THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF TANZANIA

CANDIDATES' ITEM RESPONSE ANALYSIS REPORT ON THE CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION (CSEE) 2020

CHINESE LANGUAGE

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF TANZANIA

CANDIDATES' ITEM RESPONSE ANALYSIS REPORT ON THE CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION (CSEE) 2020

026 CHINESE LANGUAGE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD

The National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) is pleased to issue this Candidates' Item Response Analysis (CIRA) report on the Form Four National Examination (CSEE) for 2020 in the Chinese Language subject. The examination provides an evaluation of the product of candidates' learning the Chinese Language in Tanzania for four years at Ordinary Secondary Level.

The analysis presented in this report is intended to contribute towards the understanding of reasons behind the candidates' performance in Chinese Language subject. The report highlights the factors for good and weak performance. The good performance was due to the candidates' ability to answer the questions according to the requirements as well as their competence in the Chinese Language. However, those who had weak performance failed to comprehend the requirement of the questions and lacked knowledge of the Chinese grammatical rules and vocabulary.

The feedback delivered will enable the education administrators, school managers, teachers, students and education stakeholders to take appropriate measures in order to improve the candidates' performance in future examinations administered by the Council.

Finally, the council would like to acknowledge the examinations officers, statisticians, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) experts, teachers and all those who participated fully in preparing and analyzing the data used in this report.

Dr. Charles E. Msonde
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1.0   INTRODUCTION

This report analyses the performance of the candidates who sat for the Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (CSEE) in the Chinese Language subject in 2020. All the questions were set in accordance with the 2015 Chinese Language syllabus.

The Chinese Language Examination had a total of 13 compulsory questions. The questions were grouped in five sections: A *Comprehension*, B *Patterns and Vocabulary*, C *Grammar patterns*, D *Language Use* and E *Composition*. Section A had 2 questions; question 1 and 2 where each of which carried 10 marks, thereby making a total of 20 marks. Section B comprised 3 questions; questions 3, 4 and 5. Question 3 and 4 carried 5 marks each and question 5 carried 10 marks thus making a total of 20 marks. Section C contained 3 questions; question 6 and 7 which carried 5 marks each, and question 8 carried 10 marks, making a total of 20 marks. Section D contained 3 questions; questions 9 and 10 carried 5 marks each and question 11 carried 10 marks, making a total of 20 marks. Section E had 2 questions; each question carried 10 marks, thus making a total of 20 marks.

The analysis presented in this report focuses on how the candidates performed in each question. The challenges they met and the strengths they had in responding to the questions. Sample extracts of responses from the candidates' scripts have been presented to show how the candidates responded to questions in relation to the requirement of each item.

The analysis of the candidates' performance is presented in three categories. The performance from 65 to 100 percent is categorized as *good*, from 30 to 64 percent as *average* and from 0 to 29 percent as *weak*. The three colours have been used to represent the candidates' performance: *green* indicates a good performance; *yellow* shows an average performance while *red* denotes a weak performance. The candidates' performance in each topic is summarized in the Appendices I and II.

A total of 139 candidates were registered for the Form Four National Examination in 2020, 126 of whom sat for the examination and 13 candidates were absent. The analysis shows that the general performance in this year was good because 119 (94.4%) candidates passed the examination and 7 (5.6%) candidates failed the examination. This performance has

decreased by 5.6% compared to the 2019 performance where all candidates 100% passed.

Table 1: Candidates' Pass Grades in the 2020 CSEE

Year	Sat	GRADES				
		A	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**
2019	144	40	33	55	16	0
2020	126	32	23	47	17	7

ANALYSIS OF THE CANDIDATES' RESPONSE IN EACH QUESTION

2.1 Section A: Comprehension

This section consisted of two questions, question 1 and 2. The candidates were required to read the passages and answer the questions. Each question carried 10 marks, thus making a total of 20 marks. This section tested the candidates' ability to comprehend the Chinese Language written information.

2.1.1 Question 1: Multiple Choices

In this question, the candidates were provided with a passage from a topic of Health. They were required to read the passage and answer the questions by choosing the correct response from the alternatives A, B, C and D. The passage was about eating habit of a family. The question tested the candidates' ability to comprehend the information in the passage. The passage and its questions were as follows:

一 阅读短文，回答问题。根据短文，选择正确答案。

Dà Wèi shì yí gè zhōng xué de xuésheng, tā shíwǔ suì le. Měitiān zǎoshang, tā de mā ma
大卫 是 一个 中学 的 学生，他 十五 岁了。每天 早上， 他的 妈妈

gěi tāmen zuò zǎofàn, zǎofàn yǒu jīdàn、 niúnǎi、 miànbāo hé shuǐguǒ. Nǎinai gěi tāmen zuò
给他们 做早饭，早饭 有 鸡蛋、 牛奶、 面包 和水果。 奶奶 给他们 做

wǔ fàn, wǔfàn yǒu niúròu, jī ròu, shūcài hé shuǐguǒ. Dàwèi ài chī miàntiáo, yīnwèi nǎinai zuò
午饭， 午饭 有 牛肉， 鸡肉 蔬菜 和 水果。大卫 爱吃 面条，因为 奶奶 做

de miàntiáo hěn hǎochī. Nǎinai hé māma yì qǐ zuò wǎnfàn, māma zuò de tāng hěn hǎo hē. Chī
的 面条 很 好吃。 奶奶 和 妈妈 一起 做 晚饭 妈妈 做的汤很 好 喝。 吃

guò wǎnfàn, yéye xiān kàn yí gè zhōngtóu de diànshì, zài hé nǎinai yì qǐ qù húbiān sànbù. Māma
过 晚饭, 爷爷 先 看 一个 钟 头 的 电视,再和 奶奶 一起 去湖边 散步。妈妈

zuò liǎnggè zhōngtóu de jiāwù, bàba dǎ yí gè bàn zhōngtóu de tàijíquán. Dàwèi gēn tāmen yí
做 两个 钟头 的 家务,爸爸 打 一个 半 钟头 的 太极拳。大卫 跟他们 一

yàng xǐhuan yùndòng, zuì xǐhuan hé tā de hǎo péngyou Wáng Xiǎomíng yìqǐ tī zúqiú.
样 喜欢 运动， 最 喜欢 和 他的 好朋友 王 小 明 一起 踢足球。

Lì rú：DàWèi jǐ suì le ?
例如：大卫 几岁了？

Dá àn
答案：B

Shí suì   Shí wǔ suì   Wǔ suì   Shí sān suì
A 十岁   B 十五岁   C 五岁   D 十三 岁

Shuí zuò wǎn fàn ?
1. 谁 做 晚饭？

Dàwèi de nǎinai hé bàba   Dàwèi de bà ba hé māma
A 大卫的奶奶和爸爸   B 大卫 的 爸爸 和妈妈

Dàwèi de yéye hé māma   Dàwèi de nǎinai hé māma
C 大卫的爷爷和妈妈   D 大卫 的 奶奶 和 妈妈

Dàwèi de nǎinai zuò de shénme hěn hǎochī ?
2. 大卫 的 奶奶 做 的 什么 很 好吃？

mǐfàn   miàntiáo   miànbāo   jīdàn
A 米饭 B 面条   C 面 包 D 鸡蛋

Zǎofàn hé wǔfàn dōu yǒu shénme ?
3. 早饭 和 午饭 都 有 什么？

miànbāo   tāng   shuǐguǒ   jīdàn
A 面包   B 汤   C 水果   D 鸡蛋

Wǎnfàn hòu Dàwèi de yéye xiān gàn shénme ?
4. 晚饭 后 大卫 的 爷爷 先 干 什么？

sàn bù   yùndòng   tī zú qiú   kàn diànshì
A 散步   B 运动   C 踢足球   D 看电视

Dàwèi zuì xǐhuan shénme yùndòng ?
5. 大卫 最 喜欢 什么 运动？

sàn bù   dǎ tàijíquán   tī zúqiú   yùndòng
A 散步   B 打太极拳   C 踢足球   D 运动

3

The data shows that 126 (100%) candidates attempted the question, of whom 104 (82.5%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks, which is a good performance, 22 (17.5%) candidates performed averagely by scoring from 4 to 6 marks and there were no candidates who had weak performance. The general performance in this question was good because 126 (100%) candidates scored 30% or above. Figure 1 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 1.
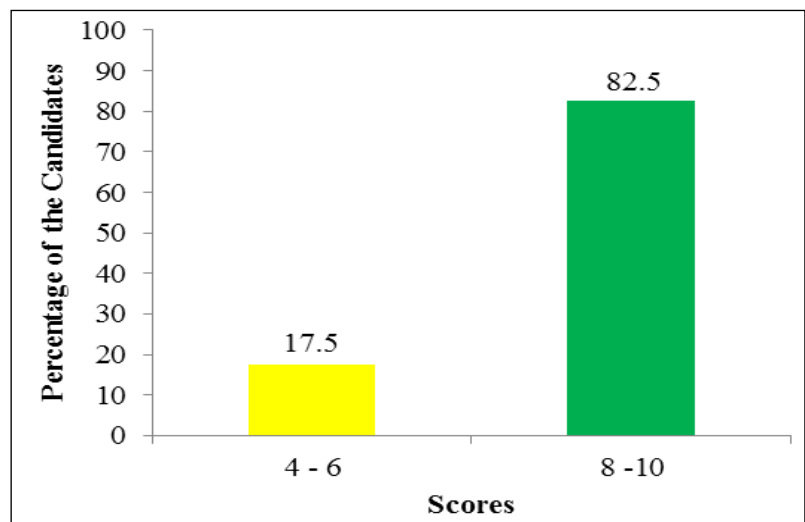

Figure 1: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 1.*

The candidates' performance analysis shows that 104 (82.5%) candidates performed well in this question. These candidates comprehended the passage and managed to choose the correct answers. For instance, in item 1, the candidates were required to answer the question 谁做晚饭? (Who prepares their dinner?). The candidates chose the correct answer D 大卫的妈妈和奶奶 (David's mother and his grandmother), for the reason that they understood the phrase "和……一起" from the passage.

In item 2, the candidates were required to answer the question which asked 大卫的奶奶做什么很好吃 (What does David's grandmother cook well?). The candidates choose the correct answer because they had

sufficient vocabulary which enabled them to understand the passage and identify the correct answer that says *David's grandmother cooks delicious noodles.*

Moreover, in item 3, the question required the candidates to answer the question 早饭 和 午饭 都 有 什么？(What does their breakfast and lunch have in common?) which wanted the candidates to name the food which is found in all meals. The candidates who got this item right opted C and were able to recognize the vocabulary 水果 (fruits) which appears in both breakfast and lunch.

They also responded correctly to item 4, whose question asked 大卫的爷爷晚饭后先做什么？(what does David's grandfather do firstly after supper?). They wrote the correct answer which was D 看电视 (watches TV), because they understood the phrase 爷爷先看一个钟头的电视 (Grandfather first watch TV for an hour) in the passage.

Finally, in item 5, the candidates were asked 大卫最喜欢什么运动？(What is David's favorite sport?). They chose the correct answer C 踢足球 (playing football) because they managed to differentiate the hobbies mentioned, thus they ended up identifying the correct answer. This implies that these candidates had ability to comprehend the passage. Extract 1.1 is a sample of the candidates' good responses to question 1.

一	1. D.
	2. B.
	3. C.
	4. D.
	5. C.

Extract 1.1: A sample of the candidates' good responses to question 1.

In Extract 1.1, the candidate responded correctly to all items by choosing correct options.

Further analysis shows that 22 (17.5%) candidates scored from 4 to 6 marks, because they responded correctly to some items but failed others. This shows that they had partial knowledge on comprehension. For instance, the candidates who scored 0, in item 1, failed to identify the specific person who cooked dinner. Some of them opted for A 大卫的奶奶和爸爸 (David's grandmother and father) because they were influenced by the phrase 大卫的奶奶 (David's grandmother). Thus, they did not know that the noun 爸爸 (father) was a distractor because the father did not cook he rather played taiji. Those who opted for B were attracted by the noun 妈妈 (mother) and they did not know that 爸爸 (father) did not cook he played taiji. Those who opted for C they were attracted by the noun 妈妈 (mother), and failed to notice that 爷爷 (grandfather) did another activity which was walking.

In item 2, the candidates who scored 0 mark failed to differentiate the types of food cooked by grandmother which was B 面条 (noodles). They chose the wrong options because they did not know that, A 米饭 (rice) was not written in the passage and that C 面包 (bread) and D 鸡蛋 (eggs) were types of food cooked by the mother.

