



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) 2021**

CHINESE LANGUAGE



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026 CHINESE LANGUAGE

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FOREWORD

The National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) has prepared the Candidates' Item Response Analysis (CIRA) report on the Form Four National Examination (CSEE) for 2021 in the Chinese Language subject. This report provides feedback to all educational stakeholders and gives analysis on how candidates responded to the examination questions.

The report contributes towards the understanding of reasons behind the candidates' performance in Chinese Language subject. It shows the factors that led to good and weak performance. The good performance was contributed by the candidates' ability to answer the questions according to the requirements and their competence in the Chinese Language. Conversely, those who performed weakly did not understand the requirement of the questions and also lacked knowledge of the Chinese grammatical rules.

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

The council would like to acknowledge all those who participated in preparing and analyzing the data used in this report.



Dr. Charles E. Msonde
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The report analyses the performance of the candidates who sat for the Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (CSEE) in the Chinese Language subject in 2021. The questions were set in accordance with the 2015 Chinese Language syllabus.

The Chinese Language Examination comprised of 13 questions and the candidates were required to answer all of them. The questions were divided into 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 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 which carried 10 marks, thus making a total of 20 marks. Section D contained 3 questions; questions 9 and 10 which carried 5 marks each and question 11 carried 10 marks, making a total of 20 marks. Section E had 2 questions; question 12 and 13, where each question carried 10 marks, thus making a total of 20 marks.

The analysis presented in this report aims at showing how the candidates performed in each question by indicating the candidates' weaknesses and strengths in answering the questions. It highlights the requirements of each question by indicating the expected responses, how the candidates answered the questions and the analysis of the candidates' responses. 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 candidates' performance in the Chinese Language was presented in three groups. The performance from 65 to 100 percent is classified as good, from 30 to 64 percent as average and from 0 to 29 percent as weak. The candidates' performance grouping have been represented by different colours where green denotes a good performance; yellow indicates an average performance while red shows a weak performance. The candidates' performance in each topic is summarized in the Appendices I and II.

A total of 473 candidates sat for the Form Four National Examination in 2021. The analysis indicates that the general performance was good because 420 (84.40%) candidates passed the examination and 53 (11.21%) candidates failed the examination. This performance has decreased by 10.00% compared to that of the 2020 where 119 (94.40%) candidates passed and 7 (5.6) candidates failed.

Table 1: Candidates' Pass Grades in the 2020 and 2021 CSEE

Year	Sat	GRADES				
		A	B	C	D	F
2020	126	32	23	47	17	7
2021	473	75	50	147	148	53

2.0 ANALYSIS OF THE CANDIDATES' RESPONSE IN EACH QUESTION

2.1 Section A: Comprehension

The section comprised two questions: question 1 and 2. The candidates were required to answer all of them. They were asked to read the passage and answer the questions that followed. Each question weighed 10 marks thereby making a total of 20 marks. The questions tested the candidates' ability to comprehend the Chinese Language written information.

2.1.1 Question 1: Multiple Choices Items

The candidates were given a passage from the topic *Greeting and Self-introduction/Family Introduction*. They were required to read the passage and answer the questions by choosing the correct response and write its letter. The passage was about Mary. The question tested the candidates' ability to introduce himself/herself and talk about activities done. The passage and its questions were as follows:

第一部分

阅读理解 (20 分)

一. 阅读短文, 回答问题。根据短文, 选择正确答案。

Wǒjiào Mǎ Lì, wǒ shì Tǎnsānniǎ yà rén, wǒ xiànzài zhù zài Běijīng, wǒ shì shàng dàxué de
我叫 玛丽, 我是 坦桑尼亚人, 我 现在 住 在 北京, 我 是 上 大学 的
shíhòu lái dào Běijīng de, wǒ yào zài Běijīng shàng sān nián xué, liǎng nián yǐhòu cái néng bìyè. Wǒ
时 候 来 到 北京 的, 我 要 在 北京 上 三 年 学, 两 年 以 后 才 能 毕 业。
měi tiān zǎoshang dōu yào qù chāoshì mǎi kāfēi, měi tiān wǎnshang, wǒ dōu zài wǒ jiā fùjìn de
每 天 早 上 都 要 去 超 市 买 咖 啡, 每 天 晚 上 我 都 在 我 家 附 近 的
gōngyuán sànbù, gōngyuán lì yǒu hěn duō huā, cǎo, shù hé niǎo. Měi ge xīngqītiān, wǒ dōu yào gēn
公 园 散 步, 公 园 里 有 很 多 花, 草, 树 和 鸟。每 个 星 期 天, 我 都 要 跟
péngyou qù bǎihuò shāngchǎng, shāngchǎng lǐ wǒ jiā hěn yuǎn, suǒ yǐ wǒ yào zuò dìtiě qù. Běijīng
朋 友 去 百 货 商 场, 商 场 离 我 家 很 远, 所 以 我 要 坐 地 铁 去。北 京
hěn dà, yě hěn piàoliang, wǒ zài Běijīng de shēnghuó hěn hǎo, wǒ xǐhuan Běijīng, xīwàng bìyè
很 大, 也 很 漂 亮, 我 在 北 京 的 生 活 很 好, 我 喜 欢 北 京, 希 望 毕 业
yǐhòu néng zài Běijīng gōngzuò.
以 后 能 在 北 京 工 作。

Lì rú: Mǎ Lì shì nǎ guó rén?

例 如: 玛 丽 是 哪 国 人?

Dá'àn

答 案: C

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|--------------|--------|
| Yīngguó | Zhōngguó | Tǎnsānniǎ yà | Méiguó |
| A 英国 | B 中国 | C 坦桑尼亚 | D 美国 |

Mǎ Lì jiā fùjìn yǒu shénme?

1. 玛 丽 家 附 近 有 什 么?

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|------------|--------|
| Shūdiàn | Gōngyuán | Shāngchǎng | Yóujiú |
| A 书店 | B 公园 | C 商场 | D 邮局 |

Mǎ Lì měi tiān dōu yào mǎi shénme?

2. 玛 丽 每 天 都 要 买 什 么?

- | | | | |
|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| Kāfēi | Niú nǎi | Jīdàn | Píngguǒ |
| A 咖啡 | B 牛奶 | C 鸡蛋 | D 苹果 |

Mǎ Lì zěnme qù shāngchǎng?

3. 玛 丽 怎 么 去 商 场?

- | | | | |
|---------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Kāi chē | Zǒu lù | Zuò dìtiě | Qí chē |
| A 开车 | B 走路 | C 坐 地铁 | D 骑车 |

Mǎ Lì duō cháng shíjiān qù yí cì shāngchǎng?

4. 玛 丽 多 长 时 间 去 一 次 商 场?

- | | | | |
|----------|------------|----------|---------|
| Měi tiān | Měi xīngqī | Měi nián | Měi yuè |
| A 每天 | B 每 星期 | C 每 年 | D 每 月 |

Mǎ Lì hái yào duō cháng shíjiān cái néng bìyè?

5. 玛 丽 还 要 多 长 时 间 才 能 毕 业?

- | | | | |
|---------|------------|----------|---------|
| Yí nián | Liǎng nián | Sān nián | Sì nián |
| A 一 年 | B 两 年 | C 三 年 | D 四 年 |

The question was attempted by 473 (100%) candidates, of whom 370 (78.22%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks, which is a good performance, 98 (20.72%) candidates performed averagely by scoring from 4 to 6 marks and 05 (1.06%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, which is weak performance. The general performance in this question was good because 468 (98.94%) candidates scored 30% or above of the 10 marks allocated to this question. Figure 1 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 1.

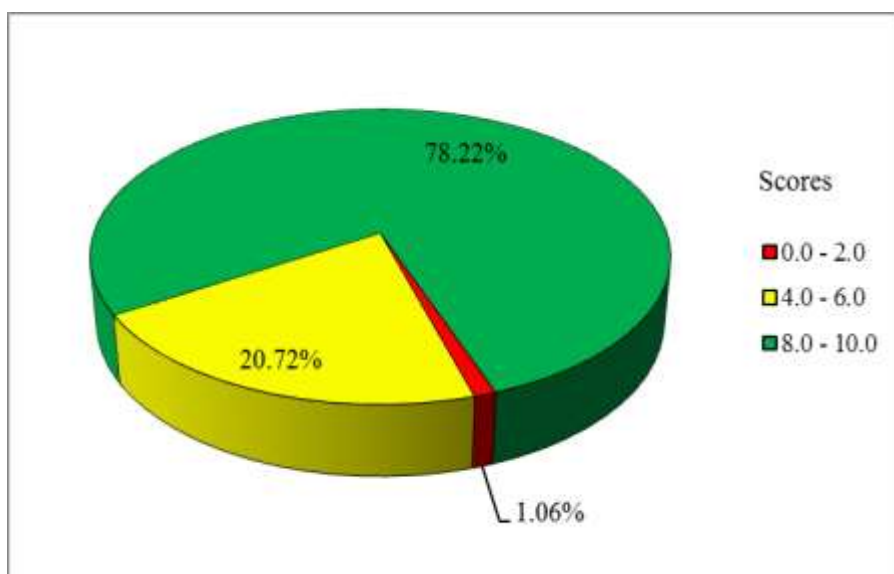


Figure 1: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 1*

The analysis of the candidates' performance shows that 370 (78.22%) candidates attained good performance as they scored from 8 to 10 marks. These candidates demonstrated their ability to comprehend the passage as they wrote the correct answers in all items. This implies that they had sufficient knowledge about Chinese Language, hence they understood the passage. For example, in item 1, candidates were required to answer the question which asked what is nearby Mary's home 玛丽家附近有什么? They picked the correct answer B 公园 (park) because they grasped the sentence structure (S+有+ O). They knew that alternatives A 书店 (bookshop) and D 邮局 (post office) were not correct answers because they were not mentioned in the passage. Alternative C 商场 (market) also was not

correct answer because it is a place where Mary always goes with friends to buy things and it is not the place which is nearby her home.

In item 2, the candidates were required to tell What Mary buys every day? 玛丽每天都要买什么? The candidates chose alternative A 咖啡 (coffee) which was the correct answer. They understood an activity of buying coffee done by Mary every day. They also knew that alternatives B 牛奶 (milk), C 鸡蛋 (egg) and D 苹果 (apple) are things not bought by Mary and were not mentioned in the passage.

Moreover, in item 3, the candidates were required to give the means of transport which Mary uses to go to the market. The candidates opted for the correct answer which was C 坐地铁 (taking subway) because they knew that alternatives A 开车 (driving), B 走路 (walking) and D 汽车 (riding) were means of transport but were not used by Mary.

Further analysis shows that in item 4, the candidates were asked to tell how often Mary goes to the market? The candidates who got item 4 right mastered well the structure 多长时间 ... 一次 and chose the correct answer B 每星期 (Every week). They also noticed that alternative A 每天 (Every day) was not the correct answer because every day morning she goes to the market and every day evening she goes to the park to take a walk. They also knew that alternatives C 每年 (Every year) and D 每月 (Every month) are adverbs showing frequency of doing a certain activity but were not used by Mary.

Finally, in item 5, the candidates who scored full mark opted for the correct answer B 两年 (two years). They realised that alternatives A 一年 (one year) and D 四年 (four years) were not correct answers because, they were the years which were not mentioned in the passage. They also knew that alternative C 三年 (three years) was not the correct answer because, it was the time where Mary was in Beijing studying. Extract 1.1 is a sample of the candidate's good responses to question 1.

-	1. B	
	2. A	
	3. C	
	4. B	
	5. B	

Extract 1.1: A sample of the candidate's good responses

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

Furthermore, the candidates' response analysis indicates that 98 (20.72%) candidates had an average performance as they scored from 4 to 6 marks. These candidates answered some items correctly and failed others. This proves that they had partial knowledge about reading for comprehension. Most of them wrote correct answers in items 1, 2 and 5 but failed in items 3 and 4. For example, in item 3, the candidates who scored 0 did not understand the means of transport used by Mary they randomly picked the alternatives given. Extract 1.2 is a sample of the candidate's average responses to question 1.

-	1. C	
	2. A	
	3. B	
	4. C	
	5. B	

Extract 1.2: A sample of candidate's average responses

In Extract 1.2, the candidate chose correct answers in items 2 and 5 but failed in items 1, 3 and 4.

