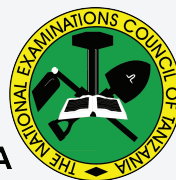




THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF TANZANIA



**CANDIDATES' ITEM RESPONSE ANALYSIS
REPORT ON THE CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY
EDUCATION EXAMINATION (CSEE) 2023**

CHINESE LANGUAGE



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FOREWORD

The candidates' Item Response Analysis Report for the Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (CSEE) for 2023 in the Chinese Language subject provides feedback to school quality assurers, educational administrators, school managers, teachers, students and other educational stakeholders on the students' abilities and challenges in attempting the examination questions.

The report highlights candidates' performance on each question examined. The analysis indicates that candidates with high performance provided appropriate responses since they were able to identify the requirements of each question. They also had good knowledge of the subject matter. The analysis further reveals that some candidates did not perform well on some questions due to various challenges. Some of these challenges include; lack of adequate knowledge on the Chinese grammatical rules and vocabulary and failure to interpret the requirements of the questions.

The National Examinations Council of Tanzania expects that the educational stakeholders will use the feedback and recommendations provided in this report to improve teaching and learning thus, improve candidates' performance in the future examinations.

Finally, the National Examinations Council of Tanzania would like to acknowledge contributions of the examiners and all those who have in one way or another participated in preparation of this report.



Dr. Said Ally Mohamed
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 2023. The examination was set according to the 2015 Chinese Language syllabus.

The Chinese Language examination had 11 questions. The candidates were required to answer 10 questions. The questions were divided into three sections: section A comprised of Multiple Choice and Matching Items, section B consisted of Short Answer Questions and section C comprised of Essay questions. Section A had 2 questions; Question 1 carried 10 marks while question 2 carried 6 marks, making a total of 16 marks. Section B consisted of 6 questions; questions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 each carried 9 marks, making a total of 54 marks. Section C consisted of 3 questions: questions 9, 10 and 11 of which the candidates had to choose two questions, each carried 15 marks, thus making a total of 30 marks.

The data analysis indicates that a total of 459 candidates were registered for the Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (CSEE) in 2023, among them 443 candidates sat for the examination. Furthermore, analysis shows that, the general performance in this year was good because 402 candidates (91.36%) passed the examination and only 38 candidates (8.64%) failed.

Table 1: Candidates' Pass Grades in CSEE 2022 and 2023

Year	Sat	Grades				
		A	B	C	D	F
2023	443	27	57	154	164	38
2022	309	51	64	118	63	13

Table 1 shows the performance of the candidates in 2023 and 2022. The number of candidates who scored grade “A” dropped from 51 in 2022 to 27 in 2023, while the number of candidates who scored grade “D” increased from 63 to 164 respectively. Likewise, the number of candidates who scored grade “F” increased from 13 in 2022 to 38 in 2023.

The analysis shows the performance of the candidates in each question. Moreover, it displays the weaknesses and strengths of the candidates in answering the questions. The samples of responses from the scripts of the candidates have been used in order to provide a general overview of how the candidates responded to questions.

Candidates' performance is classified into three categories: good, average, and weak. Performance is considered good if scores range from 65 to 100 marks, average if scores range from 30 to 64 marks, and weak if scores range from 0 to 29 marks. These categories are color-coded for clarity: green denotes good performance, yellow represents average performance, and red indicates weak performance. A summary of candidates' performance in each topic is provided in the Appendix.

2.0 ANALYSIS OF THE CANDIDATES' RESPONSE IN EACH QUESTION

2.1 SECTION A: COMPREHENSION

In this section, the candidates were given 2 questions; question 1 and 2 in which they were required to answer all of them. Question 1 carried 10 marks and question 2 carried 6 marks, thus making a total of 16 marks.

2.1.1 Question 1: Multiple Choice Items

The question comprised 10 multiple-choice items. The candidates were required to answer by choosing the correct answer from the given alternatives. The question was set from topics of; *Greeting and self-introduction/Family Introduction, Time/Jobs, Transportation/Travel and custom/Environment/Shopping and Housing/Color*. The question was as follows:

第一部分
选择题 (16分)

一. 根据已给的例如, 从第1到第10题请选出正确答案。

例如: Kàn diàn yǐng de shíhòu, jiějie zài cāntīng fàn.
例如: 看电影的时候, 姐姐在餐厅 () 饭。

zuò chī mǎi mài
A 做 B 吃 C 买 D 卖

答案: B

Ā shā jiā yǒu sān kǒu rén, yǒu bàba, māmā hé shuí?
1. 阿莎家有三口人, 有爸爸, 妈妈和谁?

tā nǐ tā tā
A 他 B 你 C 她 D 它

Wǎn shàng māmā qù chúfáng miàntiáo le.
2. 晚上妈妈去厨房 () 面条了。

zuò zuò zuò zuò
A 做 B 作 C 座 D 坐

Lǐ láoshī wǒmen Hànyǔ.
3. 李老师 () 我们汉语。

jiào jiào jiāo jiāo
A 叫 B 教 C 交 D 脚

Nǐ xǐ huan yán sè de yī fu?
4. 你喜欢 () 颜色的衣服?

shénme shénme de
A 什么 B 什么的
shénme yàng de zěnmē
C 什么样的 D 怎么

Ā lǐ jiā hěn dà, yí gòng yǒu shí fángjiān.
5. 阿里家很大, 一共有十 () 房间。

zhāng tiáo jiàn zhī
A 张 B 条 C 件 D 只

A total of 443 (100%) candidates attempted the question, out of whom 216 (48.76%) candidates scored from 7 to 10 marks, which is a good performance, 195 (44.02%) candidates scored from 3 to 6 marks which is an average performance and 32 (7.22%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks which is a weak performance.

The candidates' general performance in this question was good, since 411 (92.78%) candidates scored 30% or above. Figure 1 summarises the candidates' performance in question 1.

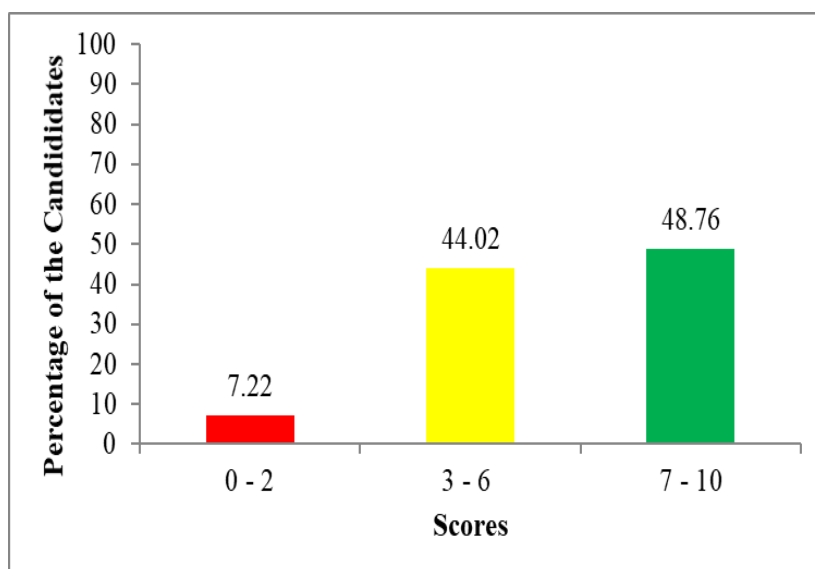


Figure 1: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 1*

The data analysis indicates that, 216 (48.76%) candidates who had a good performance scored from 7 to 10 marks. These candidates performed well because they understood the requirements of the question, had sufficient knowledge of vocabulary and mastered well the Chinese sentences structures. For example, in item 1, the candidates were required to answer the question 阿莎家有三口人, 有爸爸, 妈妈和谁? (Asha's family had three people, father, mother and who?). The candidates who scored full marks chose the correct answer C 她 (her) because they noted that it was a female pronoun which replaced the noun Asha. Thus, they identified the correct answer. Whereby A 他 (him), B 你 (you) and D 它 (it) were incorrect answers because they did not correlate with the given noun.

In item 2, the question was 晚上妈妈去厨房 () 面条了. (In the evening mother is going to () noodles in the kitchen). The correct answer was A 做 (cook). The candidates who scored full mark knew that the alternatives had similarities in pronunciation but different meaning and characters. For example, alternative B 作 (work), C 座 (a seat or a measure

word for buildings and mountains), and D 坐 (to sit). According to the sentence only the word cook corresponds with the meaning of the sentence.

In item 3, the question was 李老师 () 我们 汉语 (Teacher Li () us Chinese language). The candidates who chose the correct answer B 教 (to teach) were familiar with Chinese vocabulary. They noted that the alternatives given had some similarities in pronunciation. They also knew the meaning of the sentence which helped them to identify the correct answer. They further knew that alternative A 叫 (to be called) was not the correct answer because it is a verb used in introducing people. They also noted that C 交 (to make friends) was not a correct answer because it is an act of making friends and they knew that D 脚 is a part of the body (foot). In the structure of this sentence the word 老师 correlate with 教 (teach). Therefore, the candidates who got the correct answer in this item, had sufficient knowledge of Chinese homophones.

In item 4, the question given was 你喜欢 () 颜色的衣服? (kind of color clothes do you like?). The candidates were required to fill the blank with an interrogative A 什么 (what). The candidates who scored full marks were aware of the structure 什么 (what)+N. In addition, they knew that alternative B 什么的 (and so on) was not the correct answer because it is always used at the end of the sentence. They also noted that alternative C 什么样的 (kind of) was not the correct answer in this item because of the particle 的. This proves that these candidates had sufficient knowledge of different grammatical patterns.

In item 5, the question asked 阿里家很大, 一共有十 () 房间. (Ally's home is very big, it has a total of ten () rooms). The correct answer was C 件 (the measure word for rooms). The candidates who got right this item had sufficient knowledge of measure words, because they knew that alternative A 张 was a measure word used for flat object, alternative B 条 was a measure word used for long and narrow

objects like trousers, fish, river and alternative D 只 was a measure word for pet animals. According to this item, the word 房间 (room) its appropriate measure word is 件.

In item 6, the question stated that 我今天跟朋友 () 去商店买东西 (My friend and I () went to the shop to buy some things today). The correct answer in this item was alternative A 一起 (together). The candidates who got this item right knew the structure of the sentence N1+跟+N2+一起 (together)+V. They also knew that alternative B 一样 (the same) its structure is N1+跟+N2+一样+ Adjective, alternatives C 一共 (total) and D 一点儿 (little) were not correct answers because they do not go together with the sentence structures.

In item 7, the question was 昨天是晴天, 今天有 () 雨 (Yesterday was a sunny day, today has () rain. The correct answer was D 小 (little/small/light). The candidates were required to fill in the correct adjective. Candidates who scored full marks had sufficient knowledge to know that alternative A 少 (few) could not be the correct answer because the word 雨 (rain) is an uncountable noun, alternative B 上 (on top), C 炒 (to fry) were not correct answers because they do not correlate with the word 雨. The word 小 goes together with the word 雨 to mean little rain.

In item 8, the question was 我买了四 () 票. (I bought four () tickets). The correct answer was A 张 (measure word for flat objects like paper and table). Alternative B 长 (is an adjective means long) Alternative C 站 (station) is a noun and Alternative D 丈 (husband) is also a noun. According to this sentence the word 票 goes together with a measure word 张. This shows that the candidates who scored full marks succeeded to distinguish measure words from nouns, and were knowledgeable enough about the uses of the measure words.