In item 3, the candidates who got 0 mark failed to notice the key word 都 (all) which required the candidates to choose one type of food which appeared in all meals. They failed because they did not know that other options did not appear in both 早饭 (breakfast) and 午饭 (lunch).

Similarly, the analysis shows that in item 4, the candidates failed to identify the correct answer D 看电视 (watch TV) which was an activity was done by the grandfather. The other options were wrong for the reason that an option A 散

步 (take a walk) was incorrect because 爷爷 (Grandfather) and 奶奶 (Grandmother) were going for a walk. Option B 运动 (sports) and C 踢足球 (play football) were activities done by David.

Finally, in item 5, the candidates were asked to mention the sport most practiced by David. The correct answer was C 踢足球 (play football) because this was the most favorite sports practiced by David. The candidates failed in this item because of choosing incorrect answers. For instance option A 散步 (take a walk) was an activity done by 爷爷 (Grandfather) and 奶奶 (Grandmother), B 打太极拳 (play Taiji) was done by David's fathers and D 运动 (sports) in general. This analysis implies that these candidates had partial knowledge of Chinese vocabulary and limited ability to comprehend the given passage. Extract 1.2 is a sample from a candidate performed averagely in question 1.

Extract 1.2: A sample of responses from a candidate with average performance in question 1.

In Extract 1.2, the candidate was able to choose the correct answer in items 2 and 5 but failed in items 1, 3 and 4.

2.1.2 Question 2: Reading the passage and Answering Questions Using Chinese Characters

The candidates were given a passage and they were required to read it and respond to the questions by using Chinese characters (汉字). The passage was from a topic on Travel and Custom. It was about culture information of Chinese traditional Festivals such as the Spring Festival (春节), the

Dragon Boat Festival（端午节）and the Mid-Autumn Festival (中秋节).

This question examined the candidates' ability to comprehend and use the Chinese character（汉字）. The passage and its questions were as follows:

Zhōngguó yǒu hěnduō chuántǒng jiérì, měigè jiérì de fēngsú bùyíyàng. Zuì yǒumíng
中 国 有 很多 传统 节日，每个 节日的 风俗 不一样。最 有 名

de shì Chūnjié, Duānwǔ Jié hé Zhōngqiū Jié. Guò Chūnjié de shíhou, měi gè rén jiànmiàn
的 是 春节、 端午节和 中秋 节。过 春节 的 时候，每个 人 见 面

dōu shuō "Xīnnián hǎo" hé "Xīnnián kuàilè", sòng xīnnián lǐwù gěi péngyou hé jiārén;
都 说 "新年好" 和 "新年快乐"，送 新年 礼物 给 朋友 和 家人；

Zhōngguó rén hái xǐhuan biǎoyǎn wǔlóng, wǔshī, hé jiārén yì qǐ zuò jiǎozi, kàn chūn
中 人 还 喜欢 表演 舞龙、 舞狮、 和 家人 一起 做 饺子，看 春

jié diànshì wǎnhuì. Duānwǔ Jié Zhōngguó rén yào chī zòngzi, zòngzi hěn hǎochī; chúle
节 电视 晚会。端午节 中 国 人 要 吃 粽子，粽子 很 好吃；除了

chī zòngzi, hái qù gōngyuán kàn lóngzhōu bǐsài. Guò Zhōngqiū Jié de shíhou, Zhōngguó
吃 粽子，还去 公 园 看 龙 舟 比赛。过 中 秋节的 时候，中 国

rén chángcháng chī yuèbǐng, hái hé jiārén yì qǐ kàn měilì de yuèliang. Zhōngguó jié·rì
人 常 常 吃 月饼，还和 家人 一起 看 美丽 的 月亮。 中 国 节·日

de fēngsú dōu hěn yǒu yì si.
的 风俗都 很 有 意思。

Lì rú: Wèn: Zhōngguó jiérì de fēngsú zěnmeyàng？
例如：问：中 国 节日的 风俗 怎么样？

Dá
答：<u>中国节日的风俗都很有意思</u> 。

Zhōngguórén Duānwǔ Jié yào chī shénme？
1. 中 国 人 端 午节 要吃 什么？
_____。

Chúle Chūnjié, Zhōngguó hái yǒu shénme yǒumíng de jié·rì？
2. 除了 春节， 中 国 还有 什么 有名 的 节日？
_____。

Nǎ gè jié rì yǒu lóngzhōu bǐ sài？
3. 哪个 节日 有 龙 舟 比赛？
_____。

Zhōngguórén shénme jié rì chī jiǎozi？
4. 中 国 人 什么 节日吃 饺子？
_____。

Guò Zhōngqiū Jié yǒu shénme huódòng？
5. 过 中 秋 节 有 什么 活动？
_____。

The total of 126 (100%) candidates attempted the question, 63 (50%) candidates out of these scored from 8 to 10 marks, which is a good performance, 38 (30.2%) candidates scored

from 3 to 6 marks with an average performance and 25 (19.8%) candidates scored 0 to 2 marks, which is a weak performance. The general performance of candidates in this question was good, since 101 (80.2%) candidates from scored 3 to 10 marks. Figure 2 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 2.
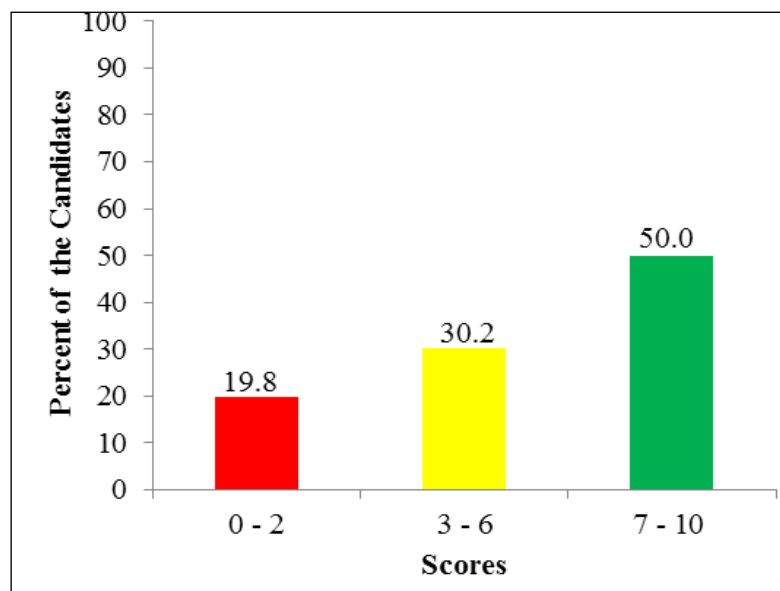

Figure 2: *The Percentages of the candidates' Performance in Question 2.*

The candidates' response analysis reveals that, 63 (50%) candidates who had good performance were competent as they comprehended the passage and answer the questions correctly in Chinese characters. Those candidates completed the five questions with the correct information using correct characters. For instance, in item 1, the question was 中国人端午节要吃什么？(What would Chinese people like to eat during the Dragon Boat Festival?). This question tested the candidates' knowledge of the Chinese Festival. They wrote the correct answer which was 要吃粽子 (rice dumplings) because they mastered well the Chinese festivals and the type of food that eaten during specific festivals.

In item 2, the candidates were required to answer the question 除了春节，中国还有什么有名的节日 (Are there

other famous Chinese festivals apart from the Spring Festival?). The candidates managed to write the correct answer which was 端午节和中秋节 (The dragon Boat Festival and the Mid-Autumn Festival), because they mastered well the expression 除了…还 (apart from). This expression needed the candidates to mention the others festivals besides from the one which was mentioned in the question. They understood the passage and identified the other festivals in the passage.

Furthermore, in item 3, the question was 那个节日有龙舟比赛? (Which festival has the dragon boat competition?). The question tested the understanding of the candidates on the activity done during the Dragon Boat Festival. These candidates wrote the correct answer 端午节 (The dragon Boat Festival) because they had adequate vocabulary.

Further analysis shows that, in item 4, the candidates were required to provide the name of the Festival in which the Chinese eat 饺子 (dumpling). This question tested the candidates' understanding of foods which are taken during the Chinese traditional Festivals. These candidates wrote the correct answer 春节 (spring Festival) because they mastered well the vocabulary of Chinese traditional festivals and were able to identify the correct answers in the passage.

In item 5, the question was 过中秋节的时候有什么活动? (What is the activity in Mid-Autumn Festival?), the candidates gave the correct answer 人们吃月饼，看月亮 (People have mooncakes and watch the moon) because they mastered well the topic of Festivals and were able to comprehend the passage. This implies that the candidates were competent in comprehending the Chinese Language passage. Extract 2.1 is a sample of the candidates' good responses to question 2.

二.	1. 中国人端午节要吃 粽子.	
	2. 除了春节, 中国还有端午节和中秋节有名的节日.	
	3. 端午节有龙舟比赛.	
	4. 中国人春节的时候每个人吃饺子.	
	5. 过中秋节有 吃月饼和看美丽的月亮.	

Extract 2.1: A sample of the candidates' good responses to question 2.

Extract 2.1, the candidate was able to read the given passage and answer the questions using Chinese characters correctly.

Further analysis indicates that 38 (30.2%) candidates who scored 3 to 6 scores responded correctly to some items and failed to others. These candidates understood partially the passage because they had partial knowledge of comprehension. For instance, in item 2, the candidates who scored 0 did not understand the structure 除了……还 means (apart from) which led them to write wrong answers.

In item 4, the candidates failed to give the correct answer because they failed to differentiate between the festivals and the foods eaten in those festivals. Some candidates wrote the name of food instead of name of the festival which was 春节 (spring festival). Others wrote the activities done during different festivals. For instance, 看月亮，吃月饼 (watch the moon, eat moon cakes) 表演舞龙 (watch dragon boat competitions, 舞狮 (lion dances) and 做饺子 (making dumplings). This implies that the candidates lacked vocabulary of festivals.

In item 5, the candidates who scored 0 mark failed to identify the specific information from the key sentence 家人一起看美丽的月亮 (Family members watch the bright and round moon). Some candidates failed to recognize the verb 看 because it was preceded by the noun phrase which is 美丽的. Few of them failed to write the correct Chinese characters because they lacked knowledge of Chinese

11

vocabulary. This made them to have an average performance. Extract 2.2 is sample of responses from a candidate with average performance in question 2.

Extract 2.2: A sample of the candidates' average responses.

Extract 2.2, the candidate wrote correct answers in items 1 and 5 but failed in items 2, 3 and 4.

Further analysis indicates that 25 (19.8%) candidates failed and scored from 0 to 2 marks, because they were not able to answer the questions correctly. Some candidates understood neither the contents of the passage nor the requirement of the questions. They just copied words and sentences from the passage and wrote them as answers. Few of them failed to write correct Chinese sentences or phrases with Chinese characters. For example, in item 1, the candidates failed to give the name of the food eaten during spring festival which was 粽子 instead they wrote the other festivals 中秋节 and 春节. This shows that the candidates did not understand the requirement of the question and they failed to notice the verb 吃 (eat) which was a key word for the question.

Moreover, the candidates who got wrong item 3, failed to mention the festival in which there is Dragon Boat

Competition. The response analysis shows that the candidates lacked vocabulary on festivals and the activities done during the festival. Thus, they ended up giving a wrong answer like copying the sentences from the passage and writing them as answers. For instance, one of them wrote 除了吃 粽子 哪个节日有龙舟比赛. This implies that these candidates had insufficient knowledge of reading for comprehension. Extract 2.3 is a sample of weak candidate's responses in question 2.

Extract 2.3: A sample of the candidates' weak responses to question 2.

In Extract 2.3, illustrates the weak responses from the candidate who wrote incorrect sentences and characters.

2.2 Section B: Patterns and vocabulary

This section contained three questions: questions 3, 4 and 5. Questions 3 and 4 had 5 marks each and question 5 had 10 marks, thus making a total of 20 marks. The candidates were required to answer all the questions.

