

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2012 Assessment Report

Chinese Level 3

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

COMMENTARY

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

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 questions
- included basic information
- 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:

- attempted some questions
- misread/misinterpreted question requirements
- provided little information or detail
- had insufficient vocabulary knowledge to enable basic understanding
- were unable to provide comprehensible responses
- provided responses which were irrelevant to texts or 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 sound language and cultural knowledge at curriculum level 8
- provided the required details with some elaboration and justification
- made sense of and valid connections with 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:

- showed excellent language and cultural knowledge at curriculum level 8
- understood questions and supplied most pertinent details
- augmented details with substantial development and justification
- answered questions carefully and in full without adding irrelevant information
- used clear and well-formed language in their answers

- were able to understand and decode the implied meaning, rather than translate word for word
- read between the lines to interpret texts and draw meaningful and sensible conclusion(s).

OTHER COMMENTS

This paper required candidates to decipher implied meanings of the texts, make a judgment and justify it. Candidates who gained Merit and Excellence drew inference from and made reference to the text and the context; they demonstrated higher level thinking.

Higher achieving candidates also demonstrated good note-taking skills. They then used their notes to select relevant information and form clear high level responses and avoided decoding section(s) of spoken text, or word for word.

There are some un-glossed vocabulary items which are not on the “prescribed lists”. Nevertheless, these words are used to give the texts more authenticity. Not being able to understand these words did not affect candidates’ overall understanding of the passages.

90549 Read and understand written 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:

- attempted most questions, or most parts of all questions
- understood the overall meaning of texts
- recognised basic vocabulary and grammar structures at curriculum level 8
- included basic but not higher level information in their answers
- wrote comprehensibly.

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 some questions or parts of questions
- misread/misinterpreted question requirements
- had large gaps in language and cultural knowledge at curriculum level 8
- provided insufficient information or detail
- wrote responses that were irrelevant or incomprehensible
- provided vague and unclear answers, lacking key words or information.

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 a range of details in response to broad questions
- augmented the required details with some elaboration and justification

- read and decoded questions carefully, and consequently provided required responses without adding irrelevant information
- made sense of and plausible connections in what they read.

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 supplied sufficient details with substantial development and justification
- were able to decode the implied meaning, that went beyond word for word translation
- read between the lines to interpret the text and draw conclusion
- used clear and well-formed English in their answers.

OTHER COMMENTS

Question One and Question Two are narratives containing information. The distinction between Achievement, Merit and Excellence, was that candidates who gained Achieved retold the “plot” of the stories, whereas candidates who gained Merit and Excellence showed understanding of the implied messages of these stories.

Question Three and Question Four are related and require a lot more “reading between the lines”. These are two invitations, and based on the information presented in these invitations, candidates had to make a judgment whether Xiaoming would enjoy these events. There were no “correct” answers, candidates had to provide valid supporting evidence from the texts to justify their answers.

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. Candidates who copied a section of spoken texts, or provided word to word translation were awarded Achievement.

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 suggested word limit
- had a reasonable command of the language and cultural knowledge at up to and including curriculum 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
- did not show sufficient 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) which significantly hindered communication
- did not plan their ideas and the language to use before writing, which led to repeated or contradictory ideas; 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 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
- provided justification to their ideas and thoughts
- paid attention to details and proof-read their essay 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

All four topics cover a wide range of student interest and are relevant to New Zealand learners. 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's and their own values and beliefs. Sections directly copied from the Listening or Reading texts were not considered as evidence.

Too Young to Drink:

Candidates who achieved Merit or Excellence explored different viewpoints and provided advice to different sectors of the society (government/school/community/family).

Kiwiana:

Candidates who achieved Merit or Excellence introduced a cultural practice/Kiwiana, explained why it is important, and made comparison between Chinese and NZ cultures and/or cultural practices.

Book Review:

Candidates who achieved Merit or Excellence expressed opinions on the book being reviewed, and provide recommendation and justification.

The World is Our Stage:

Candidates who achieved Merit or Excellence compared and contrasted challenges faced by China and New Zealand, and the benefits enjoyed by the two countries.