



**Cambridge International Examinations**  
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

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**MANDARIN CHINESE (FOREIGN LANGUAGE)**

**0547/41**

Paper 4 Writing

**May/June 2016**

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 45

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**Published**

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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## 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, scoris will automatically only aggregate the candidate's best result.

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## 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 to words written in pinyin
- Miswritten characters:
  - (a) Look-alike test: award the mark when the character the candidate has written looks like the correct answer e.g. strokes missing or added, but character still recognisable. However, when 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 places you might see near your home. (请用中文写出你家附近的五个地方)**

- If there are five clearly acceptable items, award marks wherever these are in the list. This approach may allow questionable versions to be ignored.
- If candidates list a single item with *different descriptive word/adjectives*, a maximum of 2 marks can be awarded, e.g. 大公园、小公园、漂亮公园 award 2 marks
- Ignore measure words and verbs.
- accept verb-object construction words, e.g. 去公园, 爬山, but not just 去 or 爬

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The following are examples. Accept any place the candidate might see near their home

<b>ACCEPT</b>	<b>REFUSE</b>
公园	红绿灯
商店	房子
火车站	树
超市	花
运动场	
学校	
山	
森林	
海边	
广场	

**[Total for Question 1: 5 marks]**

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## 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、爸爸和哥哥一起过周末。I spend time with my mum, dad and elder brother at the weekend. = 3 marks (= a list of 3)
  - 我跟爷爷、奶奶、妈妈、爸爸和哥哥一起过周末。I spend time with my grandpa, grandma, mum, dad and elder brother at the weekend = 3 marks
- (viii) **Only reward each piece of information once**, e.g. 下周末我会去电影院因为我喜欢电影院。 电影院cannot score both for task (c) and (d)
- (ix) Up to 5 further marks available for additional details for (a), (b), (c), (d) or (d)
- (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]**

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### Use of pinyin

If a candidate uses pinyin in their answer, you should read the work as if the pinyin words 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: 下周末我会去奶奶家。奶奶很好，她经常做好吃的，不但会做西餐，而且还会做中餐。  
(4 Communication marks are awarded for this response)

In the above example:

- Award 1 tick for 奶奶很好 as this is a generic statement which addresses the requirements of task (d)
- Award 1 tick for 她经常做好吃的 as this is an extra detail which is relevant to task (d)
- Award 1 tick for 不但会做西餐 as this is an extra detail which is relevant to task (d)
- Award 1 tick for 而且还会做中餐 as this is an extra detail which is relevant to task (d)

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**Session specific instructions for Communication marks (Question 2): Write about your weekend.**

(请写一写你的周末)

TICK	ACCEPT	REFUSE
1	<p><b>你周末喜欢做什么；</b> (What do you like to do at the weekend?)</p> <p><b>REWARD:</b> any activities e.g. 去商场, 打网球</p>	
2	<p><b>你和谁一起过周末；</b> (Who do you spend time with at the weekend?)</p> <p><b>REWARD:</b> any person e.g. 爸爸, 好朋友, 小明, 小狗</p> <p><b>ACCEPT :</b></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. teacher, nobody)</li> </ul>	
3	<p><b>下个周末你会去哪里；</b> (Where will you go next weekend?)</p> <p><b>REWARD:</b> any location, e.g. 电影院, 公园, 奶奶家</p>	
4	<p><b>你为什么会去那里；</b> (Why are you going there?)</p> <p><b>REWARD:</b> any reason, e.g. 好玩, 吃饭, 过生日</p>	
5	<p><b>你怎么去；</b> (How will you get there?)</p> <p><b>REWARD:</b> any means of transport, e.g. 骑车, 坐火车</p>	

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**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)**

5	Highly accurate in the use of simpler structures, with occasional minor slips.
4	Accurate in the use of simpler structures, except for occasional more serious errors/more frequent slips.
3	Generally accurate, but with increased incidence of more serious errors.
2	Substantially inaccurate, despite several examples of accurate usage.
1	Substantially inaccurate, with only isolated examples of accurate usage.
0	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]**

Very short answers

If a response is under 40 characters long, a maximum of 4 marks for Language can be awarded.

Pinyin

The volume of pinyin in the answer should be considered when awarding the Language mark. If pinyin is used extensively, it is no longer genuinely a piece of Chinese writing.

Occasional use of pinyin will not affect marking for Language, but for essays written predominantly in pinyin (i.e. more pinyin than characters) this must be taken into account in the Language mark.



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## 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]**

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

**Question 3(a): letter to pen friend about your pet**

Tick	Accept	Mark
1	请说一说你的宠物; <b>talk about your pet</b> Reward any type of pets	1
2	你从什么时候开始有这个宠物; <b>when did you get this pet</b> Reward any past time-frame given	1
3	你为什么选择这个宠物; <b>why do you choose this pet</b> Expect reasons	1
4	你最近和宠物一起做了什么; <b>what did you do with your pet recently</b> Reward activities given	1
5	你觉得有宠物有什么好处; <b>advantage of keeping pets</b> Expect opinions	1

**Question 3(b): talking about experience of working in the holidays**

Tick	Accept	Mark
1	你做了什么工作; <b>what did you do</b> Reward any job given	1
2	你每天工作多长时间, <b>how long did you work every day</b> Reward statement about working hours	1
3	你想怎么花挣的钱; <b>how do you want to spend the money you earned</b> Reward a statement using future time-frame expressing how candidate wants to spend the money they have earned.	1
4	你觉得跟你一起工作的人怎么样; <b>how do you feel the people working with you</b> Expect opinions	1
5	假期工作有什么好处; <b>advantage of holiday work</b> Reward statement about benefits of working in the holidays	1

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**Question 3(c): last summer holiday you went travelling with your family, suddenly you heard an ambulance come. (narrative)**

Tick	Accept	Mark
1	为什么救护车来了; <b>why did the ambulance come?</b> Reward statement in past time frame communicating why the ambulance came	1
2	后来发生了什么事; <b>what happened afterwards</b> Reward statement in past time frame what happened afterwards	1
3	你想再去那里度假吗; 为什么; <b>do you want to go there again for holidays &amp; why?</b> Expect a reason as to why the place would/wouldn't make a good holiday destination	1
4	<b>Appropriate elaboration of one of the bullet points</b> Communication mark to be awarded flexibly for (i), (ii) or (iii)	1
5	<b>Appropriate elaboration of one of the bullet points</b> Communication mark to be awarded flexibly for (i), (ii) or (iii)	1

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### 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)

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

[Total marks for Accuracy of Characters: 5]

### 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 Characters (Question 3)

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

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

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**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)**

<b>Mark out of 15 (for Accuracy of Language)</b>	<b>Pro rata (General Impression) Max 5</b>
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]**

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### **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.