



GCSE CHINESE (MANDARIN) 8673/LH

Paper 1 Listening Higher Tier

Mark scheme

June 2025

Version: 1.0 Final



Mark schemes are prepared by the Lead Assessment Writer and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all associates participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every associate understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each associate analyses a number of students' scripts. Alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, associates encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Lead Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

No student should be disadvantaged on the