

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2011 Assessment Report

Chinese Level 2

- 90382 Listen to and understand spoken language in Chinese in less familiar contexts**
- 90385 Read and understand written language in Chinese in less familiar contexts**
- 90386 Write text in Chinese on a less familiar topic**

COMMENTARY

This was the final year for examinations to assess these achievement standards.

The Listening and Reading passages required candidates to use language and cultural knowledge from a range of less predictable topic areas than in past years. They were required to think critically, and to draw meaningful conclusion based on the evidence they heard and read.

Writing topics were more topical and less formulaic than in past years in order to reflect candidate interest and experience. Candidates were required to address the bullet points in order to ensure authenticity; pre-learned responses did not generally address the bullet points.

STANDARD REPORTS

90382 Listen to and understand spoken language in Chinese in less familiar contexts

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- attempted most questions or parts of questions
- understood the requirement of the question
- identified sufficient key vocabulary to enable them to answer the question
- included sufficient detail and information to address the requirements of the question
- provided comprehensible answers.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- showed evidence of having misread or misinterpreted the question
- provided insufficient detail
- demonstrated insufficient vocabulary to enable adequate understanding of the gist of the text
- provided responses that were not comprehensible
- provided responses that were irrelevant to the text or question
- did not attempt or attempted only parts of questions.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- demonstrated a sound language and cultural knowledge at Curriculum Level 7
- provided the required detail with some elaboration and justification
- made sense of and connections in the text they heard

- showed some understanding of concepts and set phrases, rather than just individual lexical items.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- demonstrated Excellence language and cultural knowledge at Curriculum Level 7
- decoded the questions carefully and provided full responses without including irrelevant information
- read between the lines to interpret the text and draw conclusions
- wrote clear, well organised responses that showed understanding of implied meaning, rather than word-for-word translation.

OTHER COMMENTS

Candidates with good note-taking skills generally achieved at higher levels. In order to achieve with Merit and Excellence, candidates must show higher level thinking skills, and the ability to evaluate and justify their opinions. For example, in Question Four, candidates were free to create a travel itinerary for the Chinese tourists that was based on the information provided. There was no 'model answer' that said what activity must take place on each day. Candidates were assessed for their ability to justify the touring schedule they had designed based on the requests from the tourists, not on the 'accuracy' of the touring schedule. This 'holistic' focus, which is not based on the ability to decode individual lexical items, accords with the title of the standard to 'understand spoken text'.

90385 Read and understand written language in Chinese in less familiar contexts

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- recognised basic vocabulary and grammar structures at Curriculum Level 7
- understood the overall meaning of the text
- attempted all questions
- understood most of the requirements of the questions
- provided enough details to address the specifics of the questions.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- showed large gaps in language and cultural knowledge at Curriculum Level 7
- showed insufficient understanding of the text to give sufficiently accurate answers
- provided ambiguous and unclear answers lacking key required information
- gave responses irrelevant to the text.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- demonstrated a good level of language and cultural knowledge at Curriculum Level 7
- answered all questions completely with a range of supporting details
- decoded the questions carefully, and answered in full, without adding irrelevant information.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- showed excellent language and cultural knowledge at Curriculum Level 7
- wrote clear, well organised answers that showed understanding of the text, and did not include word-for-word translation
- read between the lines, decoded implied meaning, interpreted the text, and drew conclusions
- understood all aspects of the questions, as evidenced by responses that showed substantial development and justification
- avoided including irrelevant information.

OTHER COMMENTS

In order to achieve with Merit and/or Excellence, candidates are required to demonstrate their ability to not just understand the literal meaning of the text, but their ability to also interpret what they read and draw meaningful conclusion. Higher level thinking skills are one of the key areas candidates achieving at higher levels are required to demonstrate. For example, in Question One, when answering what type of student Malin is, candidates who simply translated his behaviour into English gained Achievement but no higher. Candidates who made a judgement and responded that Malin is a naughty/cheeky/lively student, with the support of his poor classroom behaviour, would gain Achievement with Merit. Candidates who made a judgement and found supporting evidence from his behaviour both in and out of classroom, and Malin's interaction with other students, would gain Achievement with Excellence. Again, there is no 'model answer' as to what candidates' judgement should be. Grades were determined by the quality of justification and supporting evidence provided by the candidates.

90386 Write text in Chinese on a less familiar topic

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- wrote on the topic
- addressed the bullet points and the word limit
- had a reasonable command of the language and cultural knowledge at Curriculum Level 1–6 and some at Curriculum Level 7
- showed linkage of ideas and information
- achieved communication in spite of minor errors in language
- expressed some points but lacked detail and depth.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- did not write on the topic
- lacked accuracy in even the basic structures and character formation
- showed insufficient language and culture knowledge up to and including Curriculum Level 7
- included evidence transcribed from the Reading task
- used English word order which significantly hindered communication
- planning of ideas to convey and language to use was inadequate or not undertaken, as was evidenced by repeated or contradictory ideas/information that impaired communication significantly.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- wrote on the topic
- showed language and cultural knowledge up to and including Curriculum Level 7
- wrote with a considerable degree of accuracy
- used a variety of language features and avoided repetition
- developed more than one idea with details and descriptions
- planned and drafted their response, which resulted in a well-organised piece of writing, often divided in paragraphs, each developing a different idea.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- understood all the requirements of the question, and wrote on the topic
- showed excellent command of language and cultural knowledge at Curriculum Level 7
- displayed style and originality
- were authentic in their expression
- explored the topic from various viewpoints
- provided justification to their ideas and thoughts
- showed editing ability by proof-reading their writing, which resulted in high degrees of accuracy
- used a variety of complex language throughout the writing and were able to manipulate it with confidence.

OTHER COMMENTS

In writing, candidates are required not just to present a series of ideas and information, but also to demonstrate their ability to connect these ideas, justify their points of view, and reflect on other people's and their own values and beliefs.