Further analysis indicates that 05 (1.06%) candidates had weak performance as they scored from 0 to 2 marks. These candidates had insufficient knowledge about reading for comprehension. For

example, in item 1, the candidates failed to identify what is nearby Mary's home and ended up picking randomly the given alternatives. Those who chose alternatives A 书店 (bookshop) and D 邮局 (post office) did not know that they were incorrect answers since they were not mentioned in the passage. Likewise, alternative C 商场 (market) was not a correct answer because it denotes a place where Mary always goes with friends to buy things.

In item 2, the candidates who scored 0 were not able to tell what Mary buys every day. They failed to identify the correct answer A 咖啡 (coffee) because they did not understand an activity done by Mary every day. They also did not notice that alternatives B 牛奶 (milk), C 鸡蛋 (egg) and D 苹果 (apple) were not correct answers because they were not mentioned in the passage.

The analysis further indicates that in item 3, the candidates failed to identify the correct answer because they did not know that alternatives A 开车 (driving), B 走路 (walking) and D 汽车 (riding) were means of transport but not used by Mary. They had insufficient knowledge about the expression V + N for example (开车 – drive a car) structure used in expressing the means of transport.

It is also revealed that, the candidates who scored 0 in item 4, had insufficient knowledge about adverbial time given. In the passage they were given 每天早上 (every morning) 每天晚上 (every evening) and 每个星期天 (every weekend). The question required them to understand the passage and tell the Marys' frequency of going to the market. This proves that they lacked vocabulary hence chose incorrect responses.

Lastly, in item 5, the candidates who scored 0 did not master the conjunction 还 (still) 才 (later). They also did not understand the requirement of the question because most of them chose C (three years) without knowing that it was the duration of time for Mary's stay in Beijing. They did not know that alternatives A 一年 (one year) was the first duration of Mary's stay which was not directly mentioned in the passage but it required the candidates' ability to

interpret the information from the passage. Further analysis shows that alternative D 四年 (four years) was not the correct answers because, it was the years which was not mentioned in the passage. Extract 1.3 is a sample of the candidate’s weak response to question 1.

-	- C	
	= B	
	= A	
	四. B	
	五. A	

Extract 1.3: A sample of the candidate’s incorrect responses to question 1

Extract 1.3, the candidate wrote incorrect answers in all items.

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

In this question, the candidates were given a passage to read and were asked to answer the questions by using Chinese characters. This passage was derived from the topic of Introduction and Recommendation. The passage was about Wang Li (王丽) plan. This question tested the candidates’ ability to introduce oneself and friends. The passage and its questions were as follows.

二. 阅读短文, 用汉字回答问题。

Nínhǎo! Wǒ jiào Xiǎomíng. Wǒ yǒu gè péngyou jiào Wánglì, jīnnián shíwǔ suì, gēn wǒ yíyàng gāo, 您好! 我叫 小明。我有个朋友叫 王丽, 今年十五岁, 跟我一样高, Tā shì Měi guó rén, yě shì wǒmen xuéxiào xuésheng. Tā huì shuō sān zhǒng yǔyán, Yīngyǔ, 她是美国人, 也是我们学校学生, 她会讲三种语言, 英语, Hànyǔ hé fǎyǔ. Suīrán tā zài Měiguó chūshēng, kěshì hànyǔ hǎo dé bú déliǎo. Tā dàsuàn jiàqī lái 汉语和法语。虽然她在美国出生, 可是汉语好得不得了。她打算假期来

Shànghǎi Fànguǎn jiānzhi, tā yǐqián zài fànguǎn zuòguò jiānzhi. Tāshuō, tā fēicháng xǐhuan 上海饭馆兼职, 她以前在饭馆做过兼职。她说, 她非常喜欢 Fú wù yuán zhè ge zhíyè, yīnwèi kě yǐ rènshí hěn duō xīn péngyou. Wáng Lì de jiā lí 服务员这个职业, 因为可以认识很多新朋友。王丽的家离

Fànguǎn hěn jìn, qí zì xíng chē wǔ fēnzhōng jiù dào le. Tā kě yǐ lái shìshì ma? Yàoshì kěyǐ. 饭馆很近, 骑自行车五分钟就到了。她可以来试试吗? 要是可以, Jiù qǐng gěi tā bàba dǎ diànhuà, zhè shì tā de míngpiàn. Wǒ tì wánglì 就请给她爸爸打电话, 这是他的名片, 我替王丽 Xièxiè nín! 谢谢您!

Lǐ rú: Wèn: Xiǎomíng de péngyou jiào shénme?

例如: 问: 小明的朋友叫什么?

Dá

答: 王丽。

Wáng Lì de guójí shì shénme?

1. 王丽的国籍是什么?

_____。

Chú le hànyǔ, Wáng Lì hái huì shuō nǎxiē yǔyán?

2. 除了汉语, 王丽还会说哪些语言?

_____。

Wáng Lì de jiā lí Shànghǎi fànguǎn yuǎn bu yuǎn?

3. 王丽的家离上海饭馆远不远?

_____。

Wáng Lì hé Xiǎomíng shuí gāo?

4. 王丽和小明谁高?

_____。

Wèi shénme Wáng Lì xǐhuan zuò fúwùyuán?

5. 为什么王丽喜欢做服务员?

_____。

The candidates' responses analysis indicates that the question was attempted by 473 (100%) candidates, of whom 97 (20.51%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks, which is a good performance, 146 (30.87%) candidates performed averagely by scoring from 4 to 6 marks and 230 (48.63%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, which is a weak performance. The general performance in this question was average, as 243 (51.37%) candidates scored 30% or above of the 10 marks allocated to this question. Figure 2 summarizes the candidate's performance in question 2.

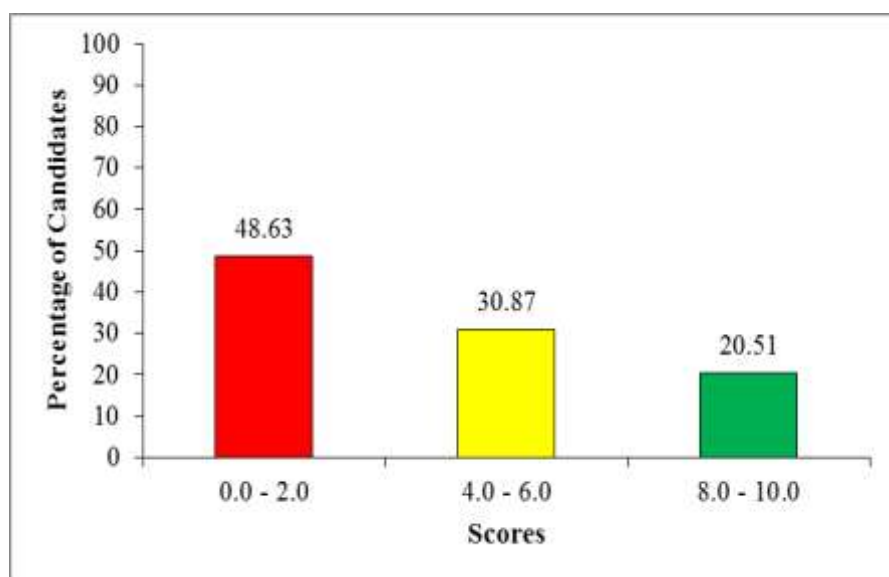


Figure 2: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 2*

The candidates' response analysis indicates that, 146 (30.87%) candidates had an average performance. This indicates that the candidates partially comprehended the passage and managed to answer some items correctly while failed in others. Most of candidates failed in items 1 and 3. For example, in item 1, the candidates were required to tell where Wang Li is coming from. Some of the candidates failed in this item because they did not master well the meaning of the words 什么国籍 (which nation) on which they were required to tell Wang Li's nation, but some candidates confused with the structure 哪国人 (which nationality) in which required the candidate to tell one's nationality, as in 美国

(America) which was the correct answer, but most of them wrote 美国人 (American) which was incorrect.

Additionally, in item 3, the candidates were supposed to tell how far is from Wang Li's home to Shanghai Restaurant. To respond correctly to this item, the candidate had to master the expression 远不远 (far or not far). However, some candidates failed because in the passage it was written 王丽家离饭馆很近 (From Wang Li's home to Shanghai Restaurant is near). So they were supposed to understand the word 近 (near) which is synonymous to 不远 (nor far). Extract 2.1 is sample of the candidate's responses from the candidate with average performance in question 2.

2.	王丽的国籍是美国人	
10.	王丽的家离饭馆远做过兼职	
11.	英语和法语	
	小明是跟一样高	
	服务员这个职业, 因为可以认识很多新朋友	

Extract 2.1: A sample of the candidate's average responses

Extract 2.1, the candidate wrote correct answers in items 3, 4 and 5 but failed in items 1 and 2.

The analysis also shows that 230 (48.63%) candidates had weak performance because they scored from 0 to 2 marks. These candidates failed to answer the question correctly due to either lack of understanding the passage's content or the requirement of the question. Some of them copied the sentences from the passage and treated them as answers. Others wrote wrong structured sentences where as others answered using pinyin. For example, in item 2, the candidates were required to tell what other languages Wang Li can speak apart from Chinese? The candidates were required to understand the structure of 除了 还 (Except.....still/also.....). But some candidates did not understand well this concept. They wrote unrelated responses to the question as one of them wrote 家离饭馆 (from the restaurant) instead of the correct answer 英语和法语 (English and French).

Furthermore, in item 4, the candidates were required to tell who was taller than the other between Wang Li and Xiao Ming. Some of the candidates failed to score full marks because they had insufficient knowledge about grammatical pattern of 比字句 (comparative sentence using 比) A 比 B +Adjective. For example, one of them copied words 想坐飞机去 (want to take a plane to go to China) from the question paper and wrote it as an answer.

Lastly, in item 5, the candidates were required to state the reason why Wang Li likes to be a waitress. The candidates were supposed to understand the passage and relate it with the question 为什么 (why), and give the expected reason. Some candidates copied sentences from the passage as one of them wrote 他非常喜欢服务员 instead of giving reason. This implies that the candidates had insufficient vocabulary. Extract 2.2 is a sample of weak candidate's responses in question 2.

二	1) 今年十五岁	
2)	王丽会说三种语言	
3)	白继	
4)	不和	
5)	这个职业	

Extract 2.2: A sample of the candidate's weak responses

Extract 2.2 demonstrates the weak responses from the candidate who wrote incorrect answers in all items.

Further analysis of the candidates' performance reveals that 97 (20.51%) candidates had good performance. These candidates comprehended the passage and answered the questions correctly. They had sufficient knowledge about Chinese characters and also they mastered the grammar patterns. This enabled them to write correct answers. For example, in item 1, the candidates were required to tell where Wang Li is coming from? 王丽的国际是什

么? The candidates who scores full mark knew that the word 什么国籍 (which nation) is different from the word 哪国人 (which nationality). This resulted to the writing of the correct answer which is 美国 (America).

Further analysis shows that in item 2, the candidates were required to tell what other language Wang Li can speak apart from Chinese? The candidates who scored full mark mastered the structure 除了……还…… (Except……still/also……). They also understood the question, this enabled them to write the correct answer 英语和法语 (English and French).

Moreover, in item 3, the question required the candidates to tell how far is it from Wang Li's home to Shanghai Restaurant. The candidates who got this item right had sufficient vocabulary. They knew that the words 远/近 (far/near) they are negated as 不远/不近 (not far/not near). They also noted that in the passage it was written 很近 (very near) and that in the question they were asked 远不远 (far or not far), hence they wrote the correct answer 不远 (not far) meaning it is 近 (near).

Furthermore, the candidates were required to tell who is taller than the other between Wang Li and Xiao Ming in item 4. The candidates who scored full marks mastered the comparative sentences (比字句, A 比 B + Adjective). This helped them to write the correct answer 一样高 (the same taller).

Lastly, in item 5, the candidates were required to state the reason why Wang Li likes to be a waitress 为什么王丽喜欢做服务员? The candidates who scored full mark comprehended the passage, hence identified the correct information and answered the question correctly as one of them wrote 因为他可以认识很多朋友 (because he may come across with more friends). Extract 2.3 is a sample of the candidate's good responses to question 2.

二	1 王丽的国籍是美国。	
	2 除了汉语,王丽还会说英语和法语。	
	3 王丽的家离上海饭馆不远。	
	4 王丽跟小明一样高。	
	5 王丽喜欢做服务员,因为可以认识很多新朋友。	

Extract 2.3: A sample of the candidate's good responses

In Extract 2.3, the candidate wrote correct answers in all the items.

