants to learn Chinese</b> Allow any sensible reasons	1
5	<b>In the future, what does candidate want to use Chinese for?</b>  Candidates must reference a future time frame. This can be done using a time word, e.g. 下星期 or a verbal marker. <b>Accept:</b> a sentence which implies a future action, e.g. 我不想用我的中文因为我的中文不好。  Allow any activity / hobby / interest / job, etc.	1

Page 13	Mark Scheme	Syllabus Paper
	Cambridge IGCSE – May/June 2015	054

**Question 3(c):** *you and your friend were strolling in a park, and saw a book-bag on the ground*  
 (narrative)

Tick	Accept	Mark
1	<b>What was in the bag?</b>  Allow any items	1
2	<b>What did you think you should do?</b>  Allow any actions, e.g. telephone call, visit to police station, put poster up etc. past time frame not needed.	1
3	<b>What happened afterwards?</b>  Allow any consequence / sequence of events expressed in past time-frame, verbal markers and time words needed.	1
4	<b>Appropriate elaboration of one of the bullet points</b>  Additional communication mark awarded flexibly for extra detail relating to any of the first three bullet points in the question.	1
5	<b>Appropriate elaboration of one of the bullet points</b>  Additional communication mark awarded flexibly for extra detail relating to any of the first three bullet points in the question.	1

**3.2 award a mark out of 5 for Accuracy of Characters**

**Generic mark scheme for Accuracy of Characters (Question 3):**

- Award a mark out of 5 for Accuracy of Characters according to the Grade descriptors in the table below:

**Grade descriptors for Accuracy of Characters (Question 3)**

<b>5</b>	Highly accurate, with a wide range of characters including some more difficult or unusual ones correctly written, with occasional minor slips.
<b>4</b>	A good range of characters attempted with easy and moderately easy characters correctly written.
<b>3</b>	Limited range, but with most easy characters correctly written (or a wide range with a lot of errors).
<b>2</b>	A number of examples of easy characters correctly written.
<b>1</b>	Substantially inaccurate, with only isolated examples of correctly written characters.
<b>0</b>	No examples of correctly written characters.

**[Total marks for Accuracy of Characters: 5]**

Page 15	Mark Scheme	Syllabus
	Cambridge IGCSE – May/June 2015	054

**3.3 award a mark out of 10 for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures**

**Generic mark scheme for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures (Question 3):**

- Award a mark out of 10 for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures according to the Grade descriptors in the table below:

**Grade descriptors for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures (Question 3)**

<b>10/9</b>	Highly accurate including use of more complex structures, but with occasional minor slips.
<b>8/7</b>	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.
<b>6/5</b>	Limited in range, but displays some control of simple structures.
<b>4/3</b>	Inconsistent, but a number of examples of accurate usage.
<b>2/1</b>	Substantially inaccurate, with only isolated examples of accurate usage.
<b>0</b>	No examples of accurate usage.

**[Total marks for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures: 10]**

**3.4 award a mark out of 5 for Impression**

Award a mark out of 5 for Impression according to the conversion table below.

**Conversion Table for Impression (Question 3)**

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

[Total mark for Impression: 5]

[Total for Question 3: 25 marks]



Page 17	Mark Scheme	Syllabus Paper
	Cambridge IGCSE – May/June 2015	054

## Appendix

### Note on using mark schemes with Grade descriptors

It is important that you award marks positively. In order to ensure that you reward achievement rather than penalise failure or omissions, you should start at the bottom of the mark scheme and work upwards through the descriptors when awarding marks.

You should adopt a ‘best fit’ approach. You must select the set of descriptors provided in the mark scheme that most closely describes the quality of the work being marked. As you work upwards through the mark scheme, you will eventually arrive at a set of descriptors that fits the candidate’s performance. When you reach this point, you should always then check the descriptors in the band above to confirm whether or not there is just enough evidence to award a mark in the higher band.

For example when marking Question 3, you may, find that a candidate uses a variety of relevant vocabulary but has varied success with more complex structures. In such cases, you will need to award a mark that takes into account both the strengths and weaknesses of the piece of work.

To select the most appropriate mark within each set of descriptors, you should use the following guidance:

- If most of the descriptors fit the piece (and after you have considered the band above), then you will award the top mark in the band.
- If there is just enough evidence (and you had perhaps been considering the band below), then you would award the lowest mark in the band.

### Note on irrelevant material

In the case of a deliberately evasive answer which consists entirely of irrelevant material exploited in defiance of the rubric, a score of 0 is given. These are extremely rare.

A genuine attempt to answer the question which fails due to a misunderstanding of the rubric will normally lose Communication marks but will score for Language. You should consult your Team Leader.