2.2.1 Question 3: Filling in the Brackets with Chinese Pinyin from the Provided Characters

The question comprised 5 items and each of them had one word written in Chinese characters. The candidates were required to write the missing pinyin. The words were derived from the topic on Introduction and Recommendation. The question tested the candidates' ability to recognize the Chinese characters and its pronunciation. The question was as follows:

```
三  给汉字标注拼音。

   Lì rú:    nǐ ( hǎo )
   例如：  你  好

       (    ) bié
   1.  性  别

       (    ) qī
   2.  日  期

       (    ) yǔ
   3.  外  语

       xùn (    )
   4.  训    练

       (    ) jiàn
   5.  邮  件
```

The total of 126 (100%) candidates attempted the question, of whom 23 (18.2%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks, which is a good performance, 52 (41.3%) candidates scored from 3 to 6 marks, which is an average performance and 51 (40.5%) candidates scored 0 to 2 marks, which is a weak performance. The general performance of candidates in this question was average, since 75 (59.5%) candidates scored from 3 to 10 marks. Figure 3 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 3.
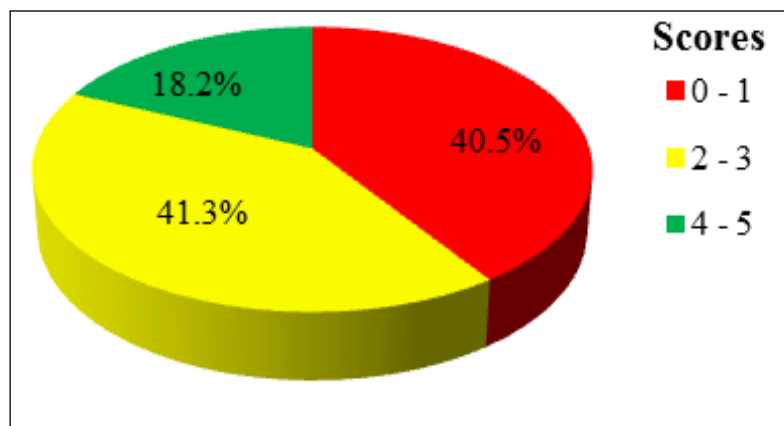
Figure 3: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 3.*

The data shows that 52 (41.3%) candidates had average performance as they scored from 2 to 3 marks which is an average performance. These candidates were able to write correct pinyin with their respective tones for some of the Chinese characters but failed in others. Most of the candidates wrote correct answers in items 2 and 3 while the majority failed in items 1, 4 and 5. The response analysis shows that some candidates were able to write the initials and finals correctly but failed to mark the tones at the right position. Other candidates failed to differentiate homophones, this made them to write wrong characters. This proves that, these candidates had partial knowledge of Chinese syllables and Tone-Mark-Rule. For example, in item 1, the candidates were required to write pinyin x*ìng* (with the fourth tone*)* as a correct answer*,* but some of the candidates marked as it *xíng* (with second tone) which was wrong and others wrote xīng (with first tone). This shows that these candidates failed to differentiate between the rising tone and fourth (falling) tone and first (flat) tone.

In item 3, *wài* (外), the candidates who scored 0 mark failed to mark the correct tone which was the fourth tone *wài*, For example, most of them put a tone on top of letter "i" (*waì*) instead of putting it on top of letter "a" (*wài*) . They also failed in item 4 in which the correct pinyin was *xùnliàn* 训练

(training). Some of them wrote *lian* without tone, others marked the wrong tone *lián* and few of them wrote *lan* with incorrect final.

Lastly, in item 5, in the character 邮件, most of the candidates failed by writing *you* without tones*,* whereas others wrote *yòu* and few of them wrote *yoú* instead of the correct answer *yóu.* This shows that these candidates had partial knowledge of pinyin writing skills and Tone-Mark-Rule. Extract 3.1 is a sample of responses from a candidate with average performance in question 3.

Extract 3.1: A sample of the candidates' average responses.

Extract 3.1, shows a candidate who managed to write correct pinyin in items 1, 2 and 3 but failed in items 4 and 5.

Moreover, the candidates' response analysis indicates that 23 (18.2%) candidates had high marks in this question as they scored from 4 to 5 marks. These candidates mastered well the pinyin with their tone-mark-rule, the initials and finals which resulted into writing correct answers in all items. Apart from that, the candidates had enough knowledge and skills in recognizing Chinese characters, strokes and pinyin. Extract 3.2 is a sample of the candidates' good responses.

三.	1. xìng	
	2. rì	
	3. wài	
	4. liàn	
	5. yóu	

Extract 3.2: A sample of the candidates' good responses to question 3.

In Extract 3.2, the candidate wrote correct pinyin in all the items.

Furthermore, 51 (40.5%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, demonstrating a weak performance. These candidates failed to recognize the given Chinese characters (汉字) and hindered from writing the correct Pinyin (拼音). The analysis of candidates' response indicates that some of the candidates did not master the pinyin with their respective tone mark, as they copied any pinyin from the questions and wrote them as answers.

For example in item 2, the candidates were asked to write pinyin *rì* with the fourth tone, but some of them wrote *ri* without marking the tone and others wrote *mu* 目 instead of *ri* 日. They failed to differentiate between the two Chinese character 目 and 日. This implies that these candidates had insufficient knowledge of recognizing Chinese characters and Tone-Mark-Rule in the Chinese Language. Extract 3.3 is a sample of responses the candidate who performed poorly in question 3.

17

Extract 3.3: A sample of the candidates' incorrect responses to question 3.

In Extract 3.3, the candidate wrote incorrect pinyin for the characters given and he/she wrote any pinyin which came into his/her mind.

2.2.2 Question 4: Filling in the Brackets with Chinese Character from the Provided Pinyin

In this question, the candidates were given 5 vocabulary having gapes written in pinyin and they were required to write the characters. The words were from the topic on Shopping. The question examined the candidates' ability to write the correct characters which represents the given pinyin. The question was as follows:

四　根据拼音写汉字。

　　　　nǐ　　hǎo
例如：（你）好

　　　yáng　ròu
1.（　　）肉

　　　zì　　xíngchē
2.（　　）行 车

　　cǎo　　dì
3.（　　）地

　　yí　　gòng
4. 一（　　　）

　　diǎn　xīn
5. 点（　　　）

18

The total of 126 (100%) candidates attempted the question, of whom 12 (9.6%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks, which is a good performance, 40 (31.7%) candidates scored from 2 to 3 marks which is an average performance and 74 (58.7%) candidates scored from 0 to 1 mark, which is a weak performance. The general performance of candidates in this question was average, since 52 (41.2%) candidates scored from 3 to 5 marks. Figure 4 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 4.
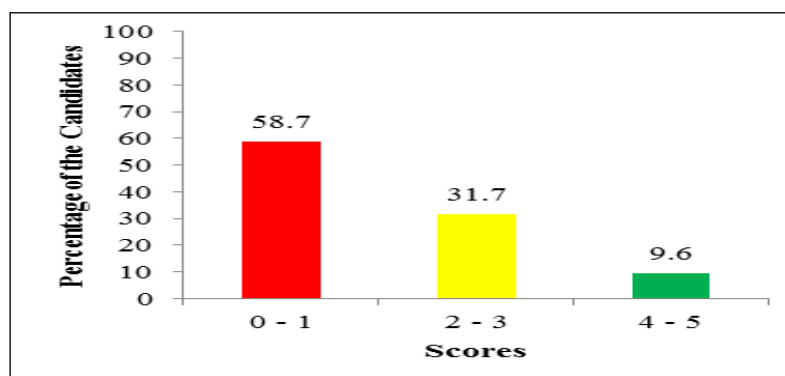

Figure 4: *The Percentages of Candidates' Performance in Question 4.*

The data indicates that 40 (31.7%) candidates had an average performance, as they scored 2 to 3 marks. These candidates wrote correct characters in some items while failed to write those in other items. These candidates were not familiar with some of the rules of writing characters, which made them leave some strokes when they were responding to the question. They also failed to differentiate the characters of the same pronunciation. For instance, in item 1, some candidates failed to differentiate character 样 yàng (appearance) from character 羊 yáng (sheep) which was the correct answer. These characters confused them because they have the same pinyin with different tones. This shows that, the candidate did not master well the tones. In item 2 the candidates were supposed to write the correct character which was 自, but some candidates confused it with character 字 because both have the same pronunciation.

Others candidates wrote 目 because they are slightly similar morphologically.

Furthermore, in item 3, the candidates wrote 早 (early) instead of 草 (grass). These candidates failed to differentiate the two characters. The character 早 have two parts 日 and 十 while 草 have three parts 艹, 日 and 十. This implies that these candidates had partial knowledge of recognising and writing characters. Extract 4.1 is a sample of responses from a candidate who performed averagely in question 4.

Extract 4.1: A sample of the candidates' average responses.

In Extract 4.1, the candidate was able to write correct characters in items 1 and 5 but failed in items 2, 3 and 4.

Further data analysis shows that 74 (58.7%) candidates had weak performance, as they scored 0 to 1 marks. Those who scored 0 wrote incorrect answers in all of items but for those with I mark wrote incorrect answers in most of items. This proves that the candidates had insufficient knowledge of character writing which made them to write incorrect characters and even leaving some blanks unfilled. For instance, in item 4, some candidates wrote 工 (worker) while others wrote 公 (open for all) instead of 共 (common/together) which was the correct answer. In item 5, the candidates who scored 0 failed to write the required character. This was due to the fact that they had inadequate

20

writing skills in Chinese character and insufficient knowledge of Chinese stroke order. Extract 4.2 is a sample of a weak performance in question 4.

In Extract 4.2, the candidate wrote wrong characters.

Further data analysis indicates that 12 (9.5%) candidates who scored from 4 to 5 marks responded to the question correctly. These candidates had sufficient knowledge of both Chinese characters（汉字）and pinyin（拼音）. They provided the required Chinese character of the pinyin asked. They were also able to differentiate the characters which have the same pronunciation and forms, thus they ended up writing correct answer. This indicates that the candidates mastered well Chinese characters with their respective strokes in relation to the given pinyin. Extract 4.3 is a sample of the candidates' good responses into question 4.

四	1. 羊	
	2. 自	
	3. 草	
	4. 北	
	5. 心	

Extract 4.3: A sample of the candidates' good responses.

In Extract 4.3, the candidate was able to write the characters correctly in all items.

2.2.3 Question 5: Choosing the Correct Character from the Given Two Similar Characters

In this question, the candidates were given 5 items, in which they were required to choose one Chinese character between two similar characters in order to complete the meaning of sentences. These characters were similar in either morphology or pronunciation. The questions covered the topic of Travel and Customs. The question examined the candidates' ability to recognize the Chinese characters. The question was as follows:

五选字填空。

Lì rú: Wǒ jiā yǒu　　kǒu rén。
例如：我家有_九_口 人。（九/力）

　　Tiān　　　　yù bào shuō míngtiān yǒu yǔ。
1. 天_____预报说 明 天有雨。（汽/气）

　　Lái　　　　piào bǐ dān chéng piào piányi de duō。
2. 来_____票 比单 程 票 便宜得多。（口/回）

　　Jiějie de xíng　　bù duō。
3. 姐姐的行_____不多。（李/季）

　　Wǒ　　　　xīnnián lǐwù ná lái le。
4. 我_____新年 礼物拿来了。（吧/把）

　　Xiǎohǎi　　　　bèi zài Lúndūn tíng liú sān tiān。
5. 小 海_____备在伦 敦 停留三 天。（难/准）

The total of 126 (100%) candidates attempted the question, of whom 78 (38.1%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks, which is a good performance, 28 (46.0%) candidates scored from 3 to 6 marks which is an average performance and 20 (15.9%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, which is a weak performance. The general performance of candidates in this question was good, since 106 (84.4%) candidates scored 3 to 10 marks. Figure 5 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 5.
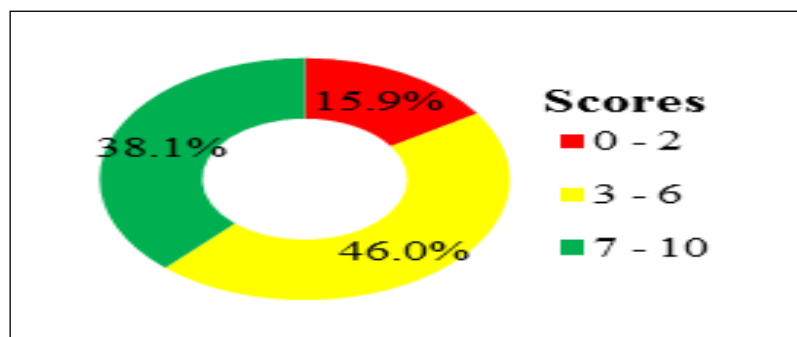
Figure 5: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 5.*

The candidates' response analysis shows that 78 (38.1%) candidates performed well in this question as they scored 7 to 10 marks. These candidates identified the correct Chinese characters according to the meaning of the sentence. They were able to differentiate the two given characters and identified the correct answer. For example, in item 1, they chose the correct answer 气 (weather). The two Chinese characters (汽 and 气) had not only the same pronunciation (pinyin) but also were slightly morphologically similar, even though there is a difference where 汽 (steam) has the radical (氵). The candidates differentiated them well and chose the correct answer.