2.2 Section B: Patterns and Vocabulary

In this section, the candidates were given three questions, namely questions 3, 4 and 5. Questions 3 and 4 carried 5 marks each and question 5 carried 10 marks, therefore 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

This question had 5 items in which the candidates were required to write the missing pinyin of the given characters. The question was derived from the topic of City and Environment. It tested the candidates' ability to recognize and write Chinese characters and their pinyin appropriately. The questions were as follows.

三. 给汉字标注拼音。

Lì rú: nǐ (hǎo)
例如: 你好

() lǎn
1. 展 览

() qū
2. 郊 区

() biān
3. 北 边

() mù
4. 树 木

() jú
5. 邮 局

The total of 473 (100%) candidates attempted the question, out of whom 51 (10.78%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks, which is a good performance, 234 (49.47%) candidates performed averagely by scoring from 2 to 3 marks and 188 (39.75%) candidates scored from 0 to 1 marks, which is a weak performance. The general performance in this question was good, since 285 (60.25%) candidates scored 30% or above of the 5 marks allocated to this question. Figure 3 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 3.

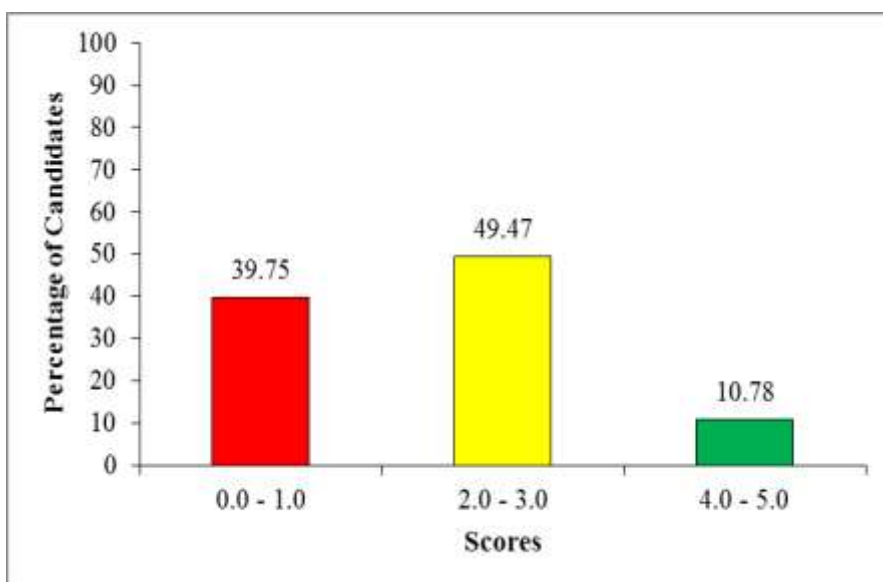


Figure 3: *The Percentages of the candidate's Performance in Question 3*

The data analysis shows that 51 (10.78%) candidates had good performance. These candidates mastered well the procedures of writing pinyin and had sufficient knowledge about initials, finals and syllables. They also mastered the tone-marking-rule. In addition, they recognized the Chinese characters, strokes and pinyin thus ended up writing the correct answers. Extract 3.1 is a sample of the candidates' good responses to question 3.

三.	1. Zhǎn	
	2. Jiāo	
	3. Běi	
	4. Shù	
	5. Yóu	

Extract 3.1: A sample of the candidate's good responses

In Extract 3.1, the candidate wrote correct pinyin in all the items.

Moreover, candidates' response analysis shows that 234 (49.47%) candidates had average performance. These candidates wrote correctly some pinyin and failed in others. They managed to write initials and finals but failed to mark the correct tone. Others could not recognize the character as a result they guessed and wrote incorrect pinyin. This indicates that the candidates had partial knowledge about pinyin writing. Extract 3.2 is a sample of responses from a candidate with average performance in question 3.

三.	1. Zhǎn	
	2. Jiāo	
	3. Běi	
	4. Shù	
	5. Yóu	

Extract 3.2: A sample of the candidate's average responses

Extract 3.2, indicates responses from the candidate who managed to write correct pinyin in items 2, 3 and 5 but failed in items 1 and 4.

Furthermore, the analysis shows that 188 (39.75%) candidates had weak performance. These candidates had insufficient knowledge about writing pinyin. They also failed to recognize the characters given. This resulted to the writing of incorrect answers. For example, one candidate wrote 1 *zhàn*, 2 *jiào*, 3 *bèi*, 4 *shú* and 5 *yōu*. This candidate managed to write finals and initials but failed to mark tones. This proves that the candidate did not master the tone-marking rule. Another candidate wrote 1 *zhè*, 2 *jiàn*, 3 *ba*, 4 *shui* and 5 *lǎn*. This indicates that the candidate did not know the characters and their pinyin. Extract 3.3 is a sample of the candidate's weak responses to question 3.

31. suī	
2. cháng	
3. bǐ	
4. fū	
5. bái	

Extract 3.3: A sample of the candidate's incorrect responses

In Extract 3.3, the candidate wrote incorrect pinyin for all the characters given.

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

The candidates were given 5 items with the missing characters. They were required to write the character in the brackets. The questions were composed from the topic of Travel and Customs. The question examined the candidates' ability to write Chinese character. The question was as follows.

四. 根据拼音写汉字。

Lì rú: Nǐ hǎo
例如: 你 (好)

1. lái () piào
来 () 票

2. () shí
() 时

3. xíng ()
行 ()

4. guò nián
过 ()

5. hǎi tān
() 滩

The question was attempted by 473 (100%) candidates, of whom 64 (13.53%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks, which is a good performance, 349 (73.78%) candidates performed averagely by scoring from 2 to 3 marks and 160 (12.68%) candidates scored from 0 to 1 mark, which is a weak performance. The general performance in this question was good, as 413 (87.32%) candidates scored 30% or above the 5 marks allocated to this question. Figure 4 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 4.

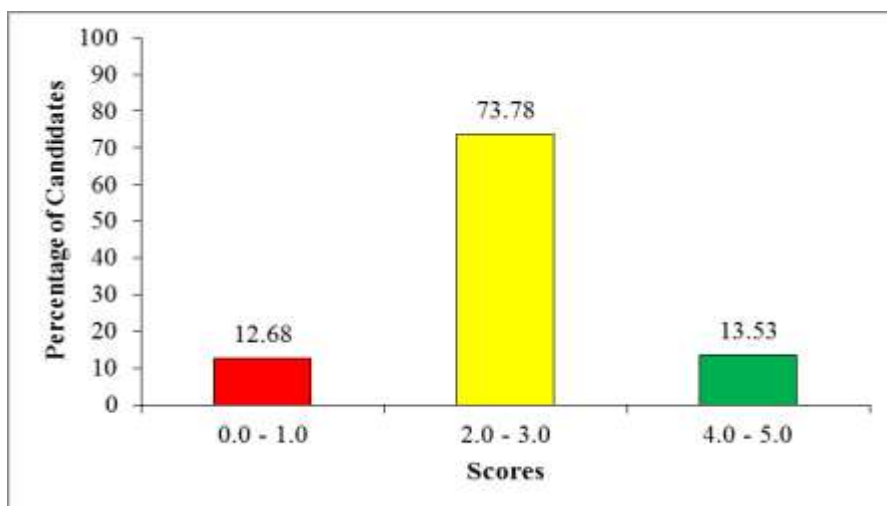


Figure 4: The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 4

The data analysis shows that, 64 (13.53%) candidates had good performance as they scored from 4 to 5 marks. These candidates recognized the characters of the given pinyin and wrote them correctly. They had sufficient knowledge about writing the Chinese strokes and radicals. This helped them to give correct answers as in item 1, where most of the candidates wrote the correct character 回 (to go back) because they managed to differentiate it from character 会 (can). The two characters have the same initials and finals but they differ in tones (回 *huí* and 会 *huì*).

In item 2, the candidates who got right this wrote the correct character 小 because they knew that when this character is joined together with 时 forms a word 小时 (hour). They also wrote correct character 行李 (luggage) in item 3 because they knew that the character 行 is joined with 李 (palm tree) to form a word 行李 (luggage).

Furthermore, in item 4, the candidates were required to write character 年 (year) as the correct answer. Most of them wrote it correctly because they were familiar with it. Lastly, in item 5, the candidates were required to write a character 海 (ocean) to complete the word 海滩 (beach). The candidates who scored full mark wrote the correct character 海 (ocean) because they mastered the radical 氵 which represents water. They also managed to differentiate it from 每 (every). This proves that the candidates had sufficient knowledge about writing characters. Extract 4.1 is a sample of the candidate's good responses to question 4.

四·1	回	
2	个	
3	李	
4	年	
5	海	

Extract 4.1: A sample of the candidate's good responses

In Extract 4.1, the candidate correctly wrote the characters in all items.

Further analysis indicates that 349 (73.78%) candidates had an average performance as they scored from 2 to 3 marks. This indicates that the candidates correctly wrote some characters and failed in others, while some of them wrote wrong characters by reducing or adding some strokes or radicals. Most of the candidates failed in items 1 and 3. For example, in item 1 most of the candidates failed to distinguish between the character 回 (to go back from) and 会 (can) because they have the same initials and finals. These candidates failed to differentiate the tones.

Moreover, in item 3, the candidates were required to write the character 李, but some of the candidates failed to write it because they failed to differentiate it from other characters 力 (strength), 里 (in) and 丽 (pretty) which have the same pronunciation. Others wrote 季 (season) instead of the correct character 李 (palm tree) because they added one upper stroke. This indicates that the candidates had insufficient knowledge about characters which have the same pronunciation or having some slight resemblance in form. Extract 4.2 is a sample of the responses from the candidate who performed averagely in question 4.

	1. 来会票	
四		
	2. 小时	
	3. 行星	
	4. 过年	
	5. 海佳	

Extract 4.2: A sample of the candidate's average responses

In Extract 4.2, the candidate was able to write correct characters in items 2 and 4 but failed in items 1, 3 and 5.

Further data analysis reveals that 160 (12.68%) candidates had weak performance, as they scored from 0 to 1 mark. These candidates had insufficient knowledge on writing characters. They did not master the stroke order and radicals, thus ended up writing incorrect characters by adding or reducing strokes or forgetting some radicals. For example, in item 2, the candidates were required to write character 小 to complete a word 小时 (hour). Most of the candidates wrote 少 (few). This shows that they could not distinguish 小 from 少 (few). This confused them because the two characters differ in initials (*xiǎo* and *shǎo*).

Similarly, in item 4, the candidates who got this item wrong did not master this character, as one of them wrote 南 (south), others wrote 男 (male), few of them wrote 牛 (cow) and others wrote 午 (midday). Finally, in item 5, most of the candidate who scored 0 failed to write the first part of the character (radical) and they did not realize that character 海 has two parts: 氵 and 每. This reveals that the candidates had partial knowledge about recognizing and writing two sided characters. Extract 4.3 is a sample of the candidate's weak responses to question 4.

四	(1)	lái huí piào	
		来 (会) 票	
	(2)	xiǎo shí	
		(小) 时	
	(3)	xíng lì	
		行 (里)	
	(4)	guò nián	
		过 (年)	
	(5)	hǎi tān	
		(海) 滩	

Extract 4.3: A sample of the candidate's weak responses

In Extract 4.2, the candidate wrote wrong characters 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 five (5) sentences with two (2) characters. They were asked to choose one character between two similar characters to complete the meaning of the sentences. The characters had slight similarities in either phonology or morphology. The question was from the topic of Introducing Oneself & Friends and City & Environment. The question tested the candidates' ability to differentiate the characters which are slightly alike either in form or pronunciation. The question was as follows:

五. 选字填空。

Lǐlú: Wǒ jiā yǒu jiǔ kǒu rén.
例如: 我家有 九 口人。(九/力)

Tānsānǐyà yǒu liǎnggè jī
1. 坦桑尼亚有 两个季____。(节/姐)

Xiǎohóng měitiān xià dōu yào dǎ tàijíquán.
2. 小 红 每天 下____都要打太极拳。(午/半)

Xiàxuě de shíhòu, Xiǎohǎi zài shūguǎn kàn shū.
3. 下雪 的 时候, 小海 在____书 馆 看书。(国/国)

Èr líng yī wǔ nián yī yuè bā rì, wǒ de mèimei zài yīyuàn chū____.
4. 2015 年 1月 8日, 我的 妹妹 在 医院 出____。(先/生)

Xīngqī sān wǎnshàng, gēge yào kàn yí gè bàn xiǎo zúqiú bǐsài.
5. 星期三 晚上, 哥哥 要 看 一个半 小____足球比赛。(时/十)

A total of 473 (100%) candidates attempted the question, of whom 240 (50.74%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks which is a good performance, 183 (38.69%) candidates scored from 4 to 6 which is an average performance and 50 (10.57%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 which is a weak performance. The candidate's general performance in this question was good, since 423 (89.43%) candidates scored 30% or above of the 10 marks allocated to this question. Figure 5 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 5.