In item 9, the question stated that, 学生们怎么去旅行? (How do the students travel?). The correct answer in this item was C

坐车 (take a bus). The candidates who chose the correct answer had a better understanding of the homophones and their meanings which made it easy for them to identify the correct answer. They knew that alternative A 做车 was not the correct answer because the word 做 (cook/make/do) is used for cooking, for example 做饭. Whereby B 座车 also was not the correct answer because 座 is a measure word for buildings and mountains, for example, 座山 and 一座楼 and D 作车 was not the correct answer because the word 作 (work) goes with the character 业 to form a word 作业(homework). Furthermore, they were aware with the given words alternatives which have the same pronunciation but different meaning. In item 10, the question was 我们班有一个 () 人. 他是一个男孩子 (Our class has one () person. He is a boy) the correct answer in this question was A 美国 (America) because in this question the candidates to name a nation. Alternative B 每果 (each fruit) was not the correct answer because 每 means every and 果 means fruit. Alternative C 每国 was not the correct answer because the word 每 cannot go with 国 and D 美果 (beautiful fruits) do not correlate to the sentence. Extract 1.1 is a sample of the candidate's correct responses to question 1.

一.	1. C	
	2. A	
	3. B	
	4. A	
	5. C	
	6. A	
	7. D	
	8. A	
	9. C	
	10. A	

Extract 1.1: A Sample of the Candidate's Correct Responses to Question 1.

In Extract 1.1, the candidate responded correctly in all items.

Further data analysis shows that 195 (44.02%) candidates had an average performance as they scored from 3 to 6 marks.

These candidates demonstrated partial knowledge of vocabulary, structures, meaning of words and their uses in the sentence. Thus resulting into average performance. Extract 1.2 is a sample from a candidate who performed averagely in question 1.

-01.	1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	C	A	B	A	D	b	B	B	A	C		

Extract 1.2: A Sample of Responses from a Candidate with an Average Performance in Question 1.

In Extract 1.2, the candidate wrote correct answers in items 1, 2, 3 and 4 but failed in items 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Furthermore, the data analysis shows that 32 (7.22%) candidates performed weakly by scoring from 0 to 2 marks. These candidates had insufficient knowledge of Chinese vocabulary and sentence structures. They failed to identify the correct answer from the given alternatives. For example, item 1, required the candidates to answer the question by mentioning one among the family members who was not mentioned. The candidates who scored 0 failed to identify the correct answer which was alternative C 她 (her) means a female pronoun which replaced the name Asha. They did not understand that A 他 (him) is the pronoun that stands for a male, alternative B 你 is the second person pronoun which stands for “you.” Alternative D 它 is the third person pronoun which stands for “it.” Thus these candidates had randomly selected the answers due to inadequate knowledge of Chinese Language vocabulary and grammar.

In item 2, the candidates who scored 0 had insufficient knowledge of the homophones. They failed to differentiate between the given homophones.

Thus, they were guessing without knowing that alternative B 作 (work), C 座 (measure word for building and mountain) and D 坐 (seat) did not correlate with the sentence.

The candidates who got wrong in item 3, failed to identify the correct answer. They were unfamiliar with Chinese vocabulary given in this sentence. They did not know that B 教 (to teach) was the correct answer. Some of the candidates selected the alternative A 叫 (to be called), others selected alternative C 交 (to make friendship) and few of them selected alternative D 脚 (foot). In this case, these candidates were guessing.

In item 4, the candidates who scored 0 did not know that the correct answer was 什么 (what) which fall under the structure Subj + Verb + 什么 + Adj + 的 + (Noun)?. They got wrong because they did not know that alternative B 什么的, could not be the correct answer because it is always used at the end of the sentence. Those who chose C 什么样的 (what kind of) did not know that it is not the correct answer because of the word 的 which has already appeared in the sentence. This proves that they did not master the uses of different grammatical patterns.

In item 5, the statement was 阿里家很大, 一共有十 () 房间. (Ally's home is very big; it has a total of ten ... rooms). This item required the candidates to choose the correct measure word used for rooms which was C 件 (the measure word for rooms). Those who chose A 张 did not know that it is a measure word for flat object. While those who chose B 条 did not know that it is a measure word used for long and narrow objects like a pair of trousers, fish, river etc. and D 只 a measure word for pet animals.

The candidates who scored 0 in item 6 did not understand the statement 我今天跟朋友 () 去商店买东西 (Today I and my friend () go to the store to buy things). Candidates were required to fill in the correct word that connects the subject I (我) with the noun friend (朋友) . The correct answer was A 一起 (together) according to the structure S+跟+N+一起+V. Those who chose B 一样 (the same), C 一共 (total) and D 一点儿 (little) did not know their meaning and

uses in the sentence. Hence, they chose answers randomly leading them to a weak performance.

Other candidates scored 0 in item 7, which stated that 昨天是晴天, 今天有 () 雨 (Yesterday was a sunny day, today there is () rain. The correct answer was D 小 (little). While in alternative A 少 (few) cannot be the correct answer because the word 雨 Rain) it is an uncountable noun. Alternatives B 上 (on top) was not the correct answer because it is a prepositional phrase and C 炒 (to fry) was not the correct answer because it is a verb.

There were candidates who scored 0 in item 8, the question was 我买了四 () 票 (I bought four () ticket). The correct answer was A 张 (measure word for flat objects like paper and table). Most of the candidates selected alternative B 长 (long), failed to distinguish it from the correct answer because they have slight difference in writing. Thus resulting to the selection of incorrect answer.

It was also observed that, other candidates failed in item 9, the item asked, 学生们怎么去旅行? (How the students go for a tour?). The candidates were required to name the means of transport used by the students to go to the tour. The correct answer was C 坐车 (take a bus). Alternative A 做车 was not the correct answer because the word 做 (cook) used for meals for instance 做饭 (cook food) not in transportation.

Alternative B 座车 was not the correct answer because the character (座) is a measure word for buildings and mountains, for example, 一座山 (a mountain) and 一座楼 (a building). Furthermore, 作 in item D 作车 means (work/to do), example 作业 (do homework) thus made it incorrect answer. It can be explained that the word 坐 in alternative C, 做 in alternative A, 座 in alternative B and 作 in alternative D both have the same pronunciation (zuò) which confused the candidates from identifying the correct answer.

Finally, in item 10, the candidates who score 0 did not understand the question 我们班有一个 () 人. 他是一个男孩子 (Our class has one () person. He is a boy). The candidates were required to fill the blank with the name of a nation. The correct answer was alternative A 美国 (America). Some of the candidates selected alternative B 每果, others selected C 每国 and some of them selected D 美果. This proves that the candidates failed to differentiate the words which are pronounced the same but written different and have different meaning for example, 美 and 每. Thus, due to their insufficient knowledge, these candidates performed weakly. Extract 1.3, is a sample of the candidate's incorrect responses to question 1.

1	1: A	
2	2: C	
3	3: C	
4	4: B	
5	5: A	
6	6: D	
7	7: B	
8	8: C	
9	9: A	
10	10: B	

Extract 1.3: A Sample of the Candidate's Incorrect Responses to Question 1.

In Extract 1.3, the candidate filled incorrect answers in all items.

2.1.2 Question 2: Matching items

The question had two columns; A and B. The candidates were provided with six items numbered 1 to 6. They were required to match the sentences written in characters in column A with the sentences written in pinyin in column B. The question was set from topics of *Nature* under the sub-topics of *Domestic fowls and animals*. This question aimed at testing the

candidates' ability to read correctly the characters related to domestic fowls and animals. The question was as follows;

二. 根据下面已给出的例子将 列表 B 中与表 A 对应正确答案进行匹配。

例如: 学校里边有一只小狗。

答案: 1 - G

A 烂	B 烂
1. 山上有一头羊。	A Zài huāyuán yǒu hěn duō xiǎo niǎo.
2. 在花园有很多小鸟。	B Jiā lǐ yǒu liǎng zhī xiǎo gǒu.
3. 在博物馆有一只很可爱的熊猫。	C Chéng shì de dòngwùyuán yǒu xióng māo.
4. 家外边有一只小猫。	D Jiā lǐ yǒu liǎng zhī xiǎo māo.
5. 城市的动物园有熊猫。	E Zài bówùguǎn yǒu yì zhī hěn kěài de xióng māo.
6. 家里有两只小狗。	F Shān shàng yǒu yìtóu yáng.
	G Xuéxiào lǐ biān yǒu yì zhī xiǎo gǒu.
	H Jiāwài biān yǒu yì zhī xiǎo māo.
	I Zài huāyuán yǒu hěn duō xiǎo jī.

The question attempted by 443 (100%) candidates, out of whom 393 (88.71%) candidates scored from 4 to 6 marks, which is a good performance, 29 (6.55%) candidates scored from 2 to 3 marks which represents an average performance and 21 (4.74%) candidates scored 0 to 1 mark, which is a weak performance.

The general performance of the candidates in this question was good, as 422 (95.26%) candidates scored 30% or above. Figure 2 summarises the candidates' performance in question 2.

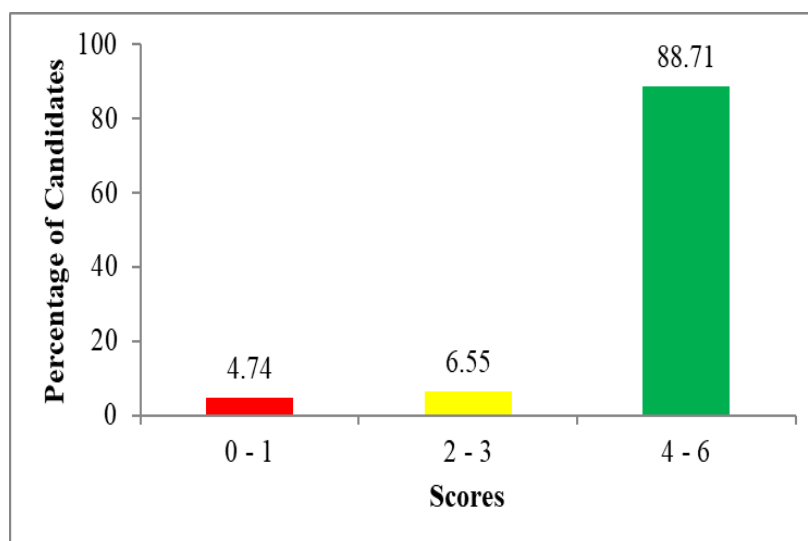


Figure 2: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 2*

The data analysis reveals that 393 (88.71%) candidates demonstrated a good performance, they attained scores ranging from 4 to 6 marks. These candidates had mastered well the topic concerning *Nature*. They were able to recognize the characters and their pinyin. This was due to their sufficient knowledge of how the Chinese words are pronounced (Pinyin) and how they are written (characters). This knowledge enabled them to match all the items correctly. For instance, in item 1, the statement was 山上有一头羊 (There is a sheep on top of the mountain) and the correct response was F “*shān shàng yǒu yì tóu yáng.*”

In item 2, the statement was 在花园有很多小鸟 (There is a lot of small birds in the garden) and the correct answer was A “*zài huāyuán yǒu hěn duō xiǎo niǎo.*” In item 3, the question was 在博物馆有一只很可爱的熊猫 (There is beautiful Panda in the museum) and the correct answer was E “*zài bówùguǎn yǒu yì zhī hěn kěài de xióngmāo.*”

Also in item 4, the statement 家外边有一只小猫 (There is a kitten outside), its correct answer was H “*jiā wàibian yǒu yì zhī xiǎo māo.*” Furthermore, in item 5, the question had the statement 城市的动物园有熊猫 (There is Panda in the city

zoo). The candidates matched with the correct answer C. On the other hand, in item 6, the statement states that, 家里有两只小狗 (There are two puppies at home) and its correct answer was B ‘*jiā lǐ yǒu liǎng zhī xiǎo gǒu*’ Extract 2.1 is a sample of the candidate’s correct responses to question 2.