In item 2, the candidates managed to choose the correct answer because they understood the meaning of the sentence. They also knew the meaning of the words and managed to differentiate the characters and this enabled them to get the item right.

Moreover, in item 3, the candidates who got this item right, identified the correct answer 李 owing to the fact that, they mastered well the difference between the two characters: 李 (luggage) and 季 (season). These characters are slightly morphologically similar despite their difference in meaning.

Furthermore, in item 4, the candidates who had good performance differentiated the characters 把 and 吧. They knew that 把 is a verb (brought) while 吧 is a particle model (right or yes or ok). They chose 把 as the correct answer because they knew that the particle 吧 stands at the end of the sentence.

Lastly, in item 5, the candidates who got it right were able to identify the correct answer 准 because they knew the difference between the two characters. They knew that the word 难 (difficult) is an adjective while the word 准 (prepares) is a verb. In this sentence the correct answer was the verb 准 and not the adjective 难. This implies that the students mastered well the characters which have some similarities. Extract 5.1 is a sample of the candidates' good responses to question 5.

Extract 5.1: A sample of the candidates' good responses to question 5.

In Extract 5.1, the candidate managed to write correct answers in all items.

Further data analysis shows that 28 (46.0%) candidates had an average performance by scoring 4 to 6 marks. Most of the candidates answered correctly in some items but failed in others. This performance was affected by the partial knowledge of the candidates on characters. Others chose the correct character but failed to write them with correct strokes. Others did not know the meaning of the words and their uses in the sentence. They also failed to distinguish the given similar Chinese characters (汉字). This indicates that

these candidates had partial knowledge of the characters having some similarities. Extract 5.2 is a sample of responses from a candidate with average performance in question 5.

Extract 5.2: A sample of the candidates' average responses to question 5.

In Extract 5.2, the candidate was able to write correct answers in items 1, 4 and 5 but failed in items 2 and 3.

Additionally, the data analysis shows that 20 (15.9%) candidates got 0 to 2 marks, which is a weak performance. The analysis shows that the candidates failed to differentiate the similar Chinese characters. They chose the wrong answer by guessing and wrote them wrongly. For example, in item 1, the candidates who scored 0 failed to differentiate two characters 汽 (steam) and 气 (weather). They also failed in item 2 by scoring 0. In this item, the candidates were required to fill in the blank space with the verb 回 (return). These candidates filled it with the noun 口 (mouth) which was wrong. They did not know that the blank was required to be filled with the verb and not the noun.

Moreover, in item 3, they wrote wrong answers because they did not understand the meaning of the sentence and chose an incorrect 李 instead of the correct answer 季. This shows that, these candidates did not master well the different forms of the two characters and their uses in the sentence.

Furthermore, in item 4, they wrote incorrect answers because they did not know that the two words differ in

meaning and in uses in the sentence. For example, 吧 is a model particle which is positioned at the end of the sentence while 把 is a verb.

Finally, in item 5, the candidates who scored 0 did not know the difference between the words 难 (difficult) and 准 (prepares). They chose by guessing, thus they ended up giving a wrong answer. This implies that they lacked the knowledge of different Chinese characters. Extract 5.3 is a sample of responses from a candidate with weak performance in question 5.

Extract 5.3: A sample of the candidates' weak responses to question 5.

In Extract 5.3, the candidate wrote incorrect characters in all items.

2.3 Section C: Grammar Patterns
In this section, the candidates were given three questions: 6, 7 and 8. This section had a total of 20 marks, where question 6 and 7 carried 5 marks each and question 8 carried 10 marks.

2.3.1 Question 6: Multiple Choices
In this question, the candidates were given five items with multiple choice items having the blank spaces which the candidates were asked to fill by writing its letter in their answer booklets. The questions were from the topic on Environment and worth 5 marks. It examined the candidates' ability to use Chinese grammar. The question was as follows:

六 选择题。

Lìrú:　Nǐ　　　shénme míngzi?
例如：你（　B　）什么名字？

　　　　shì　　jiào　　qù　　　huì
　　A 是　B 叫　C 去　D 会

　　Xiǎomíng jiā zài jiāoqū，　　shì zhōngxīn hěn　yuǎn.
1. 小明　家在郊区，（　　）市 中心　很 远。
　　zài　　　lí　　cóng　　wǎng
　　A 在　　B 离　　C 从　　D 往

　　Běijīng tài dà le，wǒmen de chéngshì　Běijīng nàme　dà.
2. 北京太大了，我们 的 城市（　　）北京 那么 大。
　　gèng　　hěn　　bǐ　　méi yǒu
　　A 更　　B 很　　C 比　　D 没有

　　Qiūtiān de　　　，Tiān'ānmén Guǎngchǎng yǒu hěn duō rén.
3. 秋天 的（　　），天安门　广场　有 很 多人。
　　shíhou　　nàlǐ　　nǎ ge　　shénme
　　A 时候　　B 哪里　　C 哪个　　D 什么

　　Lìli　jiā wài bian de fēngjǐng piàoliang dé.
4. 丽丽家外边 的 风景　漂亮 得（　　）。
　　fēicháng　　jíle　　bùdéliǎo　　hěn hǎo
　　A 非常　　B 极了　　C 不得了　　D 很好

　　Huǒchē zhàn li　　rén hěn duō，kěshì hěn ānquán，yě hěn gānjìng.
5. 火车 站 里（　　）人很多，可是很 安全，也很 干净。
　　yīnwèi　　suǒyǐ　　suīrán　　kěshì
　　A 因为　　B 所以　　C 虽然　　D 可是

The total of 126 (100%) candidates attempted the question, of whom 60 (47.6%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks, which is a good performance, 43 (34.1%) candidates scored from 2 to 3 marks which is an average performance and 23 (18.3%) candidates scored 0 to 1 marks which is a weak performance. The general performance of the candidates in this question was good, since 103 (81.7%) candidates scored 3 to 5 marks. Figure 6 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 6.
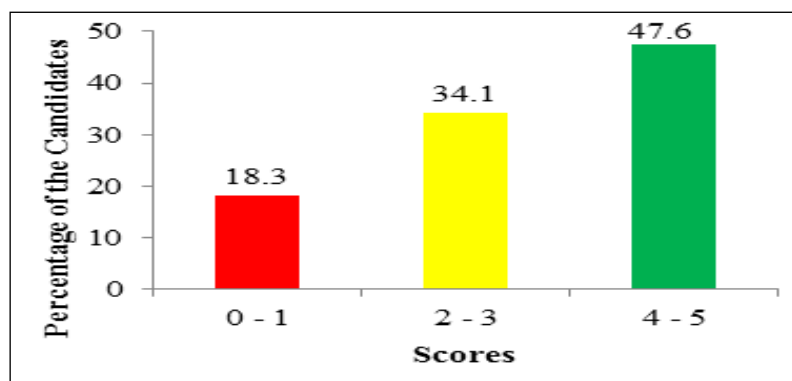
Figure 6: *The Percentages of Candidates' Performance in Question 6.*

The analysis of the candidates' response reveals that 60 (47.6%) candidates had good performance, as they provided correct responses. These candidates understood the requirement of the questions with their respective alternatives. For example, in item 1, the candidates were required to fill in the blank with the correct preposition. They chose the correct answer because they master well the structure 离 …..远 (far from).

Moreover, the analysis shows that, in item 2， the candidates wrote correct answer 没有(not) because, they mastered well the expression 没有 …… 那么 (is not…..as…..). Likewise, in item 3, the candidates were required to fill in the blank with the correct preposition. They identified the correct answer, which was A 时候 (during), because they knew that the word 时候 goes with the word 的.

Furthermore, in item 4, the candidates chose the correct answer C 不得了 (extremely) because, they knew that the adverb extremely is preceded by the word 得, and this shows that they mastered the grammar pattern Adj +得 + 不得了. Subsequently, in item 5, the candidates were required to choose the correct answer which was C 虽然 (although).

29

Those who chose the correct response mastered well the expression 虽然….可是 (Although...but). This implies that these candidates mastered well the grammar patterns in Chinese Language. Extract 6.1 is a sample of the candidates' good responses to question 6.

Extract 6.1: A sample of the candidates' good responses to question 6.

In Extract 6.1, the candidate filled in all the blanks by choosing the correct answers.

Further analysis shows that 43 (34.1%) candidates had average performance as they scored from 2 to 3 marks. Most of the candidates wrote correct answers in some items while failing in others. They understood some questions and some alternatives but failed in others. The analysis indicates that these candidates had partial knowledge of the Chinese grammar patterns. Extract 6.2 is sample of responses from the candidate with average performance in question 6.

Extract 6.2: A sample of the candidates' average responses.

In Extract 6.2, the candidate was able to write correct answers in items 1, 3 and 4, but wrote wrong answers in items 2 and 5.

Moreover, the candidates' performance analysis indicates that 23 (18.3%) candidates scored 0 to 1 mark, which is a weak performance. These candidates failed to identify the correct grammar patterns. They chose the alternatives by guessing and some of them did not understand the meaning of the sentences and alternatives. For example, in item 1, the candidates failed to choose the correct answer which was B 离 (…from), because they did not master well the structure 离 …..远, a preposition which indicates a distance between two places. There were candidates who chose A 在 (in) which is a preposition used before a noun of place. Those who chose C 从 did not master well the expression 从 …到 (from ….to) whereas those who opted for preposition D 往 (towards) did not know that this preposition is used before the direction/place (往 + Direction/place + verb). This implies that the candidates did not master well these prepositions and their uses.

Further analysis shows that, in item 2， the grammar pattern was 没有……那么 (is not…..as…..). Therefore according to this grammar pattern the correct answer was D 没有 (not). Some candidates opted for A 更 (more) which was the wrong answer because this was an adverb and not a comparative. Few candidates opted for B 很 (very), because they were attracted by the word 大 at the end of the sentence without knowing that the adverb 很 goes before 大 (很大). Those who opted letter C 比 (than) did not know that this comparative is used to compare two things. This indicates that the candidates did not master the expression 没有….那么.

In item 3，the candidates were required to fill in the blank with the preposition. The correct answer was A 时候 (during), because in the sentence given there was a possessive word 的 ……. which is followed by 时候 to form an expression …的时候 (during). Further analysis indicates that the candidates who opted for other alternatives; B 哪里

(where), C 哪个 (which) and D 什么 (what) did not know that these were interrogative words and not prepositions.

Also in item 4, the candidates were required to choose the correct adverb. The correct answer was C 不得了 (extremely) because it is preceded by the word 得. Most of the candidates opted for distractor B 极了 (extremely) because, it has the same meaning as 不得了, but it is preceded by the adjective (Adj +极了): Others opted for A 非常 (very) whereas others opted for D 很好 (very good) because they failed to differentiate them. This implies that the candidates did not master well the uses of the adverbs and the grammar pattern Adj +得 + 不得了.

Finally, in item 5, the candidates were required to choose the correct answer which was C 虽然 because of the presence of the conjunction 可是 in the second close of the sentence. Some of the candidates managed to provide the correct answer because of their sufficient knowledge of the structure 虽然….可是 (Although...but). Moreover, in this item most of the candidates failed in this item by selecting wrong answers. For example, those who opted for A 因为 had inadequate understanding of the structure 因为…所以 (because…therefore). They did not know that the conjunction 虽然 goes simultaneous with the conjunctions 可是. Also some candidates opted for B 所以 (therefore) because they did not know that 所以 is preceded by the conjunction 因为, hence they formed the structure 因为…所以 (because…therefore). Few candidates opted for D 可是 because they lacked knowledge of the uses of this conjunction as was the case in the second phrase. This implies that these candidates had insufficient knowledge of the grammatical patterns in the Chinese Language. Extract 6.3 is a sample of the candidates' weak performance responses in question 6.

6 六	1) D	
	2) A	
	3) D	
	4) A	
	5) A	

Extract 6.3: A sample of the candidates' weak performance in question 6.

In Extract 6.3, the candidate chose incorrect answers in all items.