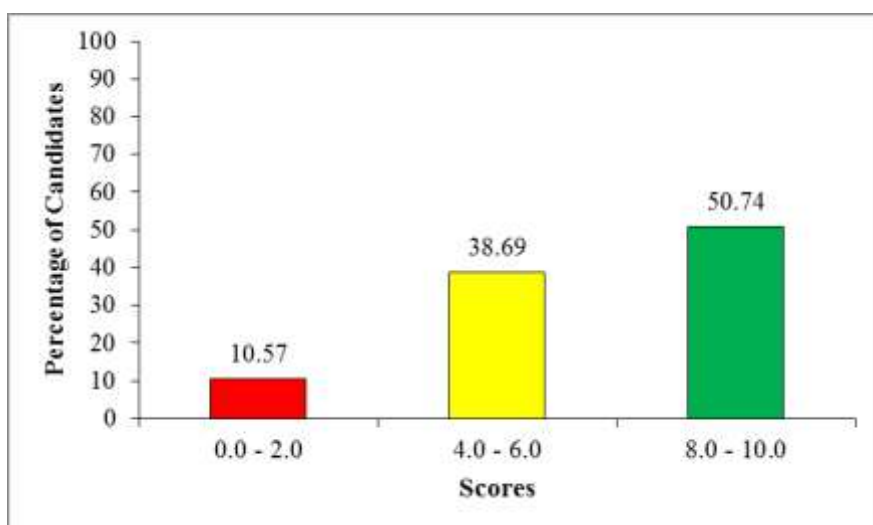


Figure 5: *The Percentage of the candidate's performance in question 5*

The data analysis shows that 240 (50.74%) candidates performed well as they scored from 8 to 10 marks. These candidates had sufficient knowledge about Chinese characters with different forms and pronunciation. They differentiated between the two given characters and wrote the correct answers. They also knew their position and uses in the sentence. For example, in item 1, the candidates knew the difference between 节 (season) and 姐 (sister) thus they supplied the correct answer 节 because they understood the meaning of the sentence which was about season and not about (sister).

Further analysis indicates that the candidates who got item 2 right, knew the meaning of the characters 午 (noon) and 牛 (cow). They

also understood that the question required them to tell time. They identified the correct character 午 because it relates with time.

Moreover, in item 3, the candidate chose the correct character because they were familiar with the word 图书馆 (library) and the missing character was 图 (picture). Thus they knew that the character 国 (country) was not correct because it relates to the country.

Furthermore, in item 4, these candidates also wrote the correct character 生 (born), because they knew that in the sentence there was a character 出 which collocates with character 生, to get a word 出生 (to be born). They also knew that the character 先 (earlier) was not the correct answer because it had no relation with the verb to be born.

In item 5, the candidate wrote the correct answer because they knew that the two characters had the same pronunciation and the same tone but differ in meaning 时 (time) and 十 (ten). They also understood that the sentence was about telling time. Therefore, the correct word was 时 which makes a word 小时 (hour). Extract 5.1 is a sample of the candidate's good response to question 5.

五	1. 节	
	2. 午	
	3. 图	
	4. 生	
	5. 时	

Extract 5.1: A sample of the candidate's good response

In Extract 5.1, the candidate wrote correct answers in all items.

Further analysis indicates that 183 (38.69%) candidates had an average performance as they scored from 4 to 6 marks. These candidates had partial understanding of Chinese language characters as they were able to correctly choose some characters while failing in others. They had partial knowledge about some radicals which forms different characters. This resulted to choosing incorrect characters. Extract 5.2 is a sample from candidate with average performance in question 5.

五. 1. 节	
2. 图	
3. 午	
4. 生	
5. 时	

Extract 5.2: A sample of the candidate’s average performance

In Extract 5.2, the candidate wrote correct characters in items 1, 4 and 5 but failed in items 2 and 3.

The analysis also shows that 50 (10.57%) candidates had weak performance as they scored from 0 to 2 marks. Under this category, the candidates had inadequate understanding about Chinese characters. They also had insufficient knowledge about Chinese radicals which forms different characters which hindered them from distinguishing the two given characters. In addition, they did not understand the meaning of the sentences given. This shows that they lacked vocabulary which resulted to randomly picking of the characters. Extract 5.3 is a sample of the candidate’s weak response to question 5.

五		
1	姐	
2	午	
3	国	
4	先	
5	十	

Extract 5.3: A sample of the candidate's weak response

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

2.3 Section C: Grammar Patterns

This section comprised three questions, namely 6, 7 and 8. Question 6 and 7 carried 5 marks each and question 8 carried 10 marks. The section had a total of 20 marks.

2.3.1 Question 6: Multiple Choices Items

The question had five multiple choice items having the blank spaces. The candidates were required to fill them by choosing the correct answer and writing its letter. The question was from the topics of School Life, Shopping, Travel and Customs. The question had a total of 5 marks. It examined the candidates' ability to use Chinese grammar to express themselves. The question was as follows:

六. 选择题。

Lǐ rú Nǐ shénme míngzì?

例如: 你 (B) 什么 名字?

- A 是 shì B 叫 jiào C 去 qù D 会 huì

Wǒmen měi tiān zǎoshang 7:30

xuéxiào qù shàngkè.

1. 我们 每天 早上 7:30 () 学校 去 上课。

- A 离 lí B 把 bǎ C 跟 gēn D 到 dào

Zài shūdiàn mǎi

dào zhōngwén shū ma?

2. 在 书店 买 () 到 中文 书 吗?

- A 了 le B 呢 ne C 得 dé D 的 de

Jīn nián hànyǔ kǎoshì bù

nán.

3. 今年 汉语 考试 不 () 难。

- A 什么 shénme B 怎么 zěnmě C 多少 duōshǎo D 哪个 nǎgè

Tā jiā dōngxi tài duō le. tā bù mǎi le, jiù kànkàn.

4. 她家东西太多了, 她不买 () 了, 就看看。

- A 哪儿 nǎr B 怎样 zěnyàng C 什么 shénme D 多少 duōshǎo

Tā zhèngzài zhǔnbèi lǚxíng de dōngxi, yí huìr jiù dào fēijīchǎng.

5. 他 正在 准备 旅行 的 东西, 一会儿 就到 飞机场 () 。

- A 去 qù B 要 yào C 上 shàng D 下 xià

The candidates' response analysis indicates that the question was attempted by 473 (100%) candidates, of whom 56 (11.84%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks, which is a good performance, 212 (44.82%) candidates performed averagely by scoring from 2 to 3 marks and 205 (43.34%) candidates scored from 0 to 1 marks, which is a weak performance. The general performance in this question was average, as 268 (56.66%) candidates scored 30% or above of the 5 marks allocated to this question. Figure 6 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 6.

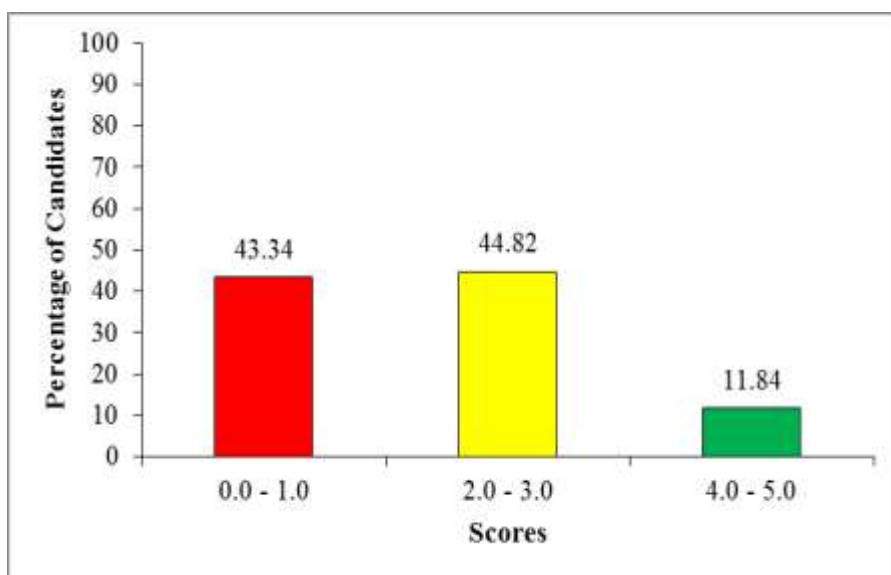


Figure 6: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 6*

The analysis of the candidates' response shows that 212 (44.82%) candidates had average performance as they scored from 2 to 3 marks. In this category, the candidates had partial understanding of Chinese language sentence structure and grammar. They managed to choose the correct answers in some items while failing in others. They also had partial understanding of the meaning of the words and sentences given. This led them to guess and randomly pick the alternatives. Extract 6.1 is sample of responses from the candidate with average performance in question 6.

1.	C	
2.	D	
3.	C	
4.	C	
5.	A	

Extract 6.1: A sample of the candidate's average responses

In Extract 6.1, the candidate was able to write correct answers in items 4 and 5, but wrote incorrect answers in items 1, 2 and 3.

Further analysis shows that 205 (43.34%) candidates had weak performance as they scored from 0 to 1 mark. The candidates had inadequate knowledge about Chinese language grammar. They did not master the sentence structure especially the meaning, position and uses of the words given. This proved that the candidates lacked vocabulary which hindered them from understanding the questions. This led them to randomly choose the alternatives. Extract 6.2 is a sample of the candidate's weak responses to question 6.

六	1. B	
	2. A	
	3. C	
	4. B	
	5. D	

Extract 6.2: A sample of the candidate's weak responses

In Extract 6.2, the candidate chose incorrect answers in all items.

Further data analysis illustrates that 56 (11.84%) candidates had good performance as they scored from 4 to 5 marks. For example, in item 1, the candidates mastered the structure pattern 到 + place + 去, this resulted to the choosing of the correct answer D 到. They knew that alternative A 离 (be at a distance from) is preceded by the distance (far/not far/near). They also knew that alternatives B 把 and C 跟 were not correct answers because they are used after a subject and not time as in the question.

Moreover, in item 2, the question required the candidates to fill the bracket with 得 (a complement of success or possibility). These candidates wrote the correct answer 得 because they mastered the structure V + 得 + 到 + noun. In addition, they knew that alternative A 了 (particle) shows the change of state or completion of certain action, alternative B 呢 is an interrogative particle used at the end of the question and alternative D 的 was not the correct answer because it is a possessive particle.

Furthermore, in item 3, the candidates who got it right had sufficient knowledge about the expression 不+怎么+Adj. They managed to choose the correct answer B 怎么 (not at all). They also knew that alternatives A 什么 (what), C 多少 (how much) and D 哪个 (which) are interrogative words and cannot be positioned in that place.

Further analysis shows that, in item 4, the candidates who got the item right had sufficient knowledge about the structure V + 什么 + 了.....就..... to mean that nothing is taking place (action) other than.... They choose the correct answer C 什么 (nothing). They further noted that alternative A 哪儿 (where) B 怎样 (how about it) and D 多少 (how much) were not correct answers because they are interrogatives that cannot be used in the sentence given.

Lastly, in item 5, the candidates who scored full mark mastered the structure 到 + Place + 去, thus ended up choosing the correct answer A 去 (go). They noticed that option B 要 (want) was not the correct answer because it is used as an auxiliary verb, C 上 (up) and D 下 (down) were incorrect answers because they go with direction, which was not found in a given sentence. Extract 6.3 is a sample of the candidate's good responses to question 6.

六	1. D	
	2. C	
	3. B	
	4. C	
	5. A	

Extract 6.3: A sample of the candidate's good responses

In Extract 6.3, the candidate filled in all the blanks by choosing the correct answers.

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

In this question, the candidates were given five items with blank spaces. They were required to fill in the blanks by choosing the correct answer from the two given characters. The question was from the topics of Colour, Sport & Game and Nature. It examined the candidates' ability to use Chinese vocabulary to complete sentences. The question was as follows.