二	1) F	
	2) A	
	3) E	
	4) H	
	5) C	
	6) B	

Extract 2.1: A Sample of the Candidate’s Correct Responses to Question 2.

Extract 2.1, shows that the candidate matched all the items correctly.

Furthermore, data analysis reveals that 29 (6.55%) candidates had an average performance. With scores ranging from 2 to 3 marks. These candidates managed to get some items right and some wrong. This can be attributed to their partial knowledge of the Chinese pronunciation (pinyin) and Chinese writing (characters), which led to an average performance. Extract 2.2 illustrates responses from a candidate with an average performance in question 2.

二	1. G	
	2. I	
	3. E	
	4. D	
	5. C	
	6. B	

Extract 2.2: A Sample of Responses from a candidate with an average performance.

Extract 2.2, shows that the candidate wrote correct answers in items 3, 5 and 6 but failed in items 1, 2 and 4.

In addition, the candidates' response analysis reveals that 21 (4.74%) candidates had a weak performance. They scored from 0 to 1 mark. These candidates had insufficient knowledge of Chinese pronunciation (pinyin), their characters as well as the concerned topic “*Nature*.” Thus due to that insufficiency, they struggled to identify the correct pinyin, resulting to the incorrect matching. For example,

in item 1, which stated 山上有一头羊 (there is a sheep on top of the mountain), the correct response for this item was F *shān shàng yǒu yì tóu yáng*. Candidates who scored 0 failed to read and recognize the characters with their corresponding pinyin.

In item 2, the statement was 在花园有很多小鸟 (There is a lot of small birds in the garden). The correct answer was A “*zài huāyuán yǒu hěnduō xiǎo niǎo*.” Most of the candidates matched with the statement *zài huāyuán yǒu hěnduō xiǎo jī*. This is because they were confused with the character 鸟 (*niǎo*) and character 鸡 (*jī*). Thus, resulted to the matching of incorrect answer.

In item 3, candidates failed to identify the correct answer E 在博物馆有一只很可爱的熊猫 (There is a beautiful Panda in the museum). These candidates had insufficient knowledge of the given in the statements which hindered them from matching the sentences correctly.

In item 4, the statement was, 家外边有一只小猫. (There is a kitten outside). The correct answer for this statement was H “*jiā wàibiān yǒu yì zhī xiǎo māo*.” The candidates who scored 0 failed to differentiate the statement H from statement D *jiā lǐ yǒu liǎng zhī xiǎo māo* this statement had the words *lǐ* (*inside*) and *liǎng* (*Two*) which made the statement incorrect.

In item 5, candidates were unable to identify the correct answer C “*chéngshì de dòngwùyuán yǒu xióng māo*” which matched with the statement 城市的动物园有熊猫. (There is Panda in

the city zoo). This was due to the insufficiency of Chinese pinyin and character knowledge, especially in the topic of *Nature*.

In item 6, there were few candidates who scored 0. These candidates failed to differentiate statement 5, 家里有两只小狗 *jiā lǐ yǒu liǎng zhī xiǎo gǒu* and 3, 家里有两只小猫 *Jiā lǐ yǒu liǎng zhī xiǎo māo*. The two statements were differentiated by two words *gǒu* and *māo*. These incorrect responses prove that the candidates had insufficient understanding of Chinese pronunciation (pinyin) and Chinese writing (characters). Extract 2.3 is a sample of responses from a candidate who had weak performance in question 2.

1	C	
2	G	
3	B	
4	A	
5	H	
6	D	

Extract 2.3: A Sample of Incorrect Responses from a Candidate with Weak Performance to Question 2.

Extract 2.3, illustrates the incorrect responses from the candidate who matched incorrectly all the items.

2.2 SECTION B: PATTERNS AND VOCABULARY

This part comprised of 6 questions namely; question 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Each question had 9 marks making total of 54 marks.

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

The candidates were given five (5) items with Chinese words written in Chinese characters. They were required to write their corresponding pinyin. The question was set from the topic of *Shopping/Housing*. This question tested the candidates' ability

to use appropriate expressions when doing a shopping as well as writing pinyin correctly adhering to initials, finals and tone(s). The question was as follows;

三. 根据已给出的汉子请标出正确拼音。例子的答案已给出。

Wǒ xiǎng mǎi yī píng () , dàn gāo hé liǎng gè jī dàn .
例如: 我 想 买 一 瓶 牛 奶 , 蛋 糕 和 两 个 鸡 蛋 。
答案: niú nǎi

- Míng míng de () hěn piào liang .
1. 明 明 的 卧 室 很 漂 亮 。
- Chāo shì lǐ yǒu píng guǒ diǎn xīn hé () .
2. 超 市 里 有 苹 果 , 点 心 和 青 菜 。
- Rì běn zhào xiàng jī mǎi dé hěn () .
3. 日 本 照 相 机 卖 得 很 便 宜 。
- Wǒ zài shì chǎng mǎi le jì niàn pǐn hé () .
4. 我 在 市 场 买 了 纪 念 品 和 礼 物 。
- Nǐ xiǎng mǎi () yào hái shì zhōng yào ?
5. 你 想 买 西 药 还 是 中 药 ?

Analysis reveals that 443 (100%) candidates attempted the question, out of whom 18 (4.07%) candidates scored from 6 to 9 marks, indicating a good performance, 93 (20.99%) candidates scored from 3 to 5 marks, representing average performance and 332 (74.94%) candidates scored 0 to 2 marks, indicating a weak performance.

The general performance of candidates in this question was weak, since 41 (25.06%) candidates scored 30% or above. Figure 3 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 3.

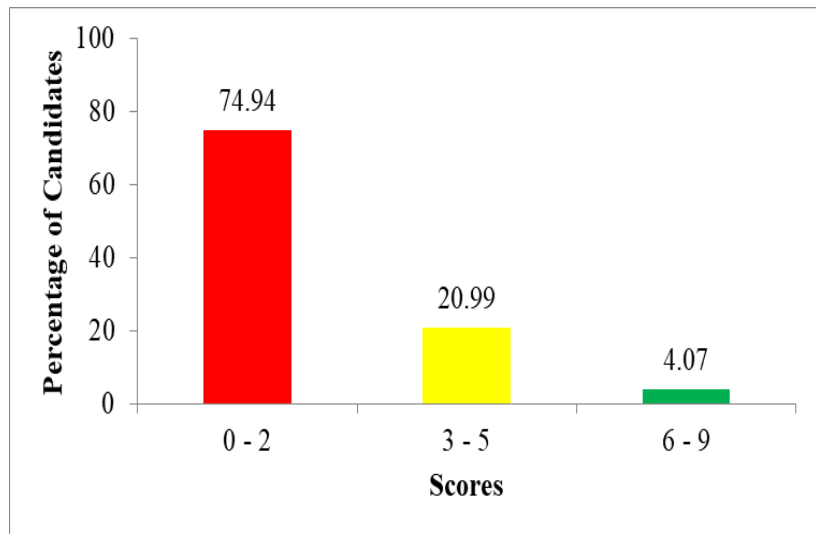


Figure 3: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 3*

The candidates' responses analysis reveals that 18 (4.07%) candidates had good performance in this question. As they scored from 6 to 9 marks. These candidates mastered well the Chinese pronunciation which comprises initials, finials and tones. This knowledge helped them to write the pinyin correctly and mark the tones appropriately. This reveals that these candidates had sufficient knowledge of Chinese words pronunciation and characters. Extract 3.1 is a sample of responses from a candidate with good performance in question 3.

1.	wàshì
2.	qīng cài
3.	piányi
4.	lǚ wù
5.	xī

Extract 3.1: A Sample of the Candidate's Correct Responses to Question 3.

Extract 3.1 indicates responses from a candidate who had a good performance in in question 3, however a candidate made a minor mistake in item three, vowel “i” in word “piányi” must carry a dot on top of it.

Furthermore, analysis shows that 93 (20.99%) candidates had an average performance. Their marks ranged from 3 to 5. Most of the candidates wrote correct pinyin in some items and failed in others. Few of them wrote initials and finals but failed to mark the tone appropriately. For example, item 5, most of the candidates with an average performance failed in this item, instead of writing *xī* for the character 西 as a correct answer, they wrote 四 *sì* (four). This was due to the fact that the words (*xī* and *sì*) have slight difference in initial and their finals. They are also nearly pronounced the same especially for speakers of other languages apart from Chinese. This led to an average performance. Extract 3.2 is a sample of responses from a candidate with an average performance.

三	①	wo shi	
	②	qīng cǎi	
	③	piàn yǐ	
	④	lǐ wú	
	⑤	xī	

Extract 3.2: A Sample of Responses from a Candidate with an Average Performance in Question 3.

In Extract 3.2, the candidate wrote correct pinyin in items 2, 4 and 5 but failed in items 1 and 3.

Furthermore, the data analysis reveals that 332 (74.94%) candidates had weak performance as they scored from 0 to 2 marks. These candidates failed to write the pinyin correctly. This shows that, they did not master well the Chinese pinyin and characters. Other candidates failed to distinguish the characters which have some slight difference in writing or pronunciation. Few of them wrote the word *wòshǐ* instead of *wòshì* which was the correct answer.

In item 2, some of the candidates wrote *qìngcài* instead of *qīngcài*. In item 3, the word 便宜 was supposed to be written as *piányi* but some candidates wrote *piányi*, others wrote *piànyì* while some of them dropped the tone completely and wrote *pianyi* which was wrong. In item 4, the word 礼物 was supposed to be written as *lǐwù* but some candidates wrote *lìwǔ* which shows that, they did not know that *i* carries the third tone and *u* carries the fourth tone.

Further response analysis indicates that some candidates wrote irrelevant pinyin to the given characters for example in item 1, one of them wrote *jīntiān*, in item 2 wrote *yīfu* and in item 3, wrote *jiàiqū*. This signified that they did not know the words completely hence, they made a guess. Moreover, some candidates copied pinyin from the question paper which did not relate with the given words. Extract 3.3 is a sample of responses from the candidate who performed weakly in question 3.

1	- yīfu
2	- lǐ xíng
3	- jiāo qū
4	- jīntiān
5	- zuō

Extract 3.3: A Sample of Incorrect Responses to Question 3.