2.3.2 Question 7: Choosing the Correct Vocabulary from the Given Two Similar Patterns.

This question had five items with blank spaces. The candidates were required to choose the correct Chinese character from the two given characters. The question covered the topic on Family and Fashion and Environment. This question tested the candidates' ability to use Chinese grammar patterns in the sentences. The question was as follows:

七 选择合适的词完成句子。用汉字填写。

Lìrú: Wǒ lǎoshī.
例如：我__是__老师。 （是/叫）

Nàgè chuān hóng qúnzi de rén shì wǒ de Hànyǔ lǎoshī.
1. 那个 穿 红 裙子的人_____是我的 汉语 老师。（没/不）

Wǒ gēge jiā yǒu yī dà huāyuán, wǒ fēicháng xǐhuan.
2. 我哥哥家有一_____大花园，我 非常 喜欢！（个/只）

Kùzi hé chènyī zài wǒ fángjiān de yǐzi
3. 裤子和衬衣在 我 房间的椅子_____。（里/上）

Shāngchǎng pángbiān de gōngyuán lǐ yǒu duō huā.
4. 商 场 旁边的 公园 里 有_____多 花。（很/真）

Nǐ jīntiān chuān de xiézi zhēn
5. 你今天 穿 的 鞋子真_____！（干净/整齐）

The total of 126 (100%) candidates attempted the question, of whom 87 (69.0%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks, which is a good performance, 37 (29.4%) candidates scored from 2 to 3 marks which is an average performance and 2 (1.6%) candidates scored 0 to 1 marks which is a weak performance. The general performance of the candidates in this question was good, since 124 (98.4%) candidates scored 3 to 5 marks. Figure 7 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 7.
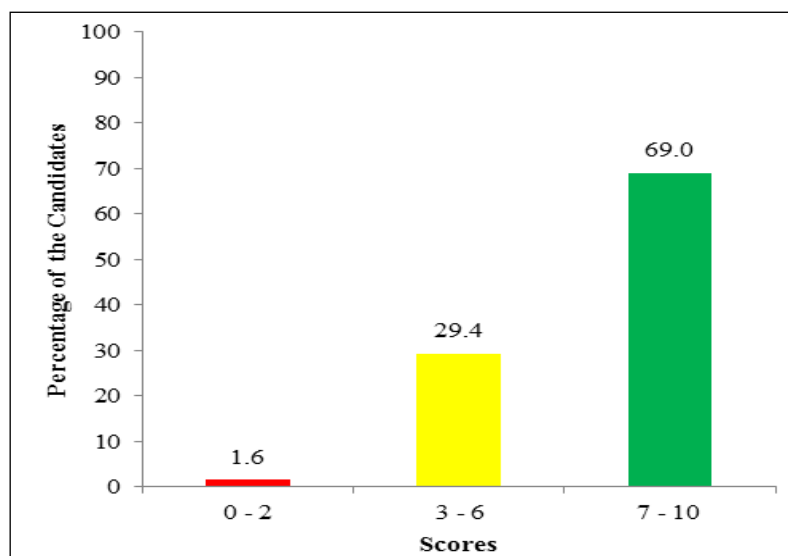
Figure 7: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 7.*

In order to answer correctly this question, the candidates were supposed to be able to differentiate the words given in brackets; that is their difference in form and meaning together with their use in sentence.

The analysis of the candidates' response indicates that 87 (69.0%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks which is a good performance. These candidates mastered well the characters, as they were able to differentiate them. They understood the meaning of the sentences, the meaning of the characters given and their uses in the sentences. For example, in item 1, the candidates were required to fill in the blank space with the negative form. They wrote the correct answer, which was 不 because they knew that 不 is used in the structure…不是. In item 2, the candidates were tested on their ability to use the measure words such as 个 and 只. They managed to choose the correct answer because they knew that 个 was the correct answer, hence it is a common measure word.

35

However, in item 3, the candidates were supposed to select one vocabulary which shows the location of pants and shirts. The correct answer was 上 (on) which indicates that the things were on the chair. In item 4, the candidates managed to choose the correct answer which was 很 for the reason that they knew that the character 很 goes with the character 多 and form the word 很多 (many).

Lastly, in item 5, the candidates were required to fill in blank with the correct adjective. The analysis shows that some candidates opted the correct answer because they mastered well the meaning and uses of the adjective 干净 which describes the cleanness of 鞋子 (socks). This reveals that these candidates mastered well different vocabulary and their uses in the sentences. Extract 7.1 is a sample of the candidates' good responses to question 7.

Extract 7.1: A sample of the good candidates' responses to question 7.

In Extract 7.1, the candidate was able to write the correct answers in all items.

Further analysis shows that 37 (29.8%) candidates had scored 2 to 3 marks, because they had partial knowledge of the Chinese grammar patterns. These candidates wrote correct characters in some items and failed in other items. They failed to distinguish the two words and failed to use them in the sentences. This analysis implies that the candidates were not familiar with some basic Chinese grammar patterns. Extract 7.2 is a sample of responses of a candidate who performed averagely in question 7.

七	1. 没	
	2. 个	
	3. 上	
	4. 很	
	5. 整齐	

<div style="text-align:center">Extract 7.2: A sample of average candidates' responses.</div>

In Extract 7.2, the candidate managed to write correct answers in items 2, 3 and 4 but failed in item 1 and 5.

Furthermore, the data indicates that 2 (1.6%) candidates scored 0 to 1 mark, indicating a weak performance. These candidates had weak performance due to the fact that they did not master well the grammar patterns and the difference among characters. This hindered them from choosing correct answers, hence ended up scoring low marks. For instance, in item 1, the candidates who scored 0, chose 没 (not have) because they were not able to differentiate the uses of the negations 没 and 不. They did not know that the verb 是 goes with the negation 不 and that the negation 没 is followed by the verb 有. Moreover, in item 2, the candidates who scored 0 failed to write the correct answer which was 个. These candidates failed to differentiate the uses of the two measure words. They did not know that, the measure word 只 is used before noun of an animal and 个 is a common measure word.

Furthermore, in item 3, the candidates who scored 0, choose 里 because they were attracted by the presence of the noun 厨房 (room). They thought that the things were in the room which was wrong. Also in item 4, there were candidates who scored 0, because they opted the wrong word 真 because were attracted by the presence of the words 花园 and 花 in the sentence and they thought that the word 真 is used to describe the park and flours.

Lastly, in item 5, the candidates who opted the adjective 整齐 (tidy) were attracted by the word 鞋子 which had some similar feature with the word 整齐. They also did not know that the word 整齐 is used to describe the good order or tidy of the things. This indicates that, these candidates lacked knowledge of the uses of the word which had some similarities in the sentence. Extract 7.3 is a sample of responses provided by one of the candidates who performed weakly.

Extract 7.3: A sample of the candidates' weak performance in question 7.

Extract 7.3, illustrates the performance of the candidate provided wrong answers in all items.

2.3.3 Question 8: Re-arranging the Jumbled Words into Correct Sentences

The question had 5 sentences that consisted of four to five jumbled words/phrases. The candidates were required to re-arrange the words/phrases according to the Chinese grammar in order to form a logical Chinese sentence. The question covered the topic on Entertainment and aimed to test the candidates' ability to re-arrange the Chinese sentences logically. The question was as follows:

八 连词成句

Lìrú:　　shì　　Zhōngguó　　wǒ　　rén
例如：①是　②中国　③我　④人

_____③①②④_____。

chángcháng　　dìdi　　　tī zúqiú　　qù gōngyuán
1. ①常常　　②弟弟　　③踢足球　④去公园

_____。

kāishǐ　　　tiānqì yùbào　　shíhou　　shénme
2. ①开始　②天气预报　③时候　④什么

_____。

chūntiān　　yǒu　　Běijīng de　　tiāntiān　　fēng
3. ①春天　②有　③北京的　④天天　⑤风

_____。

yào　　shānshàng　　xiàyǔ　　kuài　　le
4. ①要　②山上　③下雨　④快　⑤了

_____。

chūfā　　xuéxiào　　Xiǎohǎi　　bā diǎn　　qù
5. ①出发　②学校　③小海　④八点　⑤去

_____。

The total of 126 (100%) candidates attempted the question, of whom 4 (3.2%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks, which is a good performance, 51 (40.5%) candidates scored from 3 to 6 marks with an average performance and 71 (56.3%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks which is a weak performance. The general performance of the candidates in this question was average, since 55 (43.7%)

candidates scored from 3 to 10 marks. Figure 8 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 8.
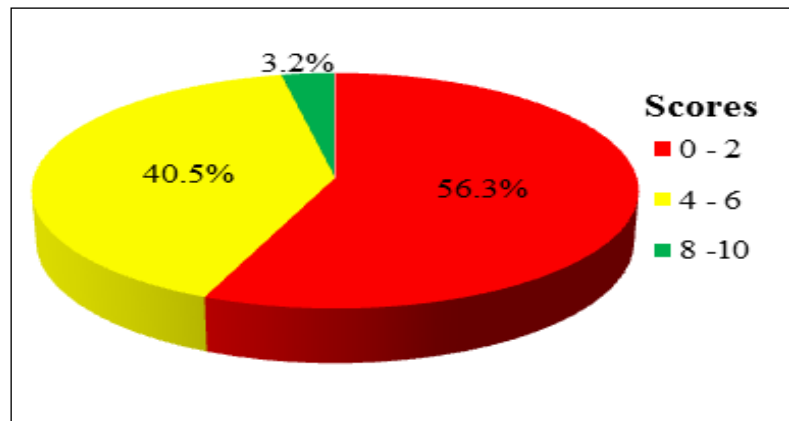

Figure 8: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 8.*

The data indicates that 51 (40.5%) candidates scored from 4 to 6 marks, which is an average performance. These candidates were able to write correct answers in some items but failed in others. In the items which they wrote correct answers, they mastered the structure of some sentences and this enabled them to score average marks. For instance, in item 1, the candidates were able to re-arrange the jumbled words correctly as in ②①④③ 弟弟 常常 去公园踢足球 (My young brother often goes to the park to play football) because they mastered well the sentence structure S+ADV+ V+O.

Further data analysis shows that, in item 2, the candidates were able to re-arrange the jumbled words correctly ②④③ ① 天气预报什么时候开始 (At what time will the weather forecast start?) because, they knew that the noun 天气预报 should stand as a subject followed by the time duration word 什么时候 and that the word 开始 stand as a verb. Also, other candidates knew that the time duration word 什么时候 could start and followed by the subject 天气预报 then by

the verb 开始, as one of them wrote 什么时候 天气预报 开始.

In item 3, the candidates re-arranged the sentence ③①④② ⑤ 北京的 春天 天天 有 风 (it is windy every day during spring in Beijing) correctly. These candidates managed to re-arrange the sentences correctly because they mastered the 的 phrase. In item 4, the analysis of the candidates response shows that some candidates were able to re-arranged the jumbled words into the meaningful sentence as they wrote ②④①③⑤ 山上快要下雨了 (It's going to rain on the mountain). These candidates were able to re-arrange the jumbled words correctly because they managed to recognize the expression 快要…了 (Almost…).

Finally, in item 5, the candidates were required to re-arrange the given jumbled words into the correct sentence. Some candidates managed to re-arrange ③④①⑤② 小海八点出 发去学校 (Xiao Hai goes to school at 8:00 am) correctly because they mastered the syntactic structure S+Time +V+N. Extract 8.1 is a sample of responses from the candidate who performed averagely in question 8.

Extract 8.1: A sample of the candidates' average responses in question 8.

Extract 8.1, shows the responses of the candidate who was able to re-arrange items 1, 2 and 3 but failed in 4 and 5.

Further data shows that 71 (56.3%) candidates had weak performance, since they scored 0 to 2 marks. These candidates did not master well the sentences patterns and the structure of the sentences. They did not know the right position of the jumbled words in the sentences, hence re-arranged the words randomly and formed meaningless sentences. For example in item 1, some candidates re-arranged ②④①③ 弟弟 去公园常常 踢足球 (my young brother goes to the park often to play football) in an incorrect way. They re-arranged the sentences incorrectly because they did not master the sentence structure S+ADV+ V+O. This implies that these candidates lacked skills in Chinese sentence structure.

In item 2, the candidates failed to re-arranged the jumbled words into correct sentences, as most of them re-arranged incorrectly the sentence ③④⑤②①时候什么天气预报开始 (Time what weather forecast will start) because of insufficient knowledge of the Chinese vocabulary that hindered them from uncomprehending the meaning of the provided jumbled words. Also in item 3, the candidates re-arranged wrongly the sentence as one of them wrote ①③②⑤④. This shows that they failed to understand the grammar structure 的 phrase, as well as the meaning of the jumbled words and their position in the sentences.