七. 选择合适的词完成句子。用汉字填写。

Lǐrú: Wǒ lǎoshī.
例如: 我 是 老师。(是/叫)

Tǎnsāngniyà de guóqí yǒu sì yánsè.
1. 坦桑尼亚的国旗有四 颜色。(种/张)

Míngmíng měitiān zǎoshang chà bù duō liù diǎn jiù qù dǎ lánqiú, yīnwèi tā pàngle.
2. 明明 每天 早上 差不多六点 就去打篮球, 因为 他 胖了。
(多/太)

Xiǎohǎi yǒu yī zhī chǒngwùgǒu, míngzì jiào Xiǎobái, tā de yī fu shì báisè
3. 小 海有一只 宠物狗, 名字 叫 小白, 它的衣服是白色 。
(了/的)

Mǎ Lǐ lì yǒu duō tiáo qúnzi, suǒyǐ tā bù zhǔnbèi mǎi xīn de le.
4. 马丽丽有 多 条 裙子, 所以 她 不 准备 买 新的了。(很/也)

Wǒmen bān xuésheng dōu xǐhuan xué hànyǔ, tāmen dōu xué fēicháng hǎo.
5. 我们 班 学生 都 喜欢 学 汉语, 他们 都 学 非常 好。(的/得)

The question was attempted by 473 (100%) candidates, of whom 225 (47.57%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks, which is a good performance, 205 (43.34%) candidates performed averagely by scoring from 2 to 3 marks and 43 (9.09%) candidates scored from 0 to 1 mark, which is a weak performance. The general performance in this question was good, as 430 (90.91%) candidates scored 30% or above of the 5 marks allocated to this question. Figure 7 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 7.

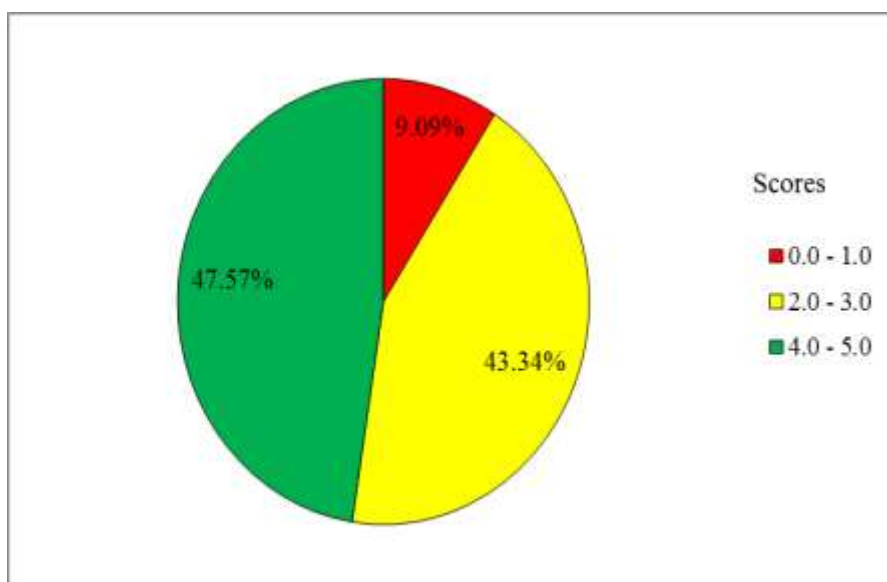


Figure 7: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 7*

The data analysis of the candidates' responses shows that 225 (47.57%) candidates had good performance as they scored from 4 to 5 marks. The candidates in this category had sufficient vocabulary. They understood the meaning of the words and sentences given. They were conversant with the uses of those words in the sentence. This knowledge helped them to identify the correct answers. For example, in item 1, the candidate wrote the correct answer 种 (kind or type of). They realized the character 张 (Sur name or measure word of papers or any product of papers) had no relation with the word 颜色 (colour).

In item 2, the candidates who scored full mark mastered the structure 太.....了 as they managed to write the correct answer 太 (very). They knew that the word 多 (many) was not the correct answer because it cannot be preceded by the Adj. 胖 (fat).

They also got right item 3 because they understood the sentence structure 是.....的 and wrote the correct answer 的. These candidates noticed that the particle 了 was not the correct answer because it shows the completion of an action or the perfection of an action or the change of state.

Moreover, in item 4, the candidates were required to fill in the blank with the adverb of degree 很 (very) which is preceded by an adjective. They identified the correct answer and knew that the conjunction 也 (also) was not the correct answer because it is used to join information and never placed after the verb 有 (to have). Likewise, in item 5, the candidates were required to fill in the blank with the grammatical particle which shows complement of results. They identified the correct answer 得 to express the results of studying 好 (well). They also realized that the character 的 (possessive particle) marks possession. Extract 7.1 is a sample of the candidate's good responses to question 7.

七. 1. 种	
2. 太	
3. 的	
4. 很	
5. 得	

Extract 7.1: A sample of the candidate's good responses

In Extract 7.1, the candidate wrote the correct answers in all items.

Further analysis indicates that 37 (29.8%) candidates scored from 2 to 3 marks showing an average performance. These candidates had partial knowledge of the Chinese grammar. They wrote correct characters in some items and failed in others. They also failed to distinguish the two characters as a result they failed to use them in the sentences. This analysis implies that the candidates were not familiar with some Chinese patterns. Extract 7.2 is a sample from responses of a candidate who performed averagely in question 7.

七		
1.	种	
2.	多	
3.	的	
4.	很	
5.	的	

Extract 7.2: A sample of the candidate with average performance

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

Even though the performance was good, there were 43 (9.09%) candidates who had weak performance, as they scored from 0 to 2 marks. These candidates had inadequate understanding of the question, insufficient knowledge in Chinese language sentence structures and grammar as well as the meaning of words. For instance, some candidates randomly picked the options as answers. This is evidenced in item 1 where the candidate failed to differentiate the two words 种 (kind or type of....) and 张 (Surname or measure word of papers or any product of papers). Also, in item 5, the candidates choose an incorrect response 的 because they had insufficient knowledge of the two particles. Thus, they ended up choosing incorrect characters. Extract 7.3 is a sample of responses provided by one of the candidates who performed weakly in question 7.

七		
1	张	
2	多	
3	了	
4	很	
5	的	

Extract 7.3: A sample of the candidate's weak responses

Extract 7.3, shows the performance of the candidate who wrote correct answer in item 4 but failed in others.

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

In this question, the candidates were given five items with jumbled words/phrases. They were required to rearrange them to form logical Chinese sentences. The question was from the topic of Time and Jobs. It examined the candidates' ability to form Chinese logical sentences. The question was as follows.

八. 连词成句。

Lì rú: shì Zhōngguó wǒ rén
 例如: ① 是 ② 中国 ③ 我 ④ 人
 ③①②④

1. fáng jiān xiǎo māo lǐ yì zhī yǒu
 ① 房间 ② 小猫 ③ 里 ④ 一只 ⑤ 有

2. zài bàba gōngzuò wǒ de Shànghǎi
 ① 在 ② 爸爸 ③ 工作 ④ 我的 ⑤ 上海

3. Běijīng Xiǎohǎi búqù qù
 ① 北京 ② 小海 ③ 不去 ④ 去

4. zhǔ kāfēi zài māma chúfáng
 ① 煮 ② 咖啡 ③ 在 ④ 妈妈 ⑤ 厨房

5. xiǎng bú zuò sī jī Xiǎohǎi
 ① 想 ② 不 ③ 做 ④ 司机 ⑤ 小海

The question was attempted by 473 (100%) candidates, of whom 192 (40.59 %) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks, which is a good performance, 135 (28.54%) candidates performed averagely by scoring from 4 to 6 marks and 146 (30.87%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, which is a weak performance. The general performance in this question was good, since 327 (69.13%) candidates scored 30% or above of the 10 marks allocated to this question. Figure 8 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 8.

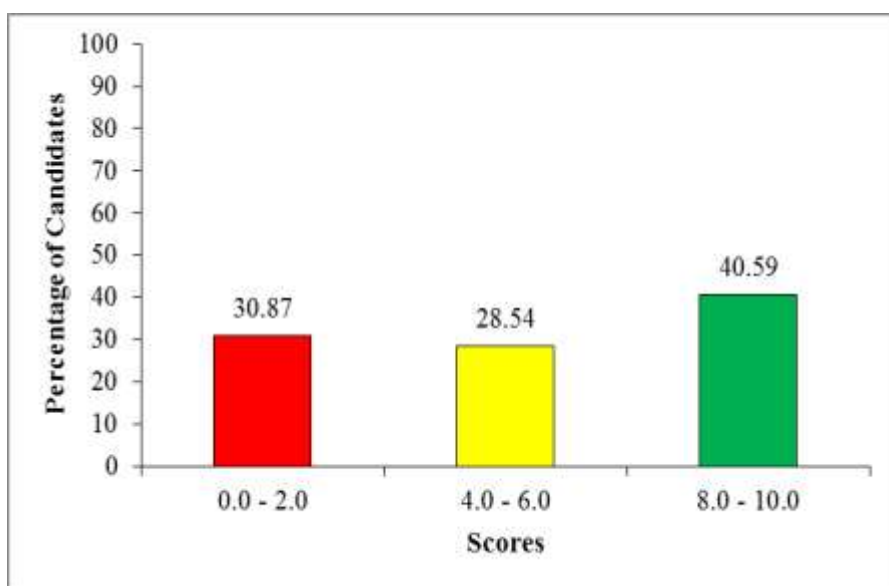


Figure 8: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 8*

The data analysis indicates that 192 (40.59 %) candidates had good performance as they scored from 8 to 10 marks. The candidates were required to rearrange the jumbled word into correct sentences. These candidates had sufficient knowledge of Chinese sentence structure. They also knew the meaning and uses of the jumbled words in the sentence. For instance, in item 1, the candidates rearranged the sentence correctly as ①③⑤④② 房间里有一只猫 (There is a cat in the room) because they mastered the structure S+V+O. In addition, they knew that the noun 房间 had to be preceded by the preposition 里, and followed by the verb 有. They also realized that the measure word 一只 had to begin and be followed by a noun 猫.

In item 2, the candidates who wrote the correct sentence were familiar with the structure S+在+Place+ O as they wrote the correct answer ④②①⑤③ 我的爸爸在上海工作 (My father works in Shanghai). They knew the uses of the jumbled words and realized that 我的 (my) was the first word because it is an attributive adjective followed by the noun 爸爸. They also noticed that the preposition 在 had to be followed by the noun of place 上海 and that the last word was the verb 工作. This shows that the candidates mastered the structure of the sentence S+在 + Place +V.

Further analysis shows that, in item 3, the candidate were required to make the use of the sentence structure S + V+不+V? The candidates used this knowledge and wrote the correct answer ②④③① 小海去不去北京? (Xiaohai does not go to Beijing?).

Furthermore, in item 4, the candidates were required to rearrange the sentence by using the structure S + 在 + Place + V + Object. These candidates wrote the correct answer ④③⑤①② 妈妈在厨房煮咖啡 (Mother is in the kitchen preparing cofee) because they mastered the structure and were familiar with the words given.

Lastly, in item 5, the candidates were required to rearrange the sentence whose structure was S+不+Aux +V+O. These candidates wrote the correct answer ⑤②①③④ 小海不想做司机 (Xiaohai does not want to be a driver) because they mastered the sentence structure. This implies that the candidates had sufficient knowledge of chinese sentence structures. Extract 8.1 is a sample of the candidate's good responses to question 8.

1.	① ③ ⑤ ④ ②	
2.	④ ② ① ⑤ ③	
3.	② ④ ③ ①	
4.	④ ③ ⑤ ① ②	
5.	⑤ ② ① ③ ④	

Extract 8.1: A sample of the candidate's good responses

In Extract 8.1, the candidate rearranged correctly all the items.

The data analysis further reveals that, a total of 135 (28.54%) candidates had an average performance as they scored from 4 to 6 marks. These candidates managed to rearrange some items correctly but failed in others. Most of them wrote correct answers in items 3 and 4. This was due to the fact that they had partial knowledge of Chinese language structure. Extract 8.2 is a sample of the candidate's average performance in question 8.

八.	1. ①③⑤④②	
	2. ④②①⑤③	
	3. ②④③①	
	4. ④③⑤②①	
	5. ⑤②③④①	

Extract 8.2: A sample of responses of the candidate's with average performance

Extract 8.2, indicates the responses of the candidate who was able to rearrange items 1, 2 and 3 but failed in 4 and 5.