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

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

The question comprised of (5) items which had words written in pinyin. The candidates were required to write their characters. The question was set from the topic of *City and the Environment and Health*. This question aimed at testing candidate's ability to write the appropriate Chinese characters from the given Chinese pinyin. The question was:

四. 根据已给出的拼音请写正确汉字。例子的答案已给出。

Míng míng jīn tiān méi qù xué xiào , tā bù shūfu .
例如：明 明 今天 没去学 校 ， 他不 （ ） 。

答案：舒服

Jiějie shàng gè xīng qī gǎnmào le .
1. 姐姐 上 个 星期 （ ） 了 。

Zài cǎo dì shàng yǒu liǎng gè hái zi shuìjiào le .
2. 在 （ ） 上 有 两 个 孩 子 睡 觉 了 。

Yéye de jiā duì miàn yǒu yì tiáo xiǎo hé .
3. 爷 爷 的 家 （ ） 有 一 条 小 河 。

Lì lì měi tiān zǎo shàng zài húbiān dǎ tài jí quán .
4. 丽 丽 每 天 早 上 在 （ ） 打 太 极 拳 。

Míngmíng méi qù tī zú qiú tā tóu téng dé hěn .
5. 明 明 没 去 踢 足 （ ） 他 头 疼 得 很 。

The general candidates' performance in this question indicates that 443 (100%) candidates attempted the question, out of whom 26 (5.87%) candidates scored from 6 to 9 marks, indicating a good performance, 197 (44.47%) candidates scored from 3 to 5 marks indicating an average performance and 77 (49.66%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, which represents weak performance. The candidates' general performance in this question was average, since 223 (50.34%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks. Figure 4 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 4.

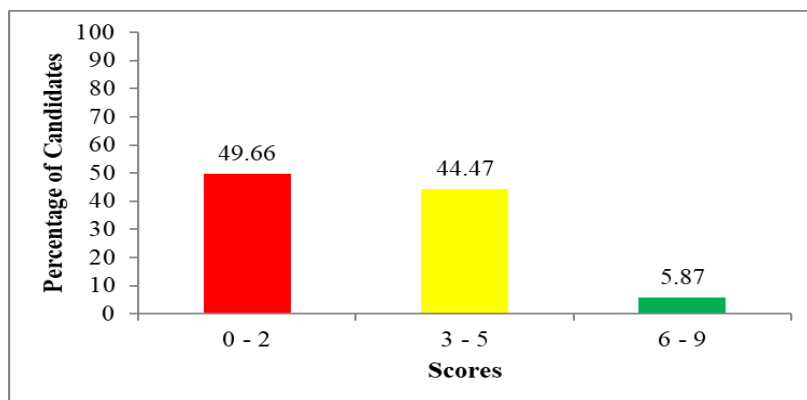


Figure 4: *The Percentages of Candidates' Performance in Question 4*

The data analysis reveals that 26 (5.87%) candidates demonstrated a good performance, as they scored from 6 to 9 marks. These candidates had sufficient knowledge of Chinese characters writing. They mastered the basic fundamental rules of writing Chinese characters (Chinese strokes and stroke orders). They also had sufficient knowledge of Chinese words pronunciation (pinyin). This knowledge enabled them to write the correct answers which were; *gǎnmào* (to catch cold), *cǎodì* (grassland), *duìmiàn* (opposite), *húbiān* (lakeside), *qiú* (ball). Extract 4.1 is a sample of responses from a candidate who performed well in question 4.

四.		
01.	感冒。	
02.	草地。	
03.	对面。	
04.	湖边。	
05.	球。	

Extract 4.1: *A Sample of the Candidates' Best Response to Question 4.*

In Extract 4.1, the candidate wrote correct characters in almost all items. However, the candidate made some minor errors in item number 1 and 4 in the first characters, 感 and 湖 were supposed to be written like this and not as the way it is seen in the extract.

Furthermore, the analysis reveals that 197 (44.47%) candidates had an average performance as they scored from 3 to 5 marks. These candidates had a partial knowledge of writing Chinese characters. They got some items right and some wrong. This was due to the fact that the candidates recognized only a part of a word and forgot the other in between the two given characters, leading to an average performance. Extract 4.2 is a sample of responses from a candidate who performed averagely in question 4.

04	1. 扣	
	2. 地	
	3. 面	
	4. 外	
	5. 球	

Extract 4.2: A Sample of Responses from a Candidate with an Average Performance in Question 4.

In Extract 4.2, the candidate wrote partial correct answers in items 2 and 3, full correct answer in item 5 but failed in item 1 and 4.

Further data analysis indicates that 77 (24.9%) candidates had a weak performance. They scored 0 to 1 mark. These candidates had an insufficient understanding of Chinese vocabularies. Thus, faced some challenges in memorizing the characters of the given words. Some candidates wrote characters which were

irrelevant to the given pinyin. This implies that, they made a guess. Some candidates copied some characters from the question paper just to fill the gaps. Extract 4.3 is a sample of responses from a candidate who performed weakly in question 4.

四		
01	tiān mào	天
02	cǎo dì	世
03	duì miàn	面条
04	hú biān	珠条
05	qiú	求

Extract 4.3: A Sample of the Candidate's Incorrect Responses to Question 4.

In Extract 4.3, the candidate wrote incorrect characters.

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

In this question, candidates were required to choose one character (word) from the two given alternatives to complete the given sentence.

The question was set from the topic of “*City and Environment*.” The question aimed at examining the candidates’ ability to express distance between places and existence in Chinese Language. The question was as follows:

五. 根据已给出的例子选择合适的词/字完成句子。

Nǐ shénme shíhòu jiā wánér ·
例如：你 什么 时候 () 家 玩 儿 。 (来/未)

答案：来

zhège chéngshì de jiāoqū hěn ()。 (小 / 少)
1. 这个 城市 的 郊区 很

Duōduōmǎ yǒu hěn duō zhōngguó ()。 (人/入)
2. 多多马 有 很 多 中 国

Duōduōmǎ de tiānqì yuèlái yuè hǎo ·
3. 多多马 的 天气 越 来 越 () 好 。 (不/还)

Wǒmen guójiā yǒu gè jì jié ·
4. 我们 国家 有 () 个 季 节 。 (两/辆)

Wǒmen jiā de huāyuán yǒu se de huā ·
5. 我们 家 的 花园 有 () 色 的 花 。 (白/日)

wǒ zài yóujú dōngbian ·
6. 我 () 在 邮 局 东 边 。 (家/象)

The candidates who attempted this question were 443 (100%) of whom 408 (92.10%) candidates scored from 6 to 9 marks, reflecting a good performance, 32 (7.22%) candidates scored from 3 to 5 marks reflecting an average performance and 3 (0.68%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, reflecting weak performance. The candidates' general performance in this question was good, as 440 (99.32%) candidates scored 30% or above. Figure 5 summarizes the candidate's performance in question 5.

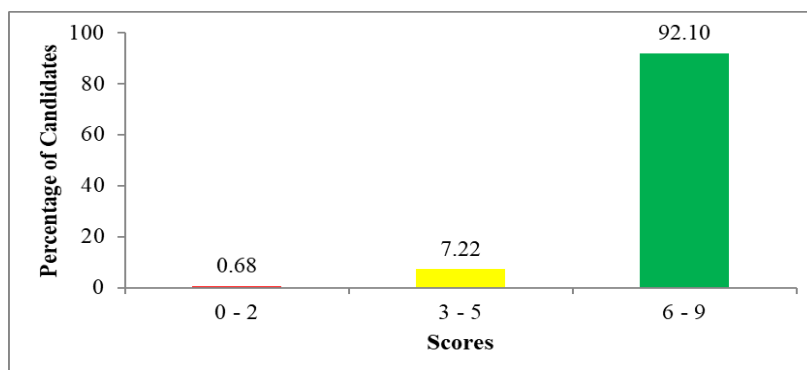


Figure 5: The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 5

The analysis of data reveals that 408 (92.10%) candidates had a good performance, as they scored 6 to 9 marks. These candidates had sufficient understanding of Chinese vocabulary. This understanding enabled them to choose the correct answer. For example, in item 1, the candidates were required to choose the word 小 (small) from two given alternatives to complete the sentence. Those who scored a full mark knew the difference between 小 (small) and 少 (few) in terms of meanings and character writing since 小 has three strokes while 少 has four. They also knew that in Chinese there is no expression 这个城市的郊区很少 (The sub-urban of this city is very few) but rather 这个城市的郊区很小 (The sub-urban of this city is very small).

In item 2, the candidates were required to recognize the difference between two characters 人 (person/people) and 入 (enter) since they looked similar in their form. The candidates who scored a full mark knew that the noun 人 (person/people) should be placed after the phrase 很多中国 (many Chinese) to form the phrase 很多中国人 (many Chinese people) and not the word 入 (enter).

In item 3, the candidates who scored a full mark had sufficient knowledge of the uses of the structure 越来越+ adj (more and more + adj). They knew that the word 不 (not) had to be placed before an adjective 好 (good) to form another adjective 不好 (not good). The candidates were also aware that the word 还 (still) cannot be used in this sentence because 越来越 (more and more) shows the progressive form of an action, while the word 还 (still) describes an action as static or not yet to happened.

In item 4, the candidates were required to recognize the difference between characters (两 and 辆). These characters are pronounced the same but have some slight differences in writing, functions and meaning. The candidates who scored a full mark knew that the word 两 (two) is used to refer to things

in pairs in replacement of number two, since two (二) cannot be followed by a measure word. On the other hand, 辆 is a measure word for vehicles. Since the statement did not mention any sort of vehicle, therefore the correct answer was 两 (two).

Item 5 required candidates to differentiate between character 白 and 日. The candidates who got right this item knew that the word 白 (white) a kind of color, and the word 日 (day/date) used for a date. They noted that the sentence had a word 色 (color), thus chose correct word 白 (white) to form 白色 (white color).

Finally, in item 6, candidates were required to recognize the difference between character 家 (home) and 象 (an elephant). According to the statement 我 () 在邮局东边 (My () is in the eastern side of the post office), the correct answer was 家 (home). They further knew that the noun 象 (an elephant) was not the correct answer because it does not collocate with the statement. Extract 5.1 is a sample of the candidate's correct responses to question 5.

五	① 小	
	③ 人	
	③ 不	
	④ 两	
	⑤ 白	
	⑥ 家	

Extract 5.1: A Sample of the Candidate's Correct Responses to Question 5.

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

Furthermore, data analysis reveals that 32 (7.22%) candidates performed averagely by scoring from 3 to 5 marks. These candidates managed to choose correct characters in some items while failed in others. Their responses show that they had a partial knowledge of some Chinese characters recognition and meaning. For example, most of the candidates failed to differentiate between 小 (small) and 少 (few) and 人 (person/people) and 入 (enter). Extract 5.2 is a sample of responses from a candidate with an average performance in question 5.

1	小	
2	人	
3	还	
4	车辆	
5	白	
6	家	

Extract 5.2: A Sample of Responses from a Candidate with an Average Performance in Question 5.

In Extract 5.2, the candidate was able to write correct answers in items 1, 5 and 6 but failed in items 2, 3 and 4.

Furthermore, analysis reveals that 3 (0.68%) candidates had a weak performance. Their scores ranged from 0 to 2 marks. This performance was attributed to their insufficiency of understanding of the rules of writing Chinese characters, strokes as well as stroke orders. For example, in item 1, the candidates who got this item wrong failed to differentiate the word 小 (small) from the word 少 (few). Their wrong choice proves that they did not master well the two characters and their uses.