Further analysis shows that, in item 4, most of the candidates failed by re-arranging incorrectly the sentence ③⑤ ④①② because they did not master the grammar 快要… 了. Finally, in item 5, most of the candidates re-arranged the jumbled words incorrectly by starting with the verb ①④ ②③⑤ 出发八点 学校 小海 去 (Depart at 8:00 am school Xiaohai goes). They re-arranged incorrect because they did not master the grammar structure S + Time + V + N. This implies that these candidates had partial knowledge of

sentences structure. Extract 8.2 is a sample of responses from the candidate who performed weakly in question 8.

Extract 8.2: A sample of the candidates' weak responses in question 8.

In Extract 8.2, the candidate failed to re-arrange all sentences.

The data shows that 4 (3.2%) candidates scored 8 to 10 marks because they demonstrated good knowledge of sentence patterns. They used Chinese grammar to re-arrange a logical Chinese sentence. The analysis indicates that they mastered well the Chinese sentence structure which led them to write correct answers. Extract 8.3 is a sample of good performance.

Extract 8.3: A sample of the candidates' good responses in question 8.

In Extract 8.3, the candidate re-arranged correctly all the items.

2.4 Section D: Language Use

In this section, the candidates were given three questions which were question 9, 10 and 11. Question 9 and 10 had 5 marks each and question 11 had 10 marks, thus making a total of 20 marks. The candidates were required to answer all the questions.

2.4.1 Question 9: Matching Items

The candidates were given five questions from the topic on Time in column A and they were required to answer them by matching with answers found in column B. They had to write the letters of the correct answer in the booklet given. The question tested the candidates' ability to express themselves in Chinese by responding correctly to the questions asked. The question was as follows:

九 匹配题，第一题答案已给出。

A 栏	B 栏
Nǐhǎo! 1. 你好！	Xīngqīsān. A 星期三。
Tǎnsāngníyà jǐ yuè tiānqì zuì rè? 2. 坦桑尼亚 几月天气最热？	Jīntiān hěn rè. B 今天很热。
Nǎinai Xīngqīliù jǐdiǎn qù jùyuàn? 3. 奶奶 星期六几点 去剧院？	Shíyī diǎnbàn. C 十一点半。
Cóng Běijīng dào Tàiguó yào jǐgè xiǎoshí? 4. 从 北京 到泰国 要几个小时？	Dōngtiān. D 冬天。
Míngmíng nǎtiān yǒu zhōngwénkè? 5. 明明 哪天 有 中文课？	yuè. E 12 月。
Běijīng nǎgè jìjié zuì lěng? 6. 北京 哪个季节最冷？	Nǐhǎo! F 你好！
	Sānshí fēnzhōnghòu. G 三十 分钟 后。
	Sì gè xiǎoshí. H 四个小时。

答案：

A 栏	1	2	3	4	5	6
B 栏	F					

The total of 126 (100%) candidates attempted the question, of whom 79 (62.7%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks,

44

which is a good performance, 37 (29.4%) candidates scored from 2 to 3 marks which is an average performance and 10 (7.9%) candidates scored from 0 to 1 mark which is a weak performance. The general performance of candidates in this question was good, since 116 (92.1%) candidates scored 4 to 5 marks. Figure 9 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 9.
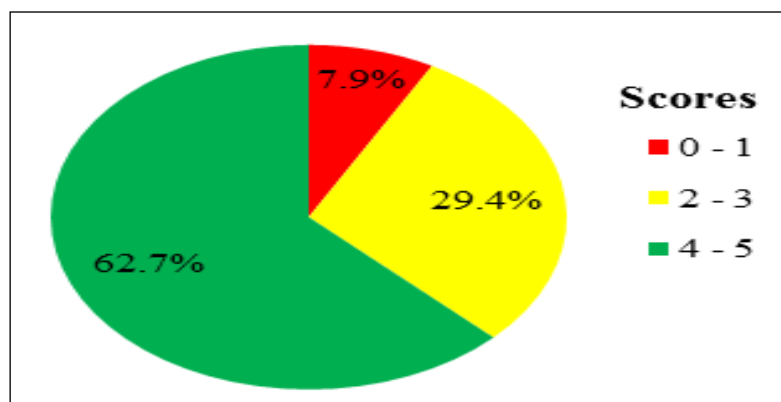

Figure 9: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 9.*

The analysis of the candidates' performance indicates that 79 (62.7%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks, which is a good performance. These candidates understood the meaning of each item in the question. They had an ability to respond to the question in Chinese characters. This implies that they had enough vocabulary. For instance, in item 2, the candidates were asked 坦桑尼亚几月天气最热 (In which month the weather is very hot in Tanzania?) and they were able to match it with the correct answer E 12 月 (on December), because they comprehended the uses of the interrogative words 几月 (which month).

Also, in item 3, the candidates were required to match the question 奶奶 星期六 几点 去 剧院？(At what time does your grandmother go to the theatre on Saturday?) with the correct answer C 十一点 半 (At half past eleven) because they had mastered the grammar ….几点…. (….at what time…) that enable them to comprehend the meaning of both sentence and an option given.

45

Further analysis shows that, in item 4, the candidates were required to match the question 从北京到泰国要几个小时 (How many hours does it take from Beijing to Thailand?) with the correct answer H 四个小时 (four hours). They managed to match it correctly because they mastered well the grammar pattern 从….到 (From…to) which expresses the interval of time. In item 5, the question was 明明哪天有中文课 (On which day does Mingming have the Chinese class?). The candidates matched it with the correct answer A 星期三 (Wednesday) because they understood the meaning of the sentence in column A due to the presence of the interrogative word 哪天 (which day).

Lastly, in item 6, the candidates were asked 北京哪个季节最冷 (During which season is the weather coldest in Beijing?) in which they were required to mention the coldest season in Beijing. These candidates were able to match it with the correct response D 冬天 (winter) because they mastered well the different seasons. Therefore, they managed to match all the items in column A with those from column B correctly. Extract 9.1 is a sample of the candidates' good responses to question 9.

九	1. F
	2. E
	3. C
	4. H
	5. A
	6. D

Extract 9.1: A sample of the candidates' good responses to question 9.

In Extract 9.1, the candidate was able to match all the given sentences from column A with the words of column B correctly.

Further analysis reveals that 37 (29.4%) candidates scored from 3 to 4 marks, which is an average performance. It is apparent that they got some items right while they got some others wrong. The candidates who got them wrong failed to choose the correct answers, because they had partial knowledge of Chinese Language and had limited vocabulary. Extract 9.2 is a sample of responses from a candidate who performed averagely in question 9.

| 九 | A | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | |
| | B | F | E | C | H | D | R | |

Extract 9.2: A sample of the candidates' average responses to question 9.

In Extract 9.2, the candidate was able to write correct answers in items 2, 3 and 4 but failed in items 5 and 6.

On the other hand, the analysis of the candidates' performance indicates that 10 (7.9%) candidates scored 0 to 1 mark, because they did not understand the meaning of the items; as a result they matched all items incorrectly. Some of them failed to identify the key information in the sentence while others lacked the knowledge of Chinese sentence structure. Others candidates failed to understand the requirement of the question, therefore, they picked the letters randomly. For example, in item 2, most of the candidates failed because they matched the wrong response B 今天很热 (today is very hot). They had inadequate knowledge of the uses of the interrogative word 几月 (which month) that is why they matched it wrongly with the word 热 (hot) which appeared in both sentences in column A and B.

Moreover, in item 3, the candidates matched the word A 星期三 (Wednesday) which was wrong, because they were

attracted by the word 星期. Furthermore, in item 4, the candidates had insufficient knowledge on the grammar pattern 从…到 (from…to) which made them to match it with the incorrect response G 三十分钟后 (after thirty minutes). This implies that these candidates did not understand the meaning of the sentences.

Further analysis shows that, in item 5, most of the candidates failed because they matched the question the incorrect answer D 冬天 (winter) rather than with the correct answer A 星期三 (Monday). The choice of the wrong was that they were attracted by the word 天. The candidates did not realize that the question required them to match the question with response which indicates the day and not season. Finally, in item 6, the candidates matched the question with the incorrect response B 今天很热 (today is very hot) instead of the correct answer D 冬天 (winter) because they had limited Chinese vocabulary. Extract 9.1 is a sample of responses from a candidate with weak performance in question 9.

Extract 9.3: A is a sample of weak candidates' responses.

Extract 9.3, illustrates the performance of the candidate who wrote incorrect answers in all items.

2.4.2 Question 10: Filling in the Blanks by Using the Given Words

In this question, the candidates were given 5 words which they were required to fill in the blanks of the given sentences, by writing the letter of the correct answer. The sentences were derived from the topic on School. This question tested the candidates' ability to communicate using proper vocabulary and grammar patterns. Alternative F was given as an example. The question was as follows:

十选词填空，第一题答案已给出。

	yùndòngchǎng	jiàoshī	yīyuàn	Zhōngwénkè	Zhōngguórén	míngzi
A	运动场	B 教师	C 医院	D 中文课	E 中国人	F 名字

Nǐ jiào shénme
1. 你叫什么（ F ）？

Wǒ jīntiān shàng le dìlǐ kè hé tāmen dōu hěn yǒu yìsi.
2. 我今天 上 了地理课和（　），它们 都 很 有意思。

Wǒmen bān yǒu qī ge Fǎguórén, liǎng ge Yīngguórén, yí ge
3. 们班有七个 法国人，两个 英国人，一个（　）。

Xiǎohóng de jiějie shì gōngchéngshī, bú shì
4. 小红 的姐姐是 工程师，不是（　）。

Bàba shì yīsheng, tā zài gōngzuò.
5. 爸爸是医生，他在（　）工作。

Wǒ de àihào shì yùndòng, wǒ měitiān qù zuò yùndòng.
6. 我的爱好是运动，我每天 去（　）做运动。

The total of 126 (100%) candidates attempted the question, out of whom 101 (80.2%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks, which is a good performance, 18 (14.3%) candidates scored from 3 to 6 marks which is an average performance and 7 (5.6%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks which is a weak performance. The general performance of the candidates in this question was good, since 119 (94.4%) candidates scored from 3 to 10 marks. Figure 10 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 10.
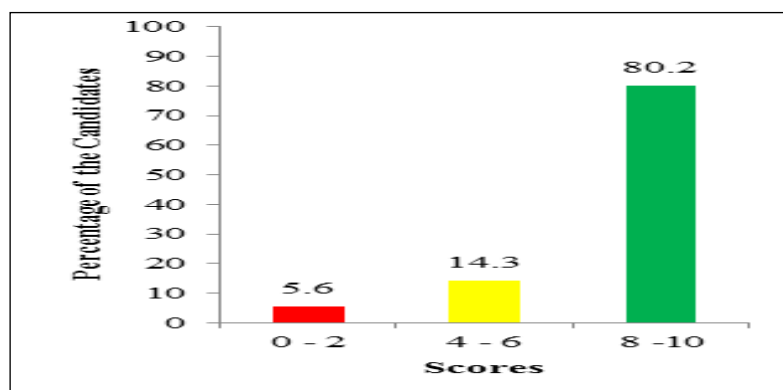
Figure 10: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 10.*

The analysis of the candidates' performance indicates that 101 (80.2%) candidates scored 4 to 5 marks, this is a good performance. These candidates managed to write correct answers because they had enough vocabulary. They mastered well the language patterns, consequently, they filled in all the items perfectly. For example, in item 2，the candidates were able to select the correct response D 中文课 (Chinese class) because they mastered the grammar …和… (…and…). In item 3, the candidates were required to fill in the blank with the nationality of the classmates. They managed to identify the correct answer E 中国人 (chinese) because in the sentence there were a list of nationality of other classmates. In item 4, the candidates were required to select the correct profession of Xiaohongs' sister. These candidates chose the correct response 教师 (teacher) because they masterd the topic of professions. This knowledge helped them to identify the correct answer.

Furthermore, in item 5, the candidates were required to fill in the blank space with the adverb of place. These candidates selected the correct answer C 医院 (hospital) because they understood the requirement of the question and had enough vocabulary which helped them to identify the correct answer. Lastly, in item 6, the candidates were able to select the correct answer, which was A 运动场 (sports

50

ground) because they mastered well the topic of Hobbies. This shows that the candidates had sufficient vocabulary of hobbies and identified the correct answer from the list given. Extract 10.1 is a sample of the candidates' good response to question 10.

t.	2. D.	
	3. E.	
	4. B.	
	5. C.	
	6. A.	