Further data analysis shows that 146 (30.87%) candidates had weak performance as they scored from 0 to 2 marks. These candidates had insufficient knowledge about Chinese language Structure. They failed to rearrange the jumbled words given. Some candidates failed because they could not understand the meaning of the words given and others did not understand the requirement of the question as they copied the questions. This resulted into a guess work by randomly selecting of words to form ungrammatical sentences. For example, in item 1, some candidates confused the word which should precede the other between the word 里 (in) and 有 (have), but according to the question the word 里 should precede 有, thus they had to write 房间里有一只小猫 (Inside the house there is a cat). Extract 8.3: A sample of the candidate's weak responses to question 8.

入		
1.	① ② ③ ④ ⑤	
2.	④ ② ③ ① ⑤	
3.	② ① ③ ④	
4.	④ ③ ② ① ⑤	
5.	⑤ ① ② ④ ③	

Extract 8.3: A sample of the candidate's weak responses

In Extract 8.3, the candidate failed to rearrange all the sentences.

2.4 Section D: Language Use

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

2.4.1 Question 9: Matching Items

The question comprised five items in which the candidates were required to match questions from column A with answers provided in column B. The question was derived from the topic of Housing/shopping/Hobby. The question tested the candidate's ability to express themselves in Chinese language. The question was as follows.

九. 匹配题, 第一题答案已给出。

A 栏	B 栏
Nǐ hǎo!	Yí diǎnr yě bù hǎokàn.
1. 你好!	A 一点儿也不好看。
Nǐ huì bu huì shuō hànyǔ?	Bú shì, tā shì lǎo shī.
2. 你会不会说汉语?	B 不是, 他是老师。
Nǐ xiǎng bu xiǎng kàn tǐ yù xīnwén?	Zuótiān.
3. 你想不想看体育新闻?	C 昨天。
Tā shì yǎnyuán ba?	Dǎ wǎngqiú.
4. 他是演员吧?	D 打网球。
Nǐ de àihào shì shénme?	Shì, tā shì Zhōngguó rén.
5. 你的爱好是什么?	E 是, 他是中国人。
Zuótiān de diànshì jiémù zěnmeyàng?	Nǐ hǎo!
6. 昨天的电视节目怎么样?	F 你好!
	Huì shuō yídiǎnr.
	G 会说一点儿。
	Bú xiǎng.
	H 不想。

The question was attempted by 473 (100%) candidates, of whom 288 (60.89%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks, which is a good performance, 134 (28.33%) candidates performed averagely by scoring from 4 to 6 marks and 51 (10.78%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, which is a weak performance. The general performance in this question was good, because 422 (89.22%) candidates scored 30% or above of the 10 marks allocated to this question. Figure 9 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 9.

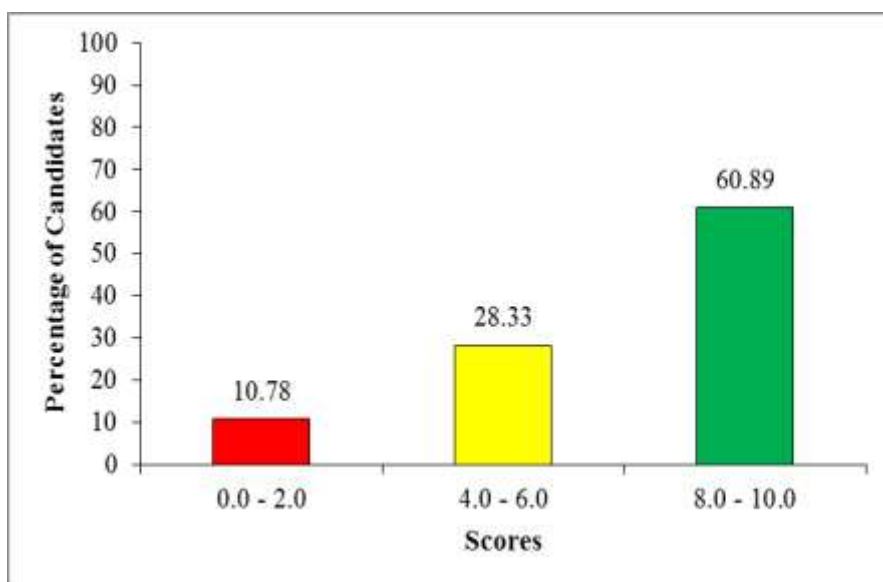


Figure 9: *The Percentage of the Candidates' Performance in Question 9*

The data analysis indicates that 288 (60.89%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks, which is a good performance. The candidates who wrote the correct answers had ability to respond to Chinese question tags. For example, in item 2 你会不会说汉语？(can't you speak Chinese?) and 3, 你想不想看体育新闻？(Don't you want to watch sport news?) the correct answers were 会说一点儿 (I can speak little) and 不想 (I don't want) respectively. These candidates mastered the sentence structure V+不+V.

Similarly, in item 4, the candidates were required to match the question 他是演员吧 (He is an Actor) with correct answer B 不是, 他是老师 (No, he is a Teacher). These candidates supplied the correct answers because they mastered the negation expression 不是 (not).

Moreover, in item 5, the candidates were required to match the question 你的爱好是什么？(What is your hobby?) with 打网球 (tennis) which was the correct answer. These candidates got this item right because they understood the question and mastered the topic of Hobby. This implies that, they had sufficient knowledge of expressing themselves by talking about their hobbies.

Finally, in item 6, the candidates were asked 昨天的电视节目怎么样? (How was the yesterday's television programme?) Those who scored full mark matched it with the correct answer A 一点也不好看 (was not good at all) because they understood the meaning of the sentence which ended up with 怎么样 (how). Extract 9.1 is a sample of the candidate's good responses to question 9.

九	1	2	3	4	5	6
	F	G	H	B	D	A

Extract 9.1: A sample of the candidate's good responses

In Extract 9.1, the candidate correctly matched all the items.

On the other hand, the analysis indicates that 134 (28.33%) candidates attained an average performance as they scored from 4 to 6 marks. These candidates had partial knowledge of the given language patterns. These candidates were able to write correct answers in some items and failed in other items. Extract 9.2 is a sample of responses from a candidate who performed averagely in question 9.

九.	2. B	
	3. H	
	4. G	
	5. D	
	6. A	

Extract 9.2: A sample of the candidate's average responses

In Extract 9.2, the candidate matched correctly items 3, 5 and 6 but failed in items 2 and 4.

Further analysis shows that 51 (10.78%) candidates had weak performance as they scored from 0 to 2 marks. These candidates did not master either how to use Chinese question tags or initiating or ending conversations. They also did not know that in Chinese

question tags the answers must be one of the questioned main verb or its negation. For example, in item 2, most of candidates opted H 不想 (don't want) instead of 会说一点儿 (I can speak a little). This implies that the candidates failed to differentiate between the verbs 会 (can) and 想 (want).

In item 3, the candidates who scored 0 failed to select the correct answer 不想 instead they selected A 一点儿也不好看 due to the repetition of the verb 看 in both column A and B. This proves that these candidates had poor understanding of the Chinese question tags.

Furthermore, in item 4, the candidate did not understand the meaning and intention of the speaker in the sentence which resulted to incorrectly matching of the item. Most of candidates matched it with E 是, 他是中国人 (Yes, He is a chinese) because they were confused by the word 是 (yes) which is used in answering the questions. They also did not understand the meaning of the question and that of the item E 是, 他是中国人 (Yes, He is a chinese) which they matched as the correct answer. This implies they lacked vocabulary.

Also, in item 5, the candidates who failed this item did not understand the requirement of the question. They matched randomly the given answers as one of them wrote H 不想 (don't want) and the other wrote C 昨天 (yesterday). This proves that the candidates had insufficient knowledge about the Chinese Language grammar.

Lastly, in item 6, most of the candidates matched this item with the wrong response C 昨天 (yesterday). This was due to the fact that the candidates were attracted by the word 昨天 because it appeared in the question. This shows that the candidates failed to grasp the meaning of the question. Extract 9.3 is a sample of weak responses to question 9.

九		
1	F	
2	B	
3	A	
4	E	
5	G	
6	D	

Extract 9.3: A sample of the candidate's weak responses

In Extract 9.3, the candidate wrote incorrect responses in all items.

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

The candidates were given six words, among which one was given as an example. They were asked to fill in the brackets by writing the letter of the correct answer. The questions came from the topic of Weather/Fashion and Entertainment. The question examined the candidates' knowledge about vocabulary and grammar use. The question was as follows.

十. 选词填空，第一题答案已给出。

Chūntiān zǎodì jìjié yǎnjīng nǎi nai míngzì
A 春天 B 草地 C 季节 D 眼睛 E 奶奶 F 名字

Nǐ jiào shénme ?

1. 你 叫 什 么 (F) ?

zài jiā fù jìn de jiēdào shàng sànbù.

2. () 在 家 附 近 的 街 道 上 散 步。

Qiūtiān shì yí ge bù lěng yě bú rè de

3. 秋 天 是 一 个 不 冷 也 不 热 的 ()。

Xiàwǔ, xuéshēng men dōu zài xuéxiào cāochǎng de shàng xiūxi.

4. 下 午, 学 生 们 都 在 学 校 操 场 的 () 上 休 息。

tiānqì yǒu diǎnr lěng, róngyì gǎnmào.

5. () 天 气 有 点 儿 冷, 容 易 感 冒。

Xiǎohǎi de hěn dà, piàoliang jí le!

6. 小 海 的 () 很 大, 漂 亮 极 了!

The analysis of the candidates' performance shows that 473 (100%) candidates attempted the question, of whom 146 (30.87%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks, which is a good performance, 154 (32.56%) candidates performed averagely by scoring from 2 to 3 marks and 173 (36.58%) candidates scored from 0 to 1 mark, which is a weak performance. The general performance in this question was good, since 300 (63.42%) candidates scored 30% or above of the 5 marks allocated to this question. Figure 10 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 10.

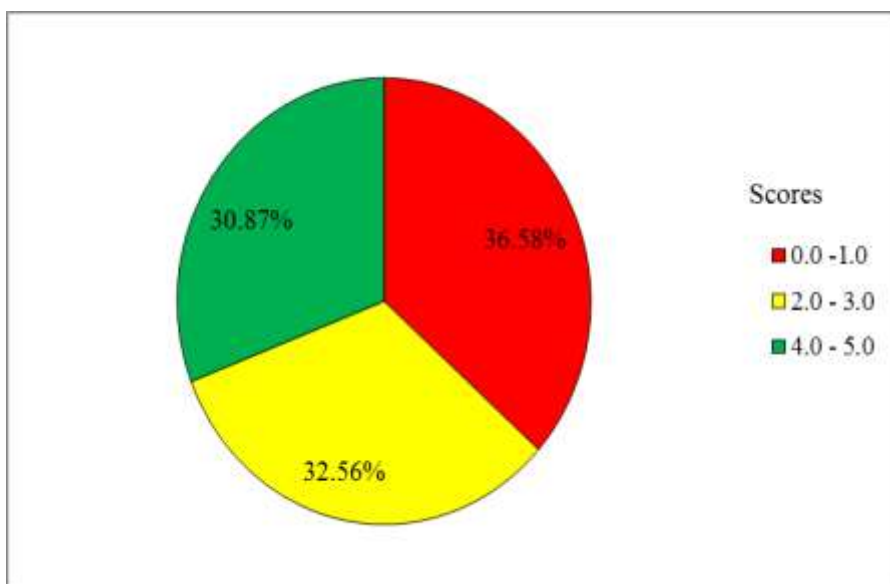


Figure 10: *The Percentage of the candidate's performance in question 10*

The data analysis indicates that 146 (30.87%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks, which is a good performance. These candidates had sufficient vocabulary which helped them to understand the meaning of the sentences and words given. They were also aware about the uses of the words given. In addition, they mastered the sentence structure which formed the sentences. For example, in item 2, the candidates were tested on the use of the structure S + 在 + Place + V + Object. They were supposed to choose a missing word which suits better the sentence. The candidates who scored full mark chose the correct answer E 奶奶 (grandmother).

In item 3, the candidates were required to fill in the blank by using the word having relation to weather (season). The question provided had one season 秋天 (autumn) and its characteristic is ...不冷也不热 (not cold and not hot). Therefore, these candidates chose the correct answer C 季节 (season) because it was the only given word related to 秋天 (autumn).

Further analysis shows that in item 4, the candidates chose the correct answer B 草地 (grasses) because they knew that a noun of place 操场的...(on the playing ground) was to be proceeded by a noun and that noun had to go together with 上 (on). These candidates managed to give the correct answer because they realized that it was the only noun which had relation to the playing ground.