Item 3 required candidates to apply the structure 越来越 + adj (more and more + adj). Due to insufficiency of knowledge, some of the candidates were unaware that in this structure the

word 不 (not) had to be placed before an adjective 好 (good) to form another adjective 不好 (not good). They were also unaware that the word 还 (still) cannot be used in this sentence because 越来越 (more and more) shows the progressiveness of an action, while the word 还 (still) describes an action as static or not yet to happened. Thus, ended up selecting an incorrect answer.

Item 4 required candidates to recognize the difference between character 两 and 辆. The candidates who scored 0 did not know that the word 两 (two) is used to refer to things in pairs in replacement of number two, since two (二) cannot be followed by a measure word. They also did not know that the word 辆 is a measure word for vehicles and it was an incorrect answer.

In item 5, the candidates were required to differentiate between character 白 (white) and 日 (day/date). Those who got this item wrong did not know that the response was supposed to relate to the concept of color and not of date.

In item 6, the candidates were required to recognize the difference between character 家 (home) and 象 (an elephant). The candidates who scored 0 failed to distinguish the word 家 (home) and 象 (an elephant) which resulted to the writing of incorrect answer. Extract 5.3 is a sample of responses from a candidate with weak performance in question 5.

五	1. 少
	2. 人
	3. 还
	4. 车辆
	5. 白
	6. 象

Extract 5.3: A Sample of the Candidate's Incorrect Responses to Question 5.

In Extract 5.3, the candidate wrote incorrect characters in all items except in item 2 and 5.

2.2.4 Question 6: Short Answer Questions (Comprehension)

In this question, the candidates were required to read the passage and answer the given questions. The question aimed at testing the candidates' ability to read and comprehend the written information. The question was set from the topic of *Color/Hobby/Fashion and Entertainment/Size*. The question was as follows:

六. 根据已给出的例子请读下面短文后用汉字回答问题。

Tānsān ní yà lǎoniánrén hěn xǐ huan kàn xīnwén, xīnwén shì wǒ bà hé tā de
坦桑尼亚老年人很喜欢看新闻, 新闻是我爸和他的
péngyou zuì xǐ huān kàn de diànshìjiémù. Měitiān zǎoshang tā men yī qǐ chuáng
朋友最喜欢看的电视节目。每天早上他们一起床
jiù dǎ kāi diànshì, tā men kàn guó jì xīnwén yě kàn běn dì xīnwén, hái kàn
就打开电视, 他们看国际新闻也看本地新闻, 还看
tǐ yù xīnwén, shénme xīnwén tā men dōu kàn. Jīntiān bà ba de shēn tǐ bù
体育新闻, 什么新闻他们都看。今天爸爸的身体不
shū fu suǒ yǐ méi yǒu kàn guó jì xīnwén, péngyou gēn tā shuō, "Jīntiān de
舒服所以没有看国际新闻, 朋友跟他说, "今天的
guó jì xīnwén yí gè měi guó de dà xué xiào zhǎng yào lái wǒ men gōng sī fǎng
国际新闻一个美国的大学校长要来我们公司访
wèn" xīnwén hái shuō, xiànzài wǒ men zhè lǐ gōng rén de gōng zī yuè lái yuè
问", 新闻还说, 现在我们这里工人的工资越来越
gāo, tā men huì yuè lái yuè yǒu qián. Guó jì xīnwén shuō "dì qiú wū rǎn wèn tí
高, 他们会越来越有钱。国际新闻说 "地球污染问题

问题:

Nǎ xiē rén xǐ huan kàn xīnwén?

例如: 哪些人喜欢看新闻?

答案: 坦桑尼亚老年人喜欢看新闻。

Bà ba xǐ huan kàn shénme diànshì jiémù?

1. 爸爸喜欢看什么电视节目?

Shuí zuì xǐ huān kàn xīnwén kàn diànshìjiémù?

2. 谁最喜欢新闻看电视节目?

Wèishénme bà ba méi qǐ chuáng kàn diànshìjiémù?

3. 为什么爸爸没起床看电视节目?

Shuí yào lái wǒ men gōng sī cǎi fǎng?

4. 谁要来我们公司采访?

Wǒ men zhè lǐ de gōng rén gōng zī zěnmeyàng?

5. 我们这里的工人工资怎么样?

Dì qiú wū rǎn wèn tí zěnmeyàng?

6. 地球污染问题怎么样?

The data analysis reveals that 443 (100%) candidates attempted the question, out of whom 232 (52.37%) candidates scored from 6.5 to 9 marks, which reflects a good performance, 153 (34.54%) candidates scored from 3 to 5.5 marks which reflects an average performance, on the other hand 54 (13.09%) candidates scored 0 to 2.5 marks which reflects a weak performance. The candidates' general performance in this question was good, since 385 (86.91%) candidates scored from 3 to 9 marks. Figure 6 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 6.

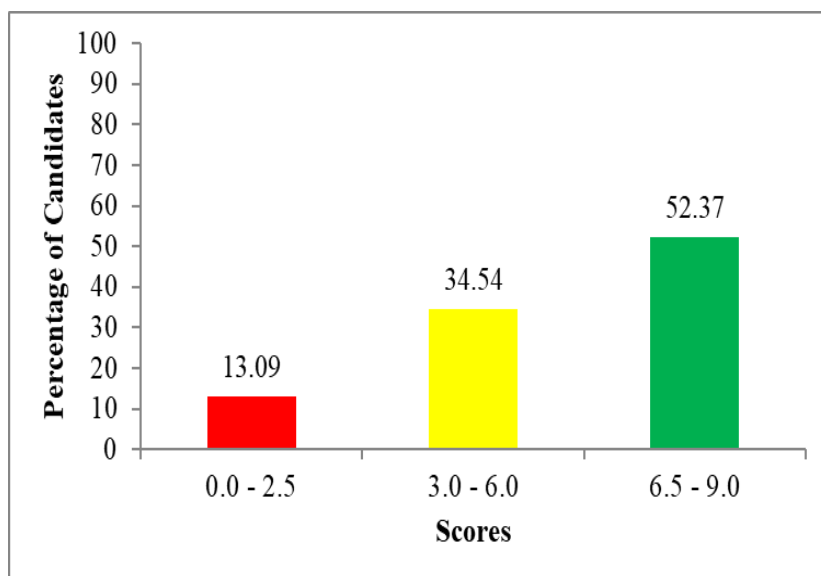


Figure 6: *The Percentages of Candidates' Performance in Question 6*

Analysis reveals that a total of 232 (52.37%) candidates demonstrated a good performance on question number 6, as they scored from 6 to 9 marks. These candidates understood the passage and responded correctly to the given questions. For example, in item 1, the question asked 爸爸喜欢看什么电视节目? (What kind of TV program father likes to watch?) The candidates were required to name the television program which is liked by the father.

The correct answer was 爸爸喜欢看国际新闻也喜欢看本地新闻, 还看体育新闻, 什么新闻他都看 (Father likes to watch international news, local news he also likes to watch

sport news, generally he likes to watch all sorts of news). They identified the correct answer because they comprehended the passage.

Item 2, the question was 谁最喜欢新闻看电视节目? (Who likes to watch news television program?) The candidates who scored a full mark in this item had sufficient knowledge of Chinese Language vocabulary which enabled them to read and comprehend the passage, finally choose the correct answer.

Item 3 stated that, 为什么爸爸没起床看电视节目? (Why father did not wake up to watch television program?). The correct answer was 因为今天爸爸的身体不舒服. (Because father is not feeling good today). Those who got this item right comprehended the requirements of the question and were able to identify the correct answer.

Item 4 stated that, 谁要来我们公司采访? (Who wants to interview our company?). The correct answer was 一个美国大学校长 (One of the American University Vice president). The candidates who scored a full mark identified the correct information from the passage and wrote the correct answer.

Item 5, the question was 我们这里的工人工资怎么样? (How is our workers' wages here?). The candidates were required to give an opinion about the workers' wages. The answer was 工人的工资越来越高, 他们会越来越有钱. (The workers' wages keep on getting higher and higher, as days go on they will have more money). The candidates who scored a full mark in this item indicates that, they comprehended the passage.

In item 6, the question stated that, 地球污染问题怎么样? (How is the world environmental pollution?). The correct answer was 地球污染问题越来越大 (The world environmental pollution is becoming more and more worse/big). The candidates who wrote the correct answer had sufficient knowledge of the Chinese Language which enabled them to read, comprehend, identify and eventually writing the

correct answer. Extract 6.1 is a sample of the candidate's correct response to question 6.

六	
1. 爸爸喜欢看新闻的电视节目。	
2. 我爸和他的朋友最喜欢新闻看电视节目。	
3. 今天爸爸的身体不舒服所以他没起床看电视节目。	
4. 美国的大学校长要来我们公司采访。	
5. 我们这里的工人工资越来越高。	
6. 地球污染问题越来越大。	

Extract 6.1: A Sample of the Candidate's Correct Responses to Question 6.

In Extract 6.1, the candidate filled all the blanks correctly. Although there is a minor error in item number 4 as the candidate forgot to put a measure word that identifies the number of American University Vice president(s) who wanted to interview the company as mentioned in the passage.

However, the data analysis also reveals that, 153 (34.54%) candidates had average performance as they scored from 3 to 6 marks. These candidates managed to answer correctly some questions while failed to others. This performance was affected by their partial knowledge of reading for comprehension.

Conclusively, data analysis reveals that, 54 (13.09%) candidates had a weak performance as they scored from 0 to 2.5 marks.

Their performance is attributed with inadequate knowledge of Chinese sentence structure, grammar patterns as well as vocabulary that disabled them from comprehending the

passage and writing the correct responses. Some of the candidates randomly copied irrelevant words from the passage and wrote them as answers. Others could not write the correct characters thus made their own and gave them as responses leading to incomprehensible words. The incorrect responses imply that they had insufficient vocabulary for expressing themselves. Extract 6.2 is a sample of the candidate's incorrect responses to question 6.

六	爸爸喜欢看电视节目	
	最喜欢看的电视节目	
	因为爸爸没起床看电视节目	
	谁要来我们公司访	
	我们这里的工人工资	
	地球污染问题	

Extract 6.2: A Sample of the Candidate's Incorrect Responses to Question 6.

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

2.2.5 Question 7: Choosing the Correct Vocabulary

The question consisted of 6 items in which the candidates were required to choose the correct word from the given alternatives and fill in the blanks. The question was set from topic of *Introducing oneself and Friend*.

The question aimed at examining candidates' ability to express him/herself. The question was as follows:

七. 根据已给出的例子选择合适的词填空。

lǎoshī	liàn xí	bì yè	Hàn zì	tóngxué	huídá	xuéshēng
老师	练习	毕业	汉字	同学	回答	学生

Tā zài xiǎoxué xuéxí Tā shì
例如: 她在小学学习。她是_____。

Xuéshēng
答案: 学生

Tā jiào wǒmen shùxué Tā shì wǒmen de
1. 他教我们数学。他是我们的_____。

Tā chángcháng wèn wǒ, wèishénme méi tā de wèn tí.
2. 他常常问我, 为什么没_____他的问题。

Rúguǒ jīnnián tā xīwàng jiéshù xuéxí tā jīnnián
3. 如果今年他希望结束学习。他今年_____。

Nǐ kāishǐ de shíhòu xuéxí Hànyǔ, xiěhé dú yǒu diǎnr nán.
4. 你开始的时候学习汉语, 写和读_____有点儿难。

Nǐ yào nǐ de Hànyǔ shuǐpíng gāo, nǐ yīnggāi chángcháng
5. 你要你的汉语水平高, 你应该常常_____。

Tā gēn wǒ yìqǐ shàngkè Tā shì wǒ
6. 她跟我一起上课。她是我_____。

The question was attempted by 443 (100%) candidates, out of whom 195 (44.02%) candidates scored from 6 to 9 marks, which reflects a good performance, 110 (24.83%) candidates scored from 3 to 5.5 marks which reflects an average performance and 138 (31.15%) candidates scored 0 to 2.5 marks which reflects a weak performance. The candidates' general performance in this question was good, since 305 (68.85%) candidates scored 30% or above. Figure 7 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 7.