Extract 10.1: A sample of the candidates' good responses to question 10.

Extract 10.1 depicts the performance of a candidate filled who the brackets with the correct answers in all items.

Further analysis indicates that 18 (14.3%) candidates scored from 2 to 3 marks because they choose the correct answer in some items and failed in others. These candidates had partial knowledge of the given language patterns. Extract 10.2 is a sample of responses from a candidate who performed averagely in question 10.

+	1. F	
	2. B	
	3. E	
	4. D	
	5. C	
	6. A	

Extract 10.2: A sample of the candidates' average responses.

In Extract 10.2, the candidate filled in the brackets with correct responses in items 3, 5 and 6 but failed in item 1 and 4.

On the other hand, the analysis shows that, 7 (5.6%) candidates scored from 0 to 1 mark, which is a weak

performance because they lacked vocabulary which hindered them from understanding the meaning of the question and the words given. For example, in item 2, most of the candidates opted for B 教师 (teacher) instead of D 中文课 because they were attracted by the phrase 上了地理课 (studied geograph). Also they did not know that the conjunction 和 is used in the sentence with two related subjcets (中文课 and 地理课).

In item 3, the candidates did not understand that they had to fill in the blank space with the nationality. They failed to identify the correct answer from the words given, and they picked the words randomly. Furthermore, in item 4, most of the candidates failed as they selected the word E 中国人 (Chinese) instead of the correct answer B 教师 (teacher). The candidates choice of the wrong words was presence of the word 不是. These candidates failed to realize that the blank had to be filled with the name of profession and not with a nationality.

In item 5, most of the candidates chose incorrect the response B 教师 instead of the correct answer C 医院 (hospital) because they were not able to differentiate the two words. They were attracted by the presence 医生 noun profession that made them to choose the 教师 noun profession which was wrong instead of filling in the blank with an adverb.

Finaly, in item 6, the candidates were required to fill in the blank with the word 运动场, but they failed to realize that the verb 去 had to be followed by the adverb. They chose the words randomly and wrote them as answers. This proves that the candidates had inadequate Chinese vocabulary. Extract 10.3 is a sample of weak responses written by one of the candidates.

In Extract 10.3, the candidate failed to fill in the brackets with the correct answer in all items.

2.4.3 Question 11: Answering the Questions Using Chinese Characters

This question had 5 items and the candidates were required to use their own words to answer the provided questions correctly by using Chinese Characters. The question was derived from the topic on Hobby. The question tested the candidates' ability to express themselves in the Chinese Language. The question was as follows:

The total of 124 (98.4%) candidates attempted the question, of whom 69 (55.6%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks,

53

which is a good performance, 37 (29.8%) candidates scored from 3 to 6 marks which is an average performance and 18 (14.6%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks which is a weak performance. The general performance of the candidates in this question was good, since 106 (85.5%) candidates scored 3 to 10 marks. Figure 11 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 11.
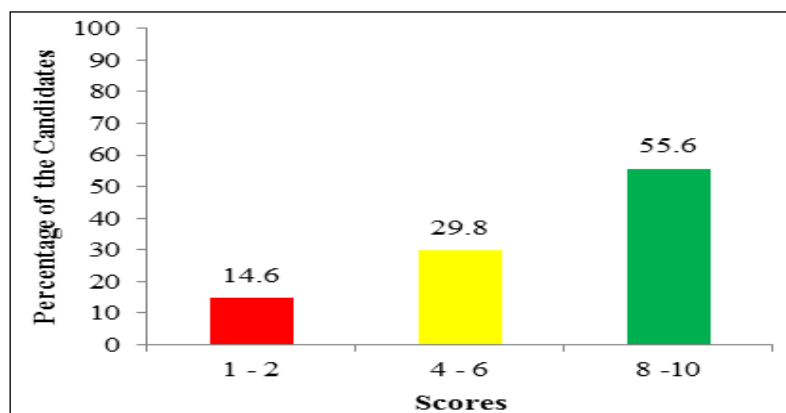

Figure 11: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 11.*

The analysis of the candidates' performance in this question indicates that 69 (55.6%) candidates who scored 7 to 10 marks, had sufficient vocabulary which helped them to answer the questions correctly using the Chinese characters (汉字). This indicates that the candidates had a good mastery of the Chinese Language, as they managed to express themselves in Chinese. For instance, in item 1, the candidates were asked 你会做什么运动？(Which game can you play?). They replied with the correct answers, as one of them wrote 我会做踢足球 (I can play football) because they had enough vocabulary pertaining to hobbies.

Further analysis shows that, in item 2, the question was 你的爱好 是什么？(what is your hobby?) and the candidates were required to provide their hobby in Chinese character. These candidates wrote the correct answers with different hobbies, as one of them wrote 我的 爱好是 踢足球 (My

hobby is playing football) because they mastered well the vocabulary on hobbies.

Furthermore, in item 3, the candidates were asked 你 为什 么 喜欢 学 汉语? (Why do you like to study Chinese?). The candidates were able to answer with the correct answer, as one of them wrote 我 喜欢 学 汉语 因为 汉语 很有意思 (I like studying Chinese because Chinese is very funny). These candidates replied correctly because they had sufficient vocabulary to express themselves.

Similarly, in item 4, the question was 你 每天 都 做 什么? (what do you do every day?) some candidates managed to answer with the correct answer 我 每天 都 做 早饭 和 午 饭 (Every day I prepare breakfast and lunch) because they had sufficient vocabulary which enable them to understand the meaning and requirement of the question. Finally in item 5, the candidates were required to answer the question 你 以 后 想做 什么 工作? (What do you want to be in future?) some candidates were able to reply with the correct answers as one of them wrote 我 以后 想 做 医生 (I want to be a doctor) because they had sufficient vocabulary on careers. Extract 11.1 is sample of candidates' good responses to question 11.

Extract 11.1: A sample of the candidates' good responses to question 11.

In Extract 11.1, the candidate answered all questions correctly.

Further analysis shows that 37 (29.8%) candidates who scored from 3 to 6 marks were able to answer some items correctly but failed to others, this made them to score averagely. This implies that these candidates had partial knowledge of the vocabulary. Extract 11.2 is a sample from responses from a candidate who performed averagely in question 11.

十一	1. 我会踢足球。	
	2. 我的爱好是运动。	
	3. 我喜欢学汉语。	
	4. 我每天都做早饭和午饭。	
	5. 我以后想做医生。	

Extract 11.2: A sample of average candidates' responses.

In Extract 11.2 a candidate wrote correct answers in items 1, 4 and 5 but failed in items 2 and 3.

Further analysis shows that, 18 (14.6%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, which is a weak performance. These candidates did not master the basic Chinese vocabulary to express themselves in daily communication. Most of them did not understand the requirement of the question. They failed to write correct Chinese characters (汉字). Some candidates copied some words from the exmination paper and used them to make a phrase or a sentence which had no relation to the questions. For example, in item 1, the question was 你会做什么运动? (which game can you play?) one of the candidates replied with the wrong answer in pinyin *wǒ huì zuo àihào yùndòng* (I can play hobby sport) this was due to the lack of the knowledge of the Chinese writing skills.

56

Also, in item 2, the candidates were asked 你的爱好是什么？ (what is your hobby?) but some candidates replied wrongly as wo 我的爱好鸡蛋 (My hobby is egg), and others replied in pinyin, as one of them wrote *wǒ de àihào shì tī zú qiú* (My hobby is playing football) instead of writing characters.

Furthermore, In item 3, the question was 你为什么喜欢学汉语？ (why do you like to learn Chinese?). Most of the candidates replied wrongly in pinyin *wǒ wèi Fǎyǔ xìhuan xué hànyǔ* (I to French like studying Chinese) and others replied with 我海天为喜欢学汉语 (I ocean day to like studying Chinese). This shows that they lacked knowledge of writing characters and the correct Chinese language grammar.

Moreover, in item 4, the candidates were required to answer the question 你每天都做什么？ (what do you do every day？). In this question the candidates were supposed to express their daily routine/activities. Most of the candidates failed because they lacked proper Chinese vocabulary to express themselves. For instance, one of them wrote 我每天都坐机场 (I every day take airport). Also other candidates responded incorrectly by writing pinyin *Wǒ měi tian dōu zuò yùndòng* (I every day do sport) this proves that they had insufficient skills in writing characters.

In item 5, the question was 你以后想做什么工作？ (what do you want to be in the future?). The question required the candidates to express their future job. The candidates who failed in this item were not able to distinguish between occupation and a place of occupation: between 医生 (doctor) and 医院 (hospital). Therefore, the candidates scored zero. Extract 11.3 is a sample of candidates' weak responses in question 11.

11 1	wǒ huì àihǎo yùndòng	
2	Wǒ de àihào shì tī zúqiú.	
3	Wǒ wèi Fǎyǔ xǐhuan xué hànyǔ.	
4	Wǒ měi tiān dōu zuò yùndòng	
5	wǒ yǐhòu xiǎng zuò yīshēng gōngzuò	

Extract 11.3: A sample of the candidates' weak responses to question 11.

In Extract 11.3, the candidate failed to answer all the five items because he/she wrote pinyin instead of Chinese Characters.

2.5 Section E: Composition

There were two questions in this section, which were 12 and 13. Question 12 consisted of five jumbled sentences, where by the candidates were instructed to re-arrange the jumbled sentences into a logical sequence to make a meaningful paragraph by writing letters corresponding to the correct sentences. Question 13 was on writing the composition on My Holiday. Each of the two questions carried 10 marks, making a total of 20 marks. The questions tested the candidates' ability to write Chinese character and to express themselves appropriately and logically in Chinese Language.

2.5.1 Question 12: Re-arranging the Jumbled Sentences to make a meaningful paragraph

The question had 5 jumbled sentences derived from the topic of Time. The candidates were instructed to re-arrange the jumbled sentences, by writing a letter of the corresponding number in the table provided, in order to make a meaningful paragraph. The question tested the candidates' ability to express themselves logically. The question was as follows:

十二 为下面句子重新排序，组成短文，其中一句已经给出。

Wǒ yǒu yíge hǎo péngyou jiào Xiǎohǎi.
A 我有一个好朋友 叫小海。

Tā zhǔnbèi xià Xīngqī'èr shàngwǔ shí diǎn zuò chūzūchē cóng tā jiā dào jīchǎng.
B 他准备下星期二上午 十点 坐 出租车从他家到机场。

Tā Hànyǔ xuéde fēicháng hǎo, zhècì kǎoshì tā shì dìyī míng.
C 他汉语学得 非常好，这次考试他是第一名。

Zhōngwǔ shí'èr diǎn kéyǐ dào jīchǎng, fēijī sāndiǎn qǐfēi.
D 中午 十二 点可以到机场，飞机三点起飞。

Suǒyǐ tā de Hànyǔ lǎoshī qǐng tā xià xīngqī'èr qù Zhōngguó lǚyóu.
E 所以他的汉语老师 请他下星期二 去 中国旅游。

Xīngqīsān xiàwǔ dào Běijīng hòu, tā zuò huǒchē qù tā de Hànyǔ lǎoshī jiā.
F 星期三下午 到 北京后，他坐 火车去他的汉语老师家。

1	2	3	4	5	6
A					

The total of 125 (99.1%) candidates attempted the question, of whom 45 (36.0%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks, which is a good performance, 31 (24.8%) candidates scored from 3 to 6 marks which an average performance and 49 (39.2%) candidates scored 0 to 2 marks which is a weak performance. The general performance of the candidates in this question was good, since 76 (60.8%) candidates scored 3 to 10 marks. Figure 5 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 12.
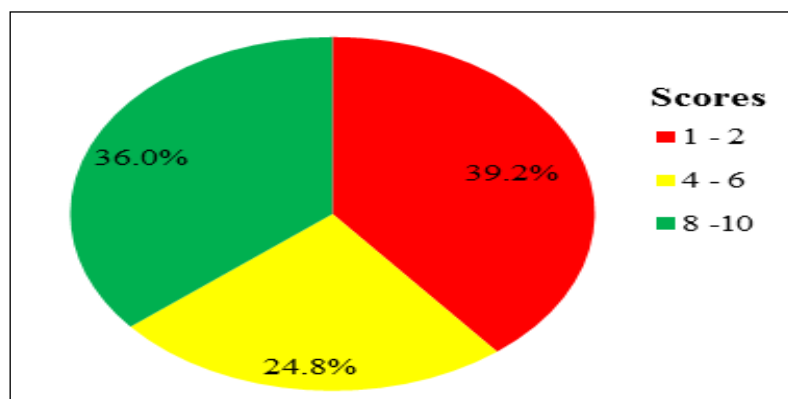
Figure 12: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 12*.