Similarly, in item 5, the candidates who got full mark were knowledgeable about the word 天气 which had characteristics of weather 有一点儿冷.... This helped them to choose the correct answer 春天 (spring) which related with the concept of weather.

Finally, the candidates who got right item 6 had sufficient knowledge about the structure S+的+N+很 (怎么样). This helped them to write the correct answer D 眼睛(eyes). Extract 10.1 is a sample of the candidate's good response to question 10.

Qn. 1.	02. E.	
	03. C.	
	04. B.	
	05. A.	
	06. D.	

Extract 10.1: A sample of the candidate's good responses

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

Further analysis indicates that 154 (32.56%) candidates scored from 2 to 3 marks because they choose the correct answer in some items and failed in others. This shows that the candidates were familiar with some sentence structures while unfamiliar with others. Extract 10.2 is a sample of responses from a candidate who performed averagely in question 10.

1		
2	C	
3	E	
4	B	
5	A	
6	D	

Extract 10.2: A sample of the candidate's average responses

In Extract 10.2, the candidate filled in the brackets with correct responses in items 3, 5 and 6 but failed in items 1 and 2.

Even though the candidates' general performance in this question was good, there were 173 (36.58%) candidates with weak performance as they scored from 0 to 1 mark. These candidates lacked vocabulary which hindered them from understanding the requirement of the question. They had insufficient knowledge about Chinese language sentence structure, meaning and uses of the words given. This resulted to randomly picking of options and writing incorrect answers. For example, in item 3, the candidates who scored 0 did not understand the meaning of the sentence and the uses of the words given as one of them chose D 眼睛 (eyes) which was wrong.

Furthermore, in item 4, the candidates with 0 mark had insufficient knowledge about a noun of place 操场的... (on the playing ground) that was to be proceeded by a noun and the noun had to go together

with the preposition 上 (on). One of the candidates chose E 奶奶 (grandmother) and the other 春天 (spring). This proves that these candidates did not understand the meaning of the sentence. Extract 10.3 is a sample of weak responses written by one of the candidates.

一.	..f	
二.	B	
三.	b	
四.	A	
五.	C	
六.	E	

Extract 10.3: A sample of the candidate’s weak responses

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

2.4.3 Question 11: Answering the Questions Using Chinese Characters

In this question, the candidates were given five items. They were required to use the learned vocabulary to provide answers. The questions was derived from the topics of Introduction and recommendation, Time and Transport. These questions aimed to examine the candidates’ ability to express themselves by using Chinese Language. The question was a follows.

十一. 回答问题。用汉字书写。

Lì rú: Nǐ jiào shénme míngzì?

例如: 你叫 什么 名字?

我叫小明。

Cóng nǐ jiā dào fēijīchǎng yào jǐ ge xiǎoshí?

1. 从 你家 到飞机场 要 几个小时?

_____。

Nǐ měitiān zěnmē qù xuéxiào?

2. 你 每天 怎么去 学校?

_____。

Nǐ qùguò xuéxiào fùjìn de túshūguǎn ma?

3. 你 去过学校 附近 的图书馆 吗?

_____。

Nǐ xiǎng zuò fēijī hái shì zuòchuán qù Zhōngguó?

4. 你 想 坐 飞机 还是 坐船 去 中国?

_____。

Nǐ zhǔnbèi shénme shíhòu xué kāichē?

5. 你 准备 什么 时候 学开车?

_____。

A total of 473 (100%) candidates attempted the questions, of whom 68 (14.38%) candidates scored from 7 to 10 marks, which is a good performance, 99 (20.93%) candidates performed averagely by scoring from 3 to 6 marks and 306 (64.69%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, which is a weak performance. The general performance in this question was average, because 167 (35.31%) candidates scored 30% or above of the 10 marks allocated to this question. Figure 11 shows the summary of the candidates' performance in question 11.

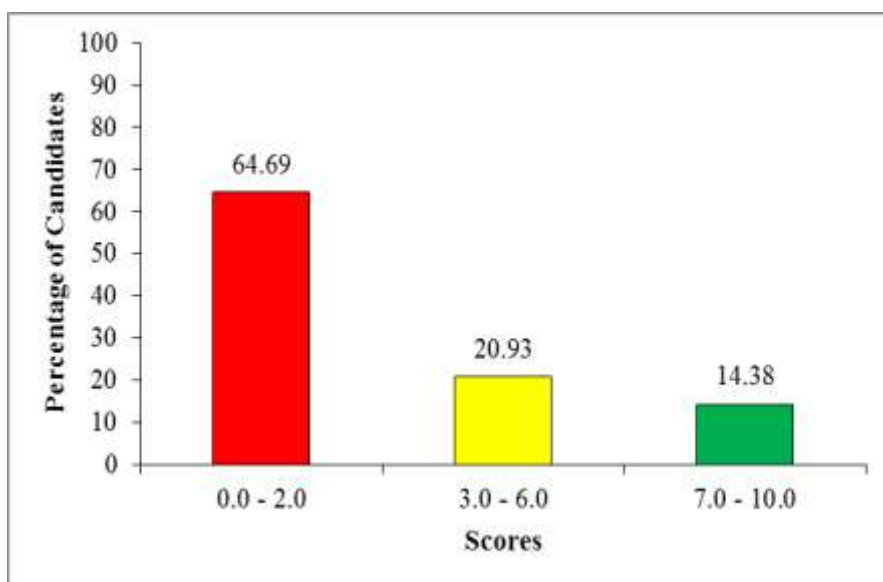


Figure 11: *The Percentage of the Candidates' Performance in Question 11*

The candidates' response analysis shows that 99 (20.93%) candidates attained an average performance. This was due to the fact that, the candidates failed to answer correctly some items by writing wrong characters, misinterpreting some of the given questions or violating Chinese language structure rules. For example in item 1, the question required the candidates to state time taken from point A to point B 从 (from) place ... 到 (to) place. Most of the candidates failed to write a measuring word 个 after indicating the total number of time, like 一个小时, 两个小时, most of them wrote 一小时, 两小时 which was incorrect. Furthermore, some candidates failed to write some characters by adding or reducing some strokes. This implies that the candidates had partial knowledge about Chinese language grammar. Extract 11.1 is a sample of responses from a candidate who performed averagely in question 11.

1.	从我家到飞机场要一个小时。	
2.	我每天早上 6:30 去学校。	
3.	我去过学校附近的图书馆看书。	
4.	我想坐飞机还是北京坐船去中国。	
5.	我准备下的时候学开车。	

Extract 11.1: A sample of candidate's average responses

In Extract 11.1, the candidate wrote correct answers in items 1 and 3 but failed in items 2, 4 and 5.

The data analysis shows that 306 (64.69%) candidates had a weak performance as they scored from 0 to 2 marks. The candidates who scored 0 failed to answer correctly the question because some of them did not understand the question. Few of them wrote wrong characters and others could not write the sentence because they had insufficient knowledge about the Chinese sentence structure. In addition, there were candidates who did not follow the instructions of the question, hence they answered the question using pinyin instead of characters. For example, in item 2, some candidates scored 0 because they did not understand the meaning of the question 每天怎么去学校? (How do you go to school every day?). Most of these candidates did not know the uses of the interrogative word 怎么去? (how to go). Some of them mentioned the means of transport instead of writing the way they go to school, for example one of them wrote 我每天怎么公共汽车学校 (I every day how bus school).

Furthermore, in item 3, some candidates failed to get full mark because they misplaced the pronoun 我 and 你. They also failed to show past tense marker 过 as the correct answer was supposed to be 我去过 (I have been there) or 我没去过 (I have never been there),

去过 (been there), 没去过 (never been there). Some candidates wrote 不 (not) as negation of never which was wrong. They did not know that 不 is a negative word used for present tense and future tenses while 没 (not) is a negative word used for past tenses. For example, some candidates wrote 我不去过 which was wrong.

Moreover, in item 4, the question required the candidates to choose one of the two means of transport that were suggested in a question 你想坐飞机还是坐船去中国? (Do you want to take a plane or a boat to go to China?) The candidate who scored 0 failed because they failed to omit the word 还是 from the question. This proves that they did not master the use of the word 还是 (or) which is used when asking someone to make a choice but cannot be used when someone is making a choice.

Finally, in item 5, some of the candidates who scored 0, did not know the meaning of the interrogative word 什么时候 (at what time) which required them to give the time. Others failed to transform the pronoun, instead of using 我 (I) they used 你 (you). This shows that the candidates had difficulties in understanding different expressions. Extract 11.2 is a sample from a candidate with weak performance in question 11.

1	从我家到飞机场要坐。	
2	我每天星期 日去学中文。	
3	我学校附近的图书馆	
4	我想坐飞机还是地铁。	
5	我准备所以时候学开车。	

Extract 11.2: A sample of the candidate's weak responses

In Extract 11.2, the candidate failed to answer all the five items.

Even though the candidates had weak performance, there were 68

(14.38%) candidates who had good performance as they scored from 7 to 10 marks. These candidates demonstrated their ability by answering the questions and writing well-structured sentences using correct characters. They understood the requirement of the questions.

They also mastered the uses of the interrogative words which enabled them to write correct answers. In addition, they knew the meaning of the interrogative words given and managed to answer the questions using correct structures. For example, in item 1, the candidates were required to state the time required from their home to airport in form of hours. They wrote correct answers, as one of them wrote 从我家到飞机场要一个小时. This shows that they mastered the structure (from+ place+ to+ place+ time) and used correctly the measuring word 个.

Additionally, in item 4, the question required the candidates to choose one of the two means of transport that were suggested in a question. The candidate who scored full marks mastered the use of the word 还是 (or) and 或者 (or). These words differ in context that 还是 is used only when asking someone to make a choice (question) while 或者 is used when someone is accepting the given choice or making a statement (answer). This implies that the candidates mastered well the grammar patterns and were able to use them to express themselves. Extract 11.3 is a sample of the candidate's good responses to question 11.

	1. 从我家到飞机场要三个小时。
1-	2. 我每天坐地铁去学校。
	3. 我去过学校附近的图书馆。
	4. 我想坐飞机去中国。
	5. 我准备三点学开车。

Extract 11.3: A sample of the candidate's good responses

Extract 11.3, the candidate answered correctly all the questions.

2.5 Section E: Composition

In this section, the candidates were given two questions: 12 and 13. Question 12 consisted of five jumbled sentences, which the candidates were required to rearrange into a meaningful paragraph by writing a letter of the correct answer. Question 13 required the candidates to write composition titled “A TV programme I like to watch”. Each of the two questions carried 10 marks, thus making a total of 20 marks.

2.5.1 Question 12: Re-arranging the Jumbled Sentences to Make a Meaningful Paragraph

In this question, the candidates were given five jumbled sentences. They were required to rearrange them into a meaningful paragraph. Sentence one was given as an example. The question was from the topic of Color and Size/Hobby which aimed at examining the candidates’ ability to logically organize ideas. 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。

Yīnwéi wǒ kěyǐ yòng shǒujī tīng yīnyuè, dǎ diànhuà, shàngwǎng.

A 因为我可以用手机听音乐、打电话、上网。

Suǒyǐ wǒ yě fēicháng xǐhuan jīnnián de shēngri lìwù.

B 所以我也非常喜欢今年的生日礼物。

Wǒ hěn xǐhuan shōuyīnjī, měitiān zǎoshang, wǒ tīng shōuyīnjī lǐ de xīnwén.

C 我很喜欢收音机, 每天早上, 我听收音机里的新闻。

Jīnnián wǒ guò shēngri de shíhou, māma sòng le wǒ yīgè shǒujī.

D 今年我过生日的时候, 妈妈送了我一个手机。

Bàba yě chángcháng gēn wǒ yìqǐ tīng xīnwén.

E 爸爸也常常跟我一起听新闻。

Qùnián wǒ shēngri de shíhou, bàba sòng le wǒ yīgè shōuyīnjī.

F 去年我生日的时候, 爸爸送了我一个收音机。

The question was attempted by 473 (100%) candidates, of whom 150 (31.71%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks, which is a good performance, 126 (26.64%) candidates performed averagely by scoring from 4 to 6 marks and 197 (41.65%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, which is a weak performance. The general performance

in this question was average, because 276 (58.35%) candidates scored 30% or above of the 10 marks allocated to this question. Figure 12 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 12.

