

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2014 Assessment Report

Chinese Level 3

- 91533 Demonstrate understanding of a variety of extended spoken Chinese texts**
- 91536 Demonstrate understanding of a variety of extended written and /or visual Chinese texts**

COMMENTARY

The paper allows opportunities for candidates of various levels of performance to demonstrate their ability. There is enough factual information to allow candidates to provide responses to gain Achieved. There are also opportunities for candidates to draw inferential conclusions to gain Merit and Excellence.

Many questions ask candidates to provide evidence from the text to support or challenge a given statement. This resulted in many candidates copying or translating directly the phrases in the passage and failing to provide their own inferential response. On the other end of the spectrum, some candidates provide their own views without making connections to the passage. In order to avoid this, questions could be worded as “Do you agree with this statement? Provide evidence from the text to support your own arguments.”

Questions could include more scaffolding to help candidates provide responses to satisfy performance criteria at various levels.

The paper is nicely aligned with the New Zealand Curriculum which aims to develop students’ ability to explore, justify and challenge conflicting viewpoints; as well as to develop key competencies such as thinking. This year’s paper clearly provide opportunities for candidates to demonstrate lateral thinking and critical thinking. And rightly so, only those who are able to demonstrate such abilities get awarded with Excellence.

Both passages manage to convey some complex and subtle messages using simple but adequate language at this level. It is a challenging paper, but manageable and appropriate for Level 3. In the future, there will be at least three listening passages to allow a wider range of text types.

STANDARD REPORTS

91533 Demonstrate understanding of a variety of extended spoken Chinese texts

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- attempted most questions or parts of questions
- identified sufficient key vocabulary and information to answer questions
- had lexical information largely correct and understood the gist of the text without being able to develop explanatory answers
- included basic and valid information which demonstrated understanding of the spoken passages
- 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 commonly:

- did not attempt questions
- showed no or limited understanding of the texts
- misread or misinterpreted questions
- did not provide sufficient information or detail to demonstrate understanding of the basic meaning of the passages
- had some lexical information correct but did not understand the gist of the text
- provided information which was logically inconsistent indicating misunderstanding of the gist of the text
- 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 commonly:

- selected relevant information, ideas, and opinions from the text which showed clear understanding of the spoken texts
- were able to communicate their clear understanding of the spoken texts unambiguously
- demonstrated a sound language and cultural knowledge at C.L.8
- provided the required details with some elaboration
- made sense and connections of what they heard
- were able to develop an explanatory answer without indicating a grasp of fine detail and nuance.

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 commonly:

- understood questions and supplied sufficient details necessary for Excellence
- showed excellent language and cultural knowledge at C.L.8
- understood questions and supplied sufficient details with substantial details with substantial development and justification
- used clear and well-formed language in their answers
- provided responses which showed ability to understand and decode the implied meaning, rather than word for word translation
- showed ability to read between the lines to interpret texts and draw meaningful, sensible and inferential conclusions
- were able to read questions carefully and answered in full without including irrelevant information
- selected and expanded on, with supporting detail, relevant information, ideas, and opinions from the text which showed understanding of the implied meanings or conclusions within the text

- developed an answer which showed understanding of nuance and meanings not necessarily stated obviously in the text.

OTHER COMMENTS

Question One and Two required candidates to follow conflicting arguments in a dialogue to gain a full understanding. This assessed candidates' ability to follow two trains of thought, extract relevant information, make a judgement on characters' personalities and attitudes based on their actions, and justify their own responses with supporting detail from the text.

Questions Three and Four required candidates to follow a speech, contextualise information given in the speech and draw inferential conclusions. This assessed candidates' ability to summarise, categorise, explore, support, challenge, justify and apply various information, ideas and opinions.

In order to achieve with Merit and Excellence, candidates must make reference and inference to the text and contextualise their understanding. This paper encouraged lateral and critical thinking.

Candidates would be able to gain higher grades if they had good note-taking skills. At this level, candidates must be able to demonstrate their skills to apply knowledge to a wider context.

Often it appears native speakers have satisfactory comprehension skills, but since they may not have participated in the programme of learning, they have not developed the skills to decode the questions, provide responses that would show higher level thinking or demonstrate ability to draw inferential conclusions. Their responses typically demonstrated clear understanding of the literal meaning of the texts, but failed to satisfy the criteria for Excellence which required candidates to show thorough understanding of the implied meaning of the texts.

91536 Demonstrate understanding of a variety of extended written and /or visual Chinese texts

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- attempted most questions or parts of questions
- identified sufficient key vocabulary and information to answer questions
- had lexical information largely correct and understood the gist of the text without being able to develop explanatory answers
- included basic and valid information which demonstrated understanding of the spoken passages
- 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 commonly:

- did not attempt questions
- showed no or limited understanding of the texts
- misread or misinterpreted questions
- did not provide sufficient information or detail to demonstrate understanding of the basic meaning of the passages
- had some lexical information correct but did not understand the gist of the text
- provided information which was logically inconsistent indicating misunderstanding of the gist of the text
- 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 commonly:

- selected relevant information, ideas, and opinions from the text which showed clear understanding of the spoken texts
- were able to communicate their clear understanding of the spoken texts unambiguously
- demonstrated a sound language and cultural knowledge at C.L.8
- provided the required details with some elaboration
- made sense and connections of what they heard
- were able to develop an explanatory answer without indicating a grasp of fine detail and nuance.

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 commonly:

- understood questions and supplied sufficient details necessary for Excellence
- showed excellent language and cultural knowledge at C.L.8
- understood questions and supplied sufficient details with substantial details with substantial development and justification
- used clear and well-formed language in their answers
- provided responses which showed ability to understand and decode the implied meaning, rather than word for word translation
- showed ability to read between the lines to interpret texts and draw meaningful, sensible and inferential conclusions
- were able to read questions carefully and answered in full without including irrelevant information
- selected and expanded on, with supporting detail, relevant information, ideas, and opinions from the text which showed understanding of the implied meanings or conclusions within the text

- developed an answer which showed understanding of nuance and meanings not necessarily stated obviously in the text.

OTHER COMMENTS

Both passages managed to convey some complex and subtle messages using simple but adequate language at this level. It was a challenging paper, but manageable and appropriate for Level 3.

Question One, Two and Three required candidates to read an email which contained complex and sometimes conflicting emotions. This assessed candidates' ability to read between the lines and understand the implied meaning, extract relevant information, make a judgement on characters' personalities and attitudes based on their actions, and justify their own responses with supporting detail from the text.

Question Four required candidates to read and understand a simplified version of a well-known prose written by Ziqing Zhu. Candidates were required to express their own personal response and make judgement on character's personality. This assessed candidates' ability to summarise, categorise, explore, support, challenge, justify and apply various information, ideas and opinions.

Candidates who copied a section of written text, or provided word for word translation were not awarded with Achievement with Merit or Excellence. Candidates must understand that all the examples or evidence provided in their responses must be re-phrased in their own words to show clear and thorough understanding. Furthermore, Excellence candidates must demonstrate their ability to explore, challenge and justify conflicting points of view. This is clearly outlined as an Achievement Objective at the NZC Level 8.