The data shows that 45 (36.0%) candidates scored 8 to 10 marks, which is considered as good performance. These candidates had good mastery of the Chinese Language and produced the chronologically organized paragraph. In addition, they had adequate knowledge of reading for comprehension as well as the ability to arranging jumbled sentences into a logical manner. They identified the key information, showing sequence of events. For example, they knew that the sentence C 他汉语学得非常好，这次考试他是第一名 (He was the first student in his Chinese final examination) was supposed to be the second sentence because it starts to introduce 小海.

They also noticed that the sentence E 所以他的汉语老师请他下星期二去中国旅游 (So his Chinese teacher has invited him to visit China next Tuesday.) was supposed to be the third sentence because it linked to the second sentence by describing the reason why 小海 has been invited by his teacher to travel. Furthermore, they knew that the sentence B 他准备星期二上午十点坐出租车从他家到机场 (He plans to take a taxi to the airport at 10 o'clock next Tuesday) deserved to be the fourth sentence because of the word 星期

二 (Tuesday) which was still explaining the plan of 小海 to travel to China for the tour.

Moreover, they noticed that the sentence D 中午十二点可以到机场，飞机三点起飞 (He will arrive around 12 o'clock, the plane will take off at 3:00pm) to be the fifth sentence because they were able to identify the time sequence which was 十点 (10:00) and followed by 中午十二点 (12:00 noon) that shows the preparation and the starting of the journey. Lastly, they knew that the sentence F 星期三下午到北京后，他坐火车去他的汉语老师家 (After arriving in Beijing he will take a train to his teacher's home.) was supposed to be the last because of the word 星期三 (Wednesday) which shows that this activity will be done after 星期二 (Tuesday). Extract 12.1 is a sample of the candidates' good responses to question 12.

十二.	2. C
	3. E
	4. B
	5. D
	6. F.

Extract 12.1: A sample of the candidates' good responses to question 12.

In Extract 12.1, the candidate was able to re-arrange all the jumbled sentences by writing a letter of the corresponding number.

Further analysis shows that 31 (24.8%) candidates scored from 4 to 6 marks, which is an average performance. They were able to re-arrange some items but failed in others. For example, in items 3 and 4, both activities occurred on 星期二 (Tuesday). The candidates did not know which sentence between the two had to start. In item 4, most of the candidates were not familiar with the word 准备 which means to prepare, thus they failed to recognize the starting sentence, and ended up writing wrong answers. Extract 12.2

is a sample of responses from a candidate who performed average in question 12.

十二	1.	2	3	4	5	6.		
	A	C	E	F	B	D		

Extract 12.2: A sample of the candidates' average responses to question 12.

In Extract 12.2, the candidate re-arranged correctly the jumbled sentences in items 2 and 3 by writing the letter to a corresponding number but failed in items 4, 5 and 6.

Furthermore, the analysis shows that 49 (39.2%) candidates scored 0 to 2 marks, which is a weak performance. These candidates failed to recognize the key information that could help them to produce the chronological paragraph. The analysis shows that they failed to identify the time markers in all items such as 上午，中午，下午，星期二，星期三. This implies that these candidates had weak command of the Chinese Language, and had insufficient knowledge of Chinese vocabulary. Thus, they lacked ability to organize jumbled events into a logical manner. In addition, some candidates failed to comprehend the whole question and ended up making a guesswork by re-arranging the sentences randomly. Extract 12.3 is a sample of weak responses written by one of the candidates.

十二	1	2	3	4	5	6
	A	D	B	E	F	C

Extract 12.3: A sample of the candidates' weak responses to question 12.

In Extract 12.3, the candidate failed to re-arrange all the jumbled sentences.

2.5.2 Question 13: Writing Composition

In this question, the candidates were instructed to write a composition titled My Holiday in Chinese characters. The question was set from the topic on Travel and Custom. The question tested the candidates' ability to arrange and express thoughts logically by using Chinese characters. They were required to write a composition ranging from 60 to 80 words. The question was as follows:

> 十三 根据所给话题写一篇 60 到 80 字的短文。
>
> Huàtí: Wǒ de jià qī
> 话题： 我的假期

The total of 109 (86.5%) candidates attempted the question, of whom 27 (24.7%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks, which is a good performance, 33 (30.3%) candidates scored from 3 to 6 marks which is an average performance and 49 (45.0%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks which is a weak performance. The general performance of the candidates in this question was average, since 60 (55.0%) candidates scored from 3 to 10 marks. Figure 13 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 13.
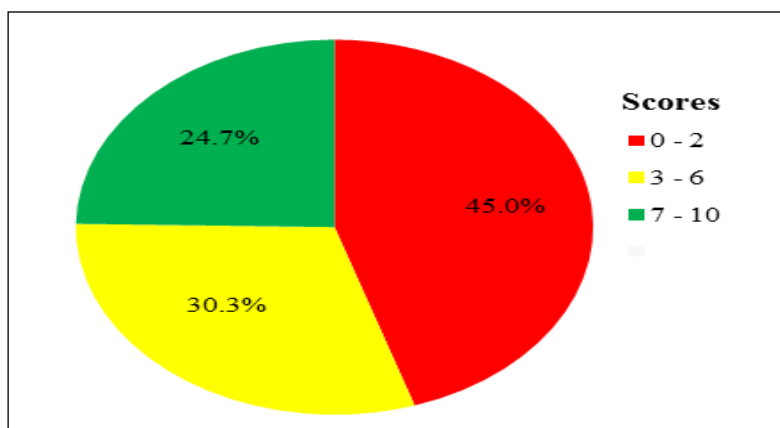

Figure 13: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 13.*

The data shows that 33 (30.3%) candidates had average performance, as they scored 3 to 6 marks. These candidates

had partial understanding of the demand of the question. For example, some candidates wrote compositions which had less than 60 words, because they had limited number of Chinese characters. Other candidates wrote correct characters in some sentences and wrote incorrect characters in other sentences either by adding extra strokes or reducing some strokes. This implies that they had partial knowledge of the basic skills in writing composition. Extract 13.1 is a sample of the candidates' average responses in question 13.

Extract 13.1: A sample of the candidates' average responses to question 13.

In Extract 13.1, the candidate was able to write a one paragraph composition but had some errors in writing Chinese characters.

Furthermore, the analysis shows that 49 (45.0%) candidates who scored from 0 to 3 marks and that most of them seem not to have understood the requirement of the question. They also lacked vocabulary and others lacked the ability to arrange and express their thoughts logically. Similarly, they had insufficient knowledge of composition writing skills. For example, some candidates copied sentences from other questions in the question paper. Others misunderstood the question, they wrote Chinese pinyin to answer questions instead of using characters. Other candidates wrote incomprehensible words. This implies that these candidates lacked vocabulary to express themselves. Extract 13.2 is a sample of the candidates' weak responses toquestion 13.

十三

我的假期

我的爸爸和妈妈我中坦桑尼亚几月天
气最，我有一个好朋友叫小每北京后．

妈妈做两个钟头的家务爸爸
打一个半钟头的太极拳．

我中国节日的风俗都很
有意思．

我妈妈我爸爸我坦桑尼亚．

Extract 13.2: A sample of the candidates' weak responses to question 13.

In Extract 13.2, the candidate wrote a paragraph with the incorrect sentences using characters.

Further data analysis indicates that 27 (24.7%) candidates had good performance as they scored 6 to 10 marks. The analysis of candidates' responces shows that these candidates had sufficient writing skills, since they mastered well the rules of writing a composition. They also understood the requirements of the question and answered by using Chinese characters. On top of that, they had the ability to arrange and express thoughts logically. This implies that these candidates were knowledgeable about composition writing. Extract 13.3 is a sample of the candidates' good responses to question 13.

十三.	我的假期	
	我叫大宫，我十七岁，我是一个中学的学生。我有一个好朋友叫大卫。我比他大一点儿。下个月我们去中国坐飞机。我和他要访问很多地方。很多人说北京，长城和故宫很有名。我想去北京。北京的风景真漂亮。我跟他一起去故宫。我想学习汉语，太极拳和中国风俗。我的汉语非常好。我的朋友的汉语不很好。他的英语真好。我们想准备。我要买照相机和纪念品。我们都很高兴。我们要去 中国不是 做兼职因为我们想学习汉语 和中国风俗也中药。所以 我们的父母 请我下个月星期三去中国。我和大卫坐出租车从家到机场。昨天我买机票 去中国。我们的 行李不多。我们准备在北京停留三个星期。	

Extract 13.3: A sample of the candidates' good responses to question 13.

Extract 13.3, indicates the performance of the candidate who managed to write a good composition.

2.0 PERFORMANCE OF THE CANDIDATES IN EACH TOPIC

The Examination of Chinese Language subject contained 13 questions were derived from the topics of *Comprehension*, *Vocabulary Use*, *Grammar Use*, *Language Use* and *Composition*.

The candidates' response analysis indicates that the candidates had good and average performance in the topics tested in 2020. The candidates had good performance in the topics of *Language Use* (90.7%), *Comprehension* (90.1%), *Grammar Use* (74.6%) and *Vocabulary Use* (61.6%). In *Composition,* the performance was average as 57.9% candidates scored 30% or above.

Further candidates' response analysis shows that in 2019, the performance per each topic was good while it was good and average for the similar topics in 2020 thereby showing increase performance by 12.3% in the topic

66

on *Language use.* In other topics the performance decreased in performance as follows: *Comprehension* decreased by (7.1%), *Vocabulary Use* decreased by (15.9%) and *Grammar Use* decreased by (7.8%). Moreover, in the topic of *Composition* the performance decreased from good to average by (9.3%).

Further analysis shows that, the general performance of topics in 2020 is good, since (75.0%) candidates scored 30% or above, even though it has decrease by 5.8% when compared to that of the 2019, in which the topics tested had the general performance of (80.8%). The analysis of the candidates' performance in each topic is summarised in Appendices I and II.

3.0   CONCLUSION

The analysis shows that the performance of the candidates in the Chinese Language subject in CSEE 2020 was good, because 119 (94.4%) candidates passed the examination and only 7 students failed.

Further analysis indicates that the candidates who performed well in this examination had good command of the Chinese Language. They also had ability to read and understand the requirement of the questions and they had sufficient knowledge of the topics. Despite the good performance, other candidates had average performance while others had weak performance. These candidates lacked vocabulary and had insufficient knowledge of the topics from which the examination questions were set.

4.0   RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to improve the candidates' performance in the Chinese Language subject, it is recommended that:

5.1   Teachers should guide the candidates on how they have to formulate Chinese characters. They should also guide their students on how to apply the prosodic features such as tones, initials and finals, syllable formation and pinyin.

5.2   Teachers should guide student on how to write a logical paragraph or composition by giving them pictures, cards and simple titles.

5.3   Teachers should encourage students to read more new words and passages related to the topics in order to improve their vocabulary and grammar patterns by giving them simple texts.

Summary of Candidates' Performance per Topic for the Chinese Language Subject in CSEE 2020

S/N	Topic	Qn. Number	% of Candidates who Scored an Average of 30 Percent or Above in each Question	% of Candidates who Scored an Average of 30 Percent or Above in each Topic	Remarks
1.	Comprehension	1	100.0	90.1	Good
		2	80.2		
2.	Vocabulary Use	3	59.5	61.6	Good
		4	41.3		
		5	84.1		
3.	Grammar Use	6	81.7	74.6	Good
		7	98.4		
		8	43.7		
4.	Language Use	9	92.1	90.7	Good
		10	94.4		
		11	85.5		
5.	Composition	12	60.8	57.9	Average
		13	55.0		

Comparison Summary of Students' Performance per Topic for 2019 and 2020

S/N	2019				2020			
	Topic	Number of Questions	Percentage of Students who Scored an Average of 30 Percent or Above	Remarks	Topic	Number of Questions	Percentage of Students who Scored an Average of 30 Percent or Above	Remarks
1.	Comprehension	2	97.9	Good	Comprehension	2	90.1	Good
2.	Vocabulary Use	3	77.5	Good	Vocabulary Use	3	61.6	Good
3.	Grammar Use	3	82.4	Good	Grammar Use	3	74.6	Good
4.	Language Use	3	78.4	Good	Language Use	3	90.7	Good
5	Composition	2	67.7	Good	Composition	2	57.9	Average