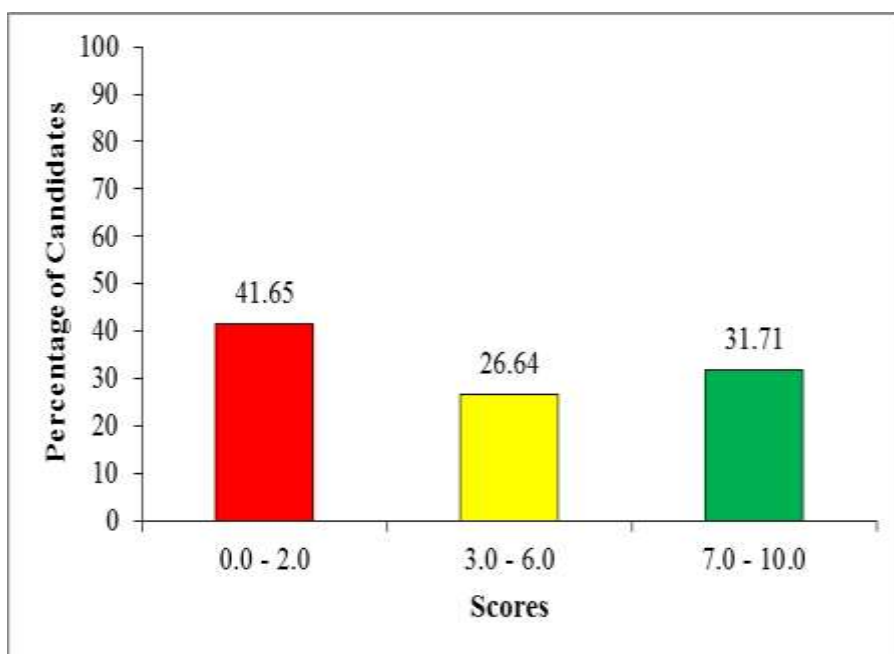


Figure 12: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 12*

The data analysis shows that 126 (26.64%) candidates had average performance. Most of the candidates who got an average performance failed in items 5 and 6 because they had insufficient knowledge about the use of grammatical patterns... 所以... The candidates did not know which sentence between A or B had to start. Extract 12.1 is a sample of responses from a candidate who performed averagely in question 12.

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

Extract 12.1: A sample of the candidate's average responses

In Extract 12.1, the candidate rearranged correctly the jumbled sentences in items 2 and 4 but failed in items 3, 5 and 6.

A total of 197 (41.65%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks in this question, showing weak performance. These candidates failed to differentiate expressions denoting sequence of events. They also failed to recognize the key information that could help them to rearrange sentences chronologically. Additionally, they failed to identify the expressions of time. This indicates that these candidates had insufficient vocabulary to express themselves by rearranging their ideas logically. Extract 12.2 is a sample of weak responses written by one of the candidates.

1=	1. E	
	2. B	
	3. A	
	4. C	
	5. D	

Extract 12.2: A sample of the candidate's weak responses

In Extract 12.2, the candidate failed to re-arrange all the jumbled sentences.

Furthermore, the analysis shows that 150 (31.71%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks. These candidates rearranged the jumbled sentences logically. They also identified the key information showing sequence of events and had sufficient knowledge about Chinese structure and grammar, especially in the use of Chinese conjunctions and time expressions to initiate, join sentences logically and conclude conversations. This helped them to write correct answers. For example, they knew that sentence C 我喜欢收音机，每天早上我听收音机里的新闻 (I like a radio very much, every day in the morning I listen to the local news) was supposed to be the second sentence because of the occurrence of the phrase 我很喜欢收音机 (I like very much Radio) which is the continuation of information found in the sentence that was given as an example.

Moreover, analysis indicates that sentence E was the third sentence because it continues to explain about what the speaker and his father do 一起听新闻 (listen to news together). In addition, they knew that sentence D was the fourth because they mastered the expression of

十三. 根据所给提示用汉字写一篇 70 到 80 字的短文。

Huàtí: Wǒ xǐhuan de diànshì jiémù

话题: 我喜欢的电视节目

Nǐ xǐhuan kàn nǎxiē diànshì jiémù?

你喜欢看哪些电视节目?

Zhè xiē jiémù shénme shíhòu kāishǐ?

这些节目什么时候开始?

Wèishénme nǐ xǐhuan kàn zhè xiē jiémù?

为什么你喜欢看这些节目?

Qǐng xiě yí xiě.

请写一写。

Tí shì cí: tǐyù jiémù tiānqì yùbào bādiǎnbàn yǒuyìsi gēn...yìqǐ
提示词: 体育节目 天气 预报 八点半 有意思 跟...一起

The question was attempted by 473 (100%) candidates, of whom 32 (6.77%) candidates scored from 7.0 to 10.0 marks, which is a good performance, 92 (19.45%) candidates performed averagely by scoring from 3.0 to 6.0 marks and 394 (73.78%) candidates scored from 0.0 to 2.0 marks, which is a weak performance. The general performance in this question was weak, since only 124 (26.22%) candidates scored 30% or above of the 10 marks allocated to this question. Figure 13 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 13.

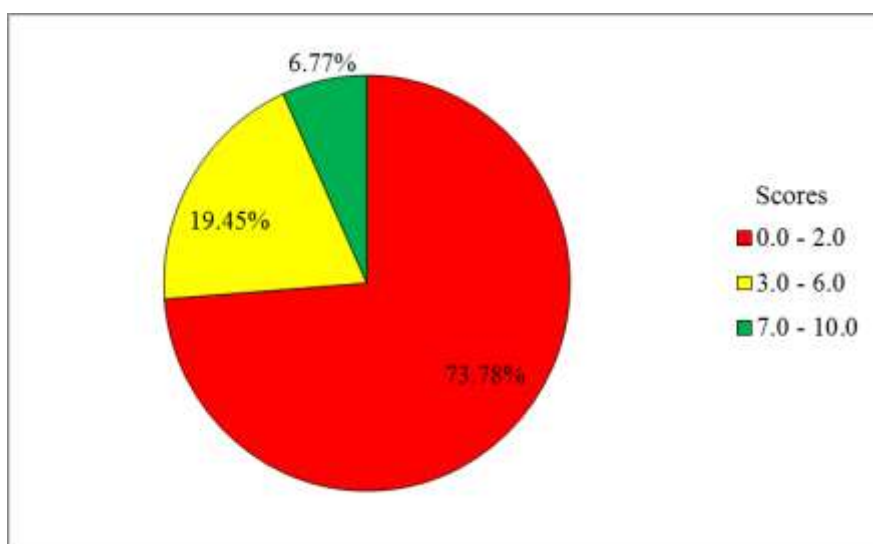


Figure 13: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 13*

The data analysis indicates that 394 (73.78%) candidates had weak performance, as they scored from 0.0 to 2.0 marks. These candidates had insufficient knowledge about composition writing. Some of them wrote compositions with less than 40 words, this implies that they were incapable of writing Chinese characters. Others wrote incorrect characters either by adding or reducing some strokes thereby forming incomprehensible words and sentences. Few of them answered the question by using pinyin instead of characters. Some candidates copied the guiding questions and wrote them as answers while others copied characters from the question paper and wrote them as answers. This reveals that these candidates had insufficient Chinese vocabulary. Extract 13.1 is a sample of the candidate's weak responses to question 13.

我喜欢的电视节目	
我DA木子珊,我是学生在学。我家有三个人,我的爷 爷,妈妈和我。我们亲学。我有洗箱,吸尘器,电视。 我喜欢电视,因为有多节目。可是我喜欢一个节目 是听音乐,我爱好是听本国音。每天我看亲乐节目。 亲乐音开是八点半。这节目有意,都亲乐很文看	
谢谢您	

Extract 13.1: A sample of the candidate's weak responses

In Extract 13.1, the candidate misunderstood the question he/she expressed his or her hobby instead of expressing his/her favorite TV programme.

Further data analysis indicates that 92 (19.45%) candidates had an average performance. These candidates had partial knowledge about composition writing. They managed to write some sentences correctly while failing in others. For example, some candidates used pinyin in words which they did not know their characters. Others used few guiding words and failed to use other words.

Furthermore, the data shows that only 32 (6.77%) candidates had good performance as they scored from 7 to 10 marks. These candidates had enough vocabulary which helped them to write good compositions. They also arranged logically their ideas and wrote correct Chinese characters. This implies that they mastered the topic and had enough vocabulary to express themselves. Extract 13.2 is a sample of the candidate's good responses to question 13.

十三	
	我喜欢的电视节目
	大家好!我叫孙丽,今年十五岁,我是中学的学生。
	我的学校很大。我们班学习五个课,汉语课,体育课,
	英语课,地理课和法语课。星期一我们班没有体育课,
	所以很多学生不好。星期二,星期三和星期四我们班非常好,
	因为我们班有体育课。除了我们班喜欢体育课,还我
	很喜欢看体育电视节目。我喜欢看体育节目因为很
	有意思。我每天晚上看电视节目。这体育节目八点半
	开始,妈妈和爸爸跟我一起看天气预报。我不看
	电视的新闻因为没有意思。每个星期天,我去体育馆。
	体育馆很大,也很漂亮。我家离体育馆很近
	所以,我坐自行车去体育馆。我学习很多运动。我喜欢
	体育课,欢迎你们来学习体育课。谢谢你们!

Extract 13.2: A sample of the candidate's good responses

Extract 13.2, a sample of the candidate's responses regarded as good performance.

3.0 PERFORMANCE OF THE CANDIDATES IN EACH TOPIC

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

The analysis of the candidates' response shows that the candidates had good and average performance in the topics tested in 2021. The candidates had good performance in the topics of *Vocabulary Use* 79.00%, *Grammar Use* 72.23%, *Comprehension* 70.65%, *Language Use* 62.65%, but they had average performance in the skill of *Composition* 42.28%.

Further analysis shows that even though the performance of 2021 is also good as compared to the 2020, but only one topic of *Vocabulary Use* increased by 6.40% while others decreased as follows; *Language Use* decreased by 28.05% because it was affected by the average performance in question 11, *Comprehension* 19.45%, *Composition* 15.62% and *Grammar Use* 2.37%.

Furthermore, the analysis demonstrates that the general performance of topics in 2021 is good, since 65.36% candidates scored 30% or above, even though it has decrease by 9.64% when compared to that of the 2020. The topics tested had the general performance of 75.00%. The analysis of the candidates' performance in each topic is summarised in Appendices I and II.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The candidates' response analysis indicates that the performance of the candidates in the Chinese Language subject in CSEE 2021 was good, since 420 (84.40%) candidates passed the examination and only 53 (11.21%) students failed.

Further analysis indicates that the most well performed question was question numbers 7 and question number 13 was weakly performed. Furthermore, the analysis shows that the candidates who had good performance had sufficient knowledge about Chinese language grammar. They had an ability to understand the requirement of the questions and answered correctly. In spite of good performance, there were candidates who had average performance and others had weak performance. These candidates had insufficient knowledge about Chinese language grammar.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

For better improvement of the candidates' performance in the Chinese Language subject, it is recommended that:

- 5.1 Teachers should guide students to practice on writing Chinese characters with regard to their strokes and radicals.
- 5.2 Teachers should guide students on how to write Chinese characters using the features such as tones, initials and finals, syllable formation and pinyin.
- 5.3 Teachers should guide student on how to write a logical paragraph or composition by giving them pictures, cards and simple titles.
- 5.4 Teachers should encourage students to read more passages in order to improve their vocabulary and grammatical patterns by giving them simple texts.

APPENDIX I

Summary of Candidates' Performance per Topic for the Chinese Language Subject in CSEE 2021

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	89.94	70.65	Good
		2	51.37		
2.	Vocabulary Use	3	60.25	79.00	Good
		4	87.32		
		5	89.43		
3.	Grammar Use	6	56.66	72.23	Good
		7	90.91		
		8	69.13		
4.	Language Use	9	89.22	62.65	Good
		10	63.42		
		11	35.31		
5.	Composition	12	58.35	42.28	Average
		13	26.22		

APPENDIX II

Comparison Summary of Students' Performance per Topic for 2020 and 2021

S/N	2020				2021			
	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	90.1	Good	Comprehension	2	70.65	Good
2.	Vocabulary Use	3	61.6	Good	Vocabulary Use	3	79.00	Good
3.	Grammar Use	3	74.6	Good	Grammar Use	3	72.23	Good
4.	Language Use	3	90.7	Good	Language Use	3	62.65	Good
5	Composition	2	57.9	Good	Composition	2	42.28	Average