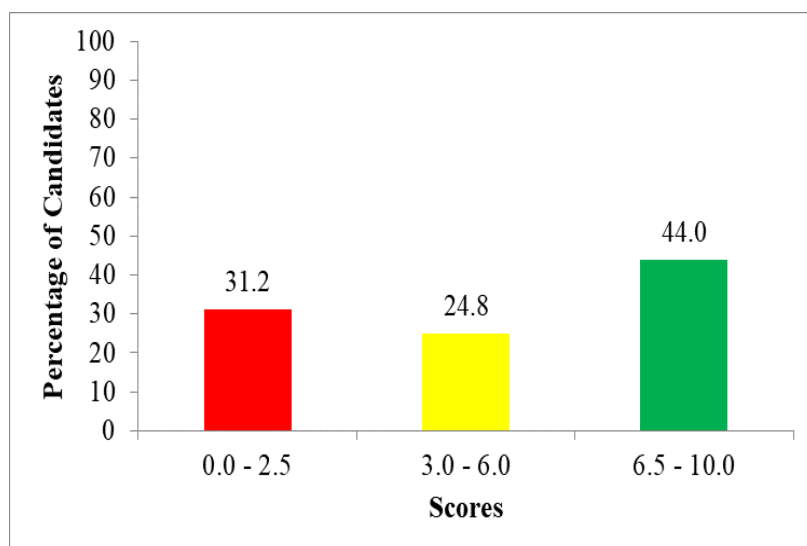


Figure 7: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 7*

The data analysis reveals that 195 (44.02%) candidates performed well in this question. They scored from 6 to 9 marks. these candidates had sufficient knowledge of Chinese Language vocabulary which enabled them to select the correct responses. For example, in item 1, they were required to fill in the blank with the word 老师 (teacher). The candidates who scored a full mark identified the correct answer from the given alternatives. This was due to the fact that they understood the question and knew the requirements of the question.

In item 2, the candidates who got this item right chose the correct answer which was 回答 (to answer) because the keyword of this item was 问题. They noted that the sentence included the phrase 他常常问我 (He always ask me) after asking what follows is usually a response 回答 (to answer). therefore, they identified the correct answer.

In item 3, the candidates had sufficient knowledge of the Chinese vocabulary, which enabled them to recognize the word 毕业 (to graduate) which was the correct response.

They knew better that after completion of studies, what follows is usually a graduation.

In item 5, the question aimed at examining candidate's knowledge on the usage of the Chinese Language structure 常+V (always/often + V) to complete the sentence. The correct answer was 练习 (Practice). The candidates who scored full marks in this item had sufficient knowledge of the given grammar pattern and its usage, which enabled them to identify the correct answer.

In item 6, the candidates who scored full marks knew that the noun 同学 (school mate/class mate) was the suitable one compared to the other given alternatives, because the sentence stated that 他跟我一起上课 (She and I, are studying together). This shows the relationship that they are classmates. Extract 7.1 is a sample of the candidate's correct responses to question 7.

1.	老师。
2.	回答。
3.	比。
4.	汉字。
5.	练习。
6.	同学。

Extract 7.1: A Sample of the Candidate's Correct Responses to Question 7.

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

The data analysis indicates that 110 (24.83%) candidates performed averagely by scoring from 3 to 5.5 marks. These

candidates had partial knowledge of the given vocabularies. They understood some words and how to use them in the sentence but failed to do the same thing in some other words. Thus, resulting to an average performance. Extract 7.2 is a sample of responses from a candidate with an average performance in question 7.

七	1. 老师	
	2. 回答	
	3. 毕业	
	4. 学生	
	5. 同学	
	6. 汉字	

Extract 7.2: A Sample of Responses to Question 7 from a Candidate with an Average Performance.

In Extract 7.2, the candidate managed to write correct answers in items 1, 2 and 3 but failed in items 4, 5 and 6.

Furthermore, the data analysis indicates that, 138 (31.15%) candidates performed weakly as they scored from 0 to 2.5 marks. These candidates had insufficient knowledge of the given vocabulary. Their responses prove that they did not grasp the meaning and uses of those words in the sentence. They also did not understand the meaning of the given sentences thus, resulting to the random selection of the given alternatives. A good example can be observed, in item 1 and 2.

In item 3, the candidates scored 0 because they had insufficient knowledge of the given vocabulary as one of them chose the word 练习 (practice) which was wrong. He/she did not know its uses in the sentence. he/she did not understand the meaning of the sentence 他希望结束学习 (He hopes to finish his studies) which means that he/she is about to graduate. Candidates were confused with the word 学习 which was in the given sentence. So, they ended up choosing an incorrect answer.

In item 4, the candidates were not aware that the item required them to apply the structure V+ N to answer the question. Also they were not familiar that in this structure the noun should be placed after verbs 写和读 (writing and reading). Moreover, they did not know that only the noun 汉字 (Chinese character) from given alternatives related to the question. Thus, they ended up picking the wrong answer.

In item 5, the question aimed at examining candidates' knowledge on the usage of the structure 常常+V (always/often + V) to complete the sentence. The correct answer was 练习 (Practice). Candidates who score 0 did not notice that the blank had to be filled with a verb.

In item 6, the candidates were required to choose the word 同学 (school mate/class mate) to fill in the blank. They got this item wrong because they did not know the meaning of the word 同学 (school mate/class mate) and where to use it. They also failed to relate it to the word 一起 (together) which indicates the relationship (together). Their incorrect responses imply that they did not master well the Chinese vocabulary and grammar patterns. Extract 7.3 is a sample of responses from one of the candidates who performed weakly in question 7.

七	1. huí dā 回 答	5. Hànzì 汉 字	
	2. liànxí 练 习	6. bì yè 毕 业	
	3. lǎo shī 老 师		
	4. tóngxué 同 学		

Extract 7.3: A Sample of the Candidate's Incorrect Responses to Question 7.

Extract 7.3, illustrates the performance of the candidate who wrote incorrect answers in all items.

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

In this part, the question required the candidates to re-arrange the jumbled words to make sentences which are grammatically and semantically correct. The question was set from the topic *School/Life*. The question aimed at examining candidates' ability to express themselves by constructing sentences using different Chinese Language structures. The question was as follows:

八. 根据已给出的例子为下面词重新排序组成句子。

Xìhuan xiānggǎng tā lǚxíng qù
例如: ① 喜欢 ② 香港 ③ 他 ④ 旅行 ⑤ 去

答案: ③ ① ⑤ ② ④

dǎsuàn shàngxué Mèimei qù fǎguó ·
1. ① 打算 ② 上学 ③ 妹妹 ④ 去 ⑤ 法国

Yéye zài tíngliú sān gè jiānádà yuè ·
2. ① 爷爷在 ② 停留 ③ 三个 ④ 加拿大 ⑤ 月

Shǔjià tā tán sāngníyà yí dào jiù qù ·
3. ① 暑假 ② 她 ③ 谈桑尼亚 ④ 一到 ⑤ 就去

gāoxìng guòlái hái zimen dé pǎo
4. ① 高兴 ② 过来 ③ 孩子们 ④ 得 ⑤ 跑

Huǒchē kuài jiāotōngchē bǐ zuò ·
5. ① 火车 ② 快 ③ 交通车 ④ 比 ⑤ 坐

dānchéngpiào míngmíng mǎi le qù de sāngěibā'ěr ·
6. ① 单程票 ② 明明 ③ 买了去 ④ 的 ⑤ 桑给巴尔

A total of 443 (100%) candidates attempted the question, out of whom 61 (13.77%) candidates scored from 3 to 4.5 reflecting an average performance and 382 (86.23 %) candidates scored from 0 to 1.5 marks indicating a weak performance. There was no candidate with good performance. The candidates' general performance in this question was weak, since 382 (86.23 %)

had a weak performance and only 61 (13.77%) candidates scored from 30% or above. Figure 8 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 8.

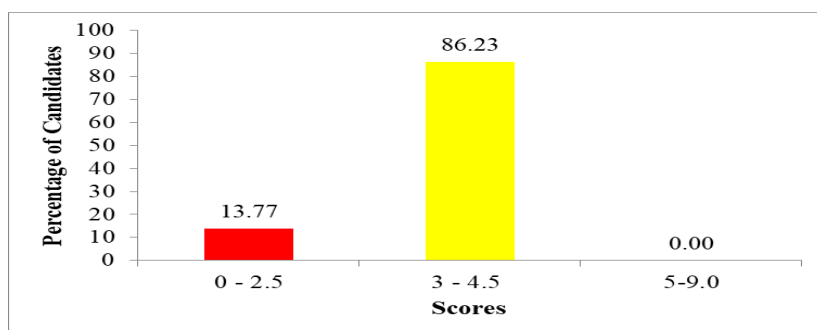


Figure 8: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 8*

A total of 61 (13.77%) candidates had an average performance, they scored from 3 to 4.5 marks. The candidates re-arranged some sentences correctly and some sentences incorrectly. This performance was attributed to a partial knowledge and understanding of Chinese Language sentence structure and grammar patterns (syntax). Candidates with an average performance in this question, did well in item 1,2 and 3. They had sufficient knowledge of the vocabulary, their meanings as well as different grammatical patterns and structures which were associated with vocabulary which were collectively used to make meaningful sentences. An example can be drawn from,

item 1, ①打算②上学③妹妹④去⑤法国 ①plan②go to school③young sister④go⑤France. Candidates who got this item right were familiar with the sentence structure Subject/someone + V1 + V2 + place +V3 meaning that someone go to a certain place to do something. They were aware that after the verb 打算 (plan) another verb had to be followed. They were also aware that 妹妹 (young sister) stood for a subject/someone, while 法国 (France) represented the name of a place.

This knowledge enabled them to write the correct answer ③

① ④ ⑤ ② 妹妹打算去法国上学 (Young sister plan to go France to study)

However most of these candidates who had an average performance in this question did not do so well in item 4, 5 and 6. They were unable to grasp the meaning of different vocabulary as well as functions of different grammatical structures which were to be used to bind the individual words together so as to bring about a semantical (meaningful) and syntactical (grammatical) sentence. In item 4, the candidates who scored 0 were unable to identify the complement of direction 起来 in 跑起来 (running), which is used to explain more about the result of the adjective 高兴 (happy). They did not know that the word 得 should be placed after the adjective 高兴 (happy). Because of insufficiency of this knowledge they were unable to write the correct answer which was ③ ① ④ ⑤ ② 孩子们高兴得跑过来 (Children came running happily). Most wrote ② ④ ⑤ ① ③ 孩子们跑过来高兴 (children ran come happily) which was an incorrect response.

