

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2011 Assessment Report

Chinese Level 3

- 90546 Listen to and understand complex spoken Chinese in less familiar contexts**
- 90549 Read and understand written language in Chinese, containing complex language, in less familiar contexts**
- 90550 Write text in Chinese using complex language on a less familiar topic**

COMMENTARY

The high proportion of candidates gaining Achievement with Merit and Achievement with Excellence is an accurate reflection of cohort ability, since judgments are made against the standard and are not related to candidates' language background.

STANDARD REPORTS

90546 Listen to and understand complex spoken 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
- identified sufficient key verbs and information to answer the question
- included sufficient detail
- gave 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:

- attempted only some questions or some parts of questions
- showed evidence of having misread or misinterpreted the question
- provided insufficient detail
- demonstrated vocabulary knowledge that was inadequate to enable sufficient understanding
- provided confused, incomprehensible responses that were irrelevant to the text or question.

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 8
- provided the required detail with some elaboration and justification
- made sense and connections of what 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 excellent language and cultural knowledge at Curriculum Level 8
- understood the question and supplied all relevant details required
- wrote full answers that did not include irrelevant information

- provided evidence in clear comprehensible language, that demonstrated understanding of implied meaning, the ability to read between the lines to interpret the text, and the capacity to draw conclusions
- avoided word-for-word translation.

OTHER COMMENTS

Candidates achieving at higher levels demonstrated good note-taking, often organised under subheadings that corresponded to the part or requirements of the question. They then selected relevant information from which to craft their responses.

90549 Read and understand written language in Chinese, containing complex language, 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 8
- understood the overall meaning of the text
- attempted all questions
- understood most of the questions
- provided enough details.

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 8
- did not show understanding of the text well enough to give sufficiently accurate answers
- provided vague and unclear answers, lacking key words or information
- gave responses that were not related 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 very good level of language and cultural knowledge at Curriculum Level 8
- provided a range of details in response to broad questions
- answered all questions completely with all details required
- read and decoded the question carefully and answer 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 8
- understood the question and answered it in full, supplying all relevant details without adding irrelevant information
- provided responses that showed ability to understand and decode the implied meaning, with substantial development and justification
- were able to read between the lines to interpret the text and draw conclusion
- avoided word-for-word translation.

OTHER COMMENTS

In order to achieve with Merit and/or Excellence, candidates are required to demonstrate their ability to understand not only the literal meaning of the text, but also the ability to also interpret what they read and draw meaningful conclusions. Higher level thinking skills are one of the key skills that high-achieving candidates demonstrate.

90550 Write text in Chinese using complex language 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 Levels 1–7 and some at Curriculum Level 8
- showed linkage of ideas and thoughts
- 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:

- wrote off topic
- lacked accuracy in even the basic structures
- showed insufficient language and culture knowledge at Curriculum Level 8
- included unacceptable evidence such as material from the Reading task
- translated ideas from English into Chinese (e.g. used English word order) that significantly hindered communication
- did not plan their ideas or the language to use and, therefore, repeated or wrote contradictory ideas using language that was not suitable; consequently, communication was significantly impaired.

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 very good language and cultural knowledge at Curriculum Levels 7 and 8
- wrote with a considerable degree of accuracy
- varied their language frequently and avoided repetition
- developed more than one idea with details and descriptions
- planned and drafted their essay, 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 the requirements of the question, and wrote on the topic
- showed excellent command of language and cultural knowledge at Curriculum Level 8
- displayed style and originality
- were authentic in their response
- explored the topic by relating it to their own experiences
- justified their ideas and thoughts
- paid attention to details and proof-read their essay, which resulted in a high degree of accuracy
- used a variety of complex language throughout the writing, which they manipulated with confidence.

OTHER COMMENTS

In writing, successful candidates not only presented a series of ideas and information, but also connected these ideas, justified their points of view, and reflected on other people's and their own values and beliefs.