人	1. ③ ④ ⑤ ① ②	
	2. ① ④ ② ③ ⑤	
	3. ② ④ ① ⑤ ③	
	4. ③ ② ⑤ ① ④	
	5. ⑤ ① ④ ③ ②	
	6. ② ③ ① ④ ⑤	

Extract 8.1: A Sample of the Candidate's Average Responses to Question 8.

Extract 8.1 is a sample of responses from a candidate who performed averagely in question 8, he or she wrote correct answers in items 2, 3 and 5 but failed in items 1, 4 and 6.

Furthermore, the data analysis shows that 382 (86.23 %) candidates had a weak performance as they scored from 0 to 2.5 marks. These candidates had inadequate knowledge of Chinese grammar and vocabulary. They did not master the Chinese Language structure. This affected them in responding to the questions. They failed to rearrange the sentences because they did not know the placement of the jumbled words in the sentence. For example, in item 1, the candidates were not familiar with the structure Subject/someone + V1 + V2 + place +V3 that mean someone go to a certain place to do something. They were not aware that after the verb 打算 (plan) another verb had to be followed. They were also not aware that 妹妹 (young sister) stood for a subject/someone, while 法国 (France) represented the name of a place.

Some candidates wrote ③②①④⑤ 妹妹上学法国去打算 (Young sister study France to go plan). This indicates that the lack of sufficient knowledge disabled them from rearranging the jumbled words correctly,

In item 2, the candidates failed to note that after the verb 停留 (stay for some time) the time 三个月 (three months) should follow. They were also not aware that the phrase 爷爷在 (my grandfather was at) had to be placed before a noun of the place 加拿大 (Canada). Thus, ended up writing incorrect responses as one of them wrote ①③②⑤④ 爷爷在三个停留月加拿大 (Grandfather at three stay months Canada) and the other wrote ①③④⑤② 爷爷在三个加拿大月停留 (Grandfather at three Canada months stay). This shows that they had insufficient knowledge of the vocabulary.

In item 3, the question required candidates to apply the structure 一.....就 (as soon as). They did not know that in this structure the word 暑假 (summer vacation) had to be

inserted between 一.....就 (as soon as), the noun 坦桑尼亚 (Tanzania) had to be placed after the word 就去. In addition to that, they were not aware that the subject 她 (she) could be placed before the word 一 or before the word 就. Thus, ended up rearranging the jumbled words incorrectly, for instance, one candidate wrote ① ③ ④ ⑤ ② 暑假坦桑尼亚就去一到她 (summer vocation Tanzania will go to after arriving she).

In item 4, the candidates who scored 0 were unable to identify the complement of direction 起来 in 跑起来 (running), which is used to explain more about the result of the adjective 高兴 (happy). They did not know that the word 得 should be placed after the adjective 高兴 (happy). Because of insufficiency of this knowledge they were unable to write the correct answer which was ③ ① ④ ⑤ ② 孩子们高兴得跑过来 (Children came running happily). Most wrote ② ④ ⑤ ① ③ 孩子们跑过来高兴 (children ran come across happily) which was an incorrect response.

In item 5, the question required candidates to apply the structure A + 比 + B + Adj (Noun + 比 + noun + adjective) to show comparison between A and B. But they were not aware of this knowledge, they were also not aware that in this structure an adjective 快 (fast) had to be placed after B. They rearranged incorrectly the sentence, one of them wrote ③ ⑤ ② ① ④ 交通车坐快火车比 (bus faster train than) and the other wrote ① ④ ③ ⑤ ② 火车比交通车坐快 (train is fast than taking a bus). This shows that they had sufficient knowledge of the given vocabulary, their meaning as well as the sentence structures, but failed to position the verb 坐. This occurred because they failed to understand the meaning of this word. Thus failed to rearrange the jumbled word correctly.

In item 6, the candidates who scored 0 did not notice that after the phrase 买了去 (bought go to) had to be placed before the

noun of the place 桑给巴尔 (Zanzibar). Moreover, they were not aware that after the noun of the place 桑给巴尔 (Zanzibar) the word 的 should follow and lastly end with the noun 单程票 (one-way ticket) to form a phrase 桑给巴尔的单程票 (Zanzibar one-way ticket). Thus, ended up rearranging the jumbled words incorrectly, for example one of them wrote ④ ③ ⑤ ① ② 的买了去桑给巴尔单程票明明 (bought go Zanzibar one way ticket Mingming) which was wrong. Extract 8.3 is a sample of the candidate's incorrect responses to question 8.

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

Extract 8.3: A Sample of the Candidate's Incorrect Responses to Question 8.

In Extract 8.3, the candidate re-arranged incorrectly the words in all the items.

2.3 SECTION C: COMPOSITION

This section had three (3) essay questions. The candidates were required to choose and answer only two of them. Question 9 and 11 comprised five guiding words and they were required to use them to compose a passage with 60 to 80 characters. Question number 10 was about writing a CV. Each question had 15 marks making a total of 30 marks.

2.3.1 Question 9: Writing Composition

In this question, the candidates were given five (5) words whereby they were required to use those words to compose 60

to 80 characters' passage with a given title 假期想去哪儿旅行? (Where do you want to go during the holiday?). The question was set from the topic of *Travel and customs* it aimed at testing candidates' ability to compose and express their ideas in Chinese Language. The guiding words were; 多多马 (Dodoma), 火车 (train), 朋友 (friend), 教区 (suburbs) and 没有污染 (pollution free) The question was as follows;

九. 根据所给的话题和提示词用汉字写一篇 60 到 80 个字的短文。
话题：假期想去哪儿旅行？
提示词：多多马，火车，朋友，郊区，没有污染

The data analysis reveals that 424 (95.71%) candidates attempted the question, out of whom 62 (14.63%) candidates scored from 10 to 15 marks, which reflects a good performance, 110 (25.94%) candidates scored from 5 to 9 marks which reflects an average performance and 252 (59.43%) candidates scored from 0 to 4 marks which reflects a weak performance. The general performance of the candidates in this question was average, since 172 (40.57%) candidates scored 30% or above. Figure 9 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 9.

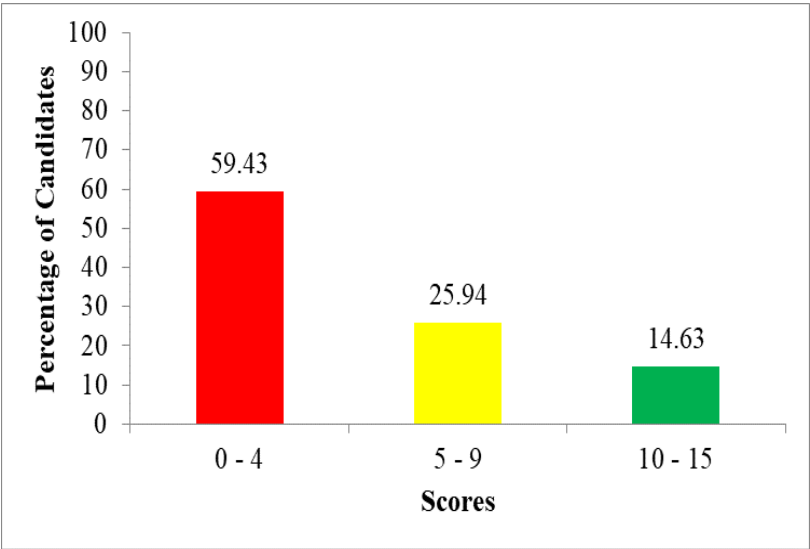


Figure 9: The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 9

Furthermore, data analysis shows that 110 (25.94%) candidates had an average performance, they scored from 5 to 9 marks. This performance was attributed to the partial knowledge of the given words. They failed to comprehend and recognize the meaning and usage of some given words/characters. Thus, constructed some sentences correctly and some incorrectly, this resulted to an average performance.

The analysis revealed that 252 (59.43%) candidates demonstrated a weak performance, they scored from 0 to 4 marks. These candidates had inadequate knowledge of the Chinese Language vocabulary as they did not understand the meaning and uses of the given words.

Some candidates randomly copied words and sentences from the question paper and wrote them as answers. Moreover, other candidates did not even understand the requirements of the question so they wrote irrelevant contents as responses to the given questions. Others were unaware of the Chinese sentence structures, thus they composed incorrect sentences, leading to a weak performance. Extract 9.1 is a sample of the candidate's incorrect responses to question 9.

九	大家好!我女生羊,我叫羊坦桑尼亚,	
	我的朋友看,我朋友从坦桑尼亚,	
	我火车去香港,他旅行,火车比	
	交通车快坐,我们还没有到更好	
	的办法,国家有两个季节,我没有污染	
	在邮局东边,这个城市的郊很小,	
	多吗的天气越来越不,我每天早上在	
	打太极拳,我在市场买了纪念品和礼	
	物,我朋友的卧室很漂亮,我朋友	
	阿莎家有三口人,我要汉语应该	
	上果,我考我数学。	

Extract 9.1: A Sample of the Candidate's Incorrect Responses to Question 9.

In Extract 9.1, the candidate wrote incomprehensible passage.

On the contrary, there were 62 (14.63%) candidates who demonstrated a good performance. with scores ranging from 10 to 15 marks. These candidates had sufficient knowledge of Chinese Language vocabulary, grammar, sentence structure and meaning of the words. They composed meaningful and grammatical sentences.

These candidates had a good mastery of the words class and meaning of each given word. They were also aware of the words that can go together with the given guiding words. They mastered well the topic of *Travel and custom*. Thus, composed a passage that observed the semantical (meaning) and grammatical rules as they put punctuation marks, chose the right vocabularies and correct structure. They also considered the number of words. However, because of some errors they failed to score full marks (15/15). Extract 9.2 is a sample of the candidate's correct responses to question 9.

9.九	我的假期	
	你好!我姓好,叫好呵,我是坦桑尼亚人	
	家在桑给巴尔,我是学生,学习中学的学校,我的	
	家四口人,有爸爸,妈妈,哥哥和我,我很喜欢我的	
	家人。	
	我的喜欢假期,假期我想去多多吗旅行	
	我的朋友也想去多多吗旅行,所以我跟朋友	
	一起去多多吗旅行, 坐坐 火车我们坐火车去	
	多多吗。在多多吗我们看郊区,多多吗有很多	
	郊区和没有污染。谢谢!	

Extract 9.2: A Sample of the Candidate's Correct Responses to Question 9.

In Extract 9.2, the candidate's responses regarded as the best.

2.3.2 Question 10: Writing Composition

In this question, the candidates were given a tittle 你的简历 (Your curriculum vitae). The candidates were required to write a CV. The question was set from the topic of *Introduction and recommendation* which aimed at testing the candidates' ability

to give his/her own information in Chinese Language. The question was as follows;

十. 根据所给的话题用汉字写一写。
话题： 你的 简历。

The data analysis indicates that 181 (40.86%) candidates attempted the question, out of whom 9 (4.97%) candidates scored from 10 to 15 marks, which reflects a good performance, 2 (1.10%) candidates scored from 5 to 9 marks which reflects an average performance and 170 (93.92%) candidates scored from 0 to 4 marks which reflects a weak performance. The candidates' general performance in this question was weak, since 11 (6.08%) candidates scored 30% or above. Figure 10 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 10.

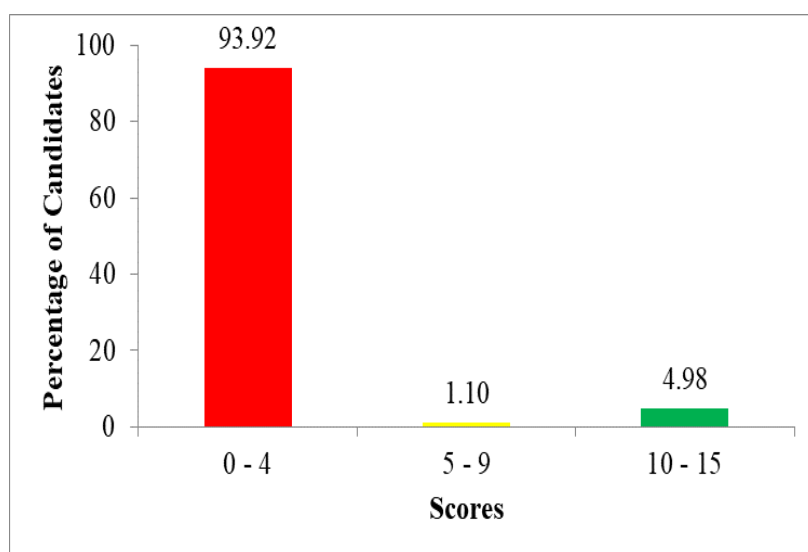


Figure 10: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 10*

A total of 170 (93.92%) candidates had a weak performance, they scored from 0 to 4 marks. This performance was attributed to their insufficient knowledge of Chinese grammar and lack of sufficient vocabulary to express themselves. So, they were unable to write a CV as instructed. Some candidates did not

understand the word 简历 (curriculum vitae) as they thought that they were asked about 时间表 (timetable) so they provided information about their timetable.

Some of them failed to understand the demands of the question, instead of writing a CV they composed a passage, while others wrote irrelevant contents in pinyin, this implies that they had insufficient knowledge of the concerned topic. Extract 10.1 is a sample of the candidate's incorrect responses to question 10.

+	Nǐ hǎo, wǒ jiào : Kǎi wǒ shì tǎn gān nǐ xià
	rén, wǒ jì niàn shì bā, wǒ cóng lín.
	Lái wǒ xǐ huan kàn diàn shì hē fēng yìn
	yue, mā ma xǐ huan kàn diàn shì hē kàn
	diàn xīn wén, wǒ shì bà hé tā de péng you
	zuì xǐ huan kàn de diàn shì jiémù. měi tiān

Extract 10.1: A Sample of the Candidate's Incorrect Responses to Question 10.

In Extract 10.1, the candidate's responses of which he/she has introduced him/herself using pinyin instead of writing a CV.

Further analysis reveals that 9 (4.98%) candidates who had demonstrated a good performance, gave their personal information by writing the needed information in a CV, which were 姓名 (Surname), 性别 (gender), 国籍 (Nationality), 出生日期 (Date of birth), 出生地点 (Place of birth), 职业 (Occupation), 地址 (Address), 电话 (Phone number) and 电子邮件 (e-mail). It was observed that, candidates under this category had sufficient knowledge of the Chinese Language which enabled them to present their personal information. The format had to be as follows;

十.	我的简历	
	姓名: 密码。	
	性别: 男生。	
	国籍: 坦桑尼亚人。	
	出生日期: 2005年11月25日。	
	出生地点: 坦噶城市。	
	职业: 学生。	
	住址: 坦噶城市, 郊区, 坦桑尼亚。	
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Extract 10.2: A sample of the candidate's correct responses to question 11.

In Extract 10.2, the candidate wrote a CV.

2.3.3 Question 11: Writing Composition

In this question, the candidates were given a title 我喜欢的京剧 (My favorite opera) with guiding words and they were required to compose a passage/dialogue of 60 to 80 characters. The question was set from the topic of *media* which aimed at testing the candidates' ability to compose and express ideas in Chinese Language. The guiding words were; 北京 (Beijing), 表演 (perform), 跟...一样 (the same), 高兴 (happy) and 看 (watch). The question was as follows;

十一. 根据下面给出的话题和提示词用汉字写一篇 60 到 80 个字的对话。

话题: 我喜欢的京剧。

提示词: 北京 表演 跟...一样 高兴 看

The question was attempted by 281 (63.43%) candidates, out of whom 22 (7.83%) candidates scored from 10 to 15 marks, which is regarded as good performance, 77 (27.40%) candidates scored from 5 to 9 marks reflecting an average performance and 182 (64.77%) candidates scored from 0 to 4 marks indicating a weak performance. The candidates' general

performance in this question was average, since 99 (35.23%) candidates scored 30% or above. Figure 11 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 11.

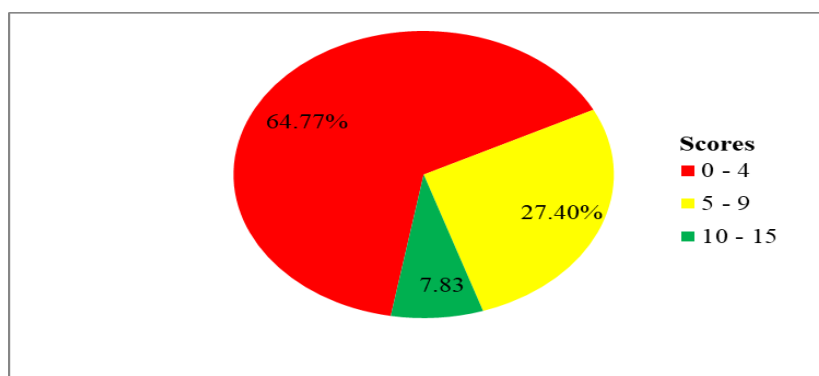


Figure 11: *The Percentages of the Candidates' Performance in Question 11*

The data analysis shows that 77 (27.40%) performed averagely as they scored from 5 to 9 marks. These candidates had partial knowledge of the given guiding words. They wrote a passage which had some errors in sentences structure and in some choice of words. Others had insufficient vocabulary to express themselves thus, resulting to the incorrect writing of some sentences.

Further analysis reveals that 182 (64.77%) candidates had a weak performance as they scored from 0 to 4 marks.

These candidates had insufficient knowledge of meaning of the given Chinese vocabulary and their usage. Some were unable to create meaningful sentences, while others did not even know how to use the given guiding words in their passages, few of them wrote incomprehensible sentences. In addition, some candidates copied characters from the question paper, while others copied sentences from the text in a question paper and wrote them as answers. These responses show that the candidates had insufficient knowledge of the vocabulary about the topic of *travel* and *custom*. Extract 11.1 is a sample of the candidate's incorrect responses to question 11.

十一	我叫于兰,我是坦桑尼亚人,我十六岁。我家在多多。	
	我喜欢的京剧。京剧是很好。北京是很漂亮。北京有多博物馆有多熊猫。	
	我跟朋友一样喜欢打网球。我的朋友是很漂亮。我喜欢看电影,我也喜欢看丹。	

Extract 11.1: A Sample of the Candidate's Incorrect Responses to Question 11.

In Extract 11.1, the candidate wrote incomprehensible composition.

Furthermore, the data analysis reveals that 22 (7.83%) candidates performed well, as they scored from 10 to 15 marks. These candidates had sufficient vocabulary about the topic of *travel* and *custom*. They wrote a passage in Chinese characters correctly. Their ideas were well organized, sentences were well structured and made a good choice of vocabulary. They also used the guiding words correctly. However, because of some errors they failed to score full marks (15/15). Extract 11.2 is a sample of the candidate's correct responses to question 11.

		我喜欢的京剧	
十一	你好!我姓好,叫好啊,我是坦桑尼亚人		
	家在桑给巴尔,我是学生,学习中学的学林交我的		
	家有四口人,有爸爸,妈妈,哥哥和我。我很喜欢我的		
	家人。		
	我喜欢北京的京剧,我跟朋友一样看		
	北京京剧的表演,北京京剧的表演很好看。		
	我们很高兴。谢谢!		

Extract 11.2: A Sample of the Candidate's Correct Responses to Question 11.

Extract 11.2, indicates the performance of the candidate who managed to write a good composition.

3.0 PERFORMANCE OF THE CANDIDATES IN EACH TOPIC

The Chinese Language examination comprised of 11 questions which were based on the topics of *City and Environment*, *Food/Nature*, *Greeting and Self-introduction/Family Introduction*, *Color/Hobby/Fashion and Entertainment/Size*, *Introducing oneself and Friends*, *Environment and Health*, *Transportation/Travel and Custom*, *Media*, *Shopping/ Housing*, *School/Life* and *Introduction and Recommendation*.

The data analysis reveals that the candidates demonstrated a good, average and a weak performance. The good performance was on the topics of *City and Environment* (99.32%) *Food/Nature* (95.26%), *Greeting and Self-introduction/Family Introduction* (92.78%), *Color/Hobby/Fashion and Entertainment/Size* (86.91%) and *Introducing oneself and Friends* (68.85%). The good performance was attributed to the candidates' ability to understand the demands of the questions and their sufficient knowledge and skills on the topics tested as well as their sufficient knowledge of Chinese vocabulary. Further data analysis shows that the candidates performed averagely in the topics of *Environment and Health* (50.34%), *Transportation/Travel and Custom* (40.57%) and *Media* (35.23%). The average performance was influenced by the candidates' partial knowledge on the topics tested.

Moreover, the topics of *Shopping/Housing* (25.26%), *School/Life* (13.77%) and *Introduction and recommendation* (6.08%) had a weak performance which was attributed to the candidates' insufficient knowledge of the Chinese grammar.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The performance of the candidates in the Chinese Language subject in CSEE 2023 was good, since 402 candidates (91.36%) passed the examination and 38 candidates (8.64%) failed.

The analysis done reveals that the candidates who demonstrated a good performance in this examination had sufficient knowledge of the Chinese Language and had good writing and reading skills. Despite the good performance, some candidates had an average and a weak performance. These candidates had insufficient knowledge of the topics tested and did

not master well the Chinese sentences structure and grammar. The analysis of the candidates' performance in each topic is summarized in Appendix.

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 on how to write correct sentences by giving them jumbled words and guide them to re-arrange them.
- 5.2 Teachers should guide and encourage students to read simple texts related to the topics in order to improve their vocabularies and grammar patterns.
- 5.3 Teachers should guide students on how to write essays, Curriculum Vitae and logical paragraphs or compositions by giving them pictures, cards and simple titles.
- 5.4 Teachers should guide the students on how to write pinyin by applying features such as initials, finals, tones and syllable formation.

Appendix:

Summary of the Candidates' Performance per Topic for the Chinese Language Subject in CSEE 2023

S/N	Topic	Question Number	Percentage of the Candidates Passed	Remarks
1	City and Environment	5	99.32	Good
2	Food/Nature	2	95.26	Good
3	Greeting and self-introduction/Family Introduction, Time/Jobs, Transportation/Travel and custom/Environment/Shopping, Housing/Color	1	92.78	Good
4	Color/Hobby/Fashion and Entertainment/size	6	86.91	Good
5	Introducing oneself and Friends	7	68.85	Good
6	Environment and health	4	50.34	Average
7	Transportation/Travel and custom	9	40.57	Average
8	Media	11	35.23	Average
9	Shopping/ Housing	3	25.26	Weak
10	School/Life	8	13.77	Weak
11	Introduction and recommendation	10	6.08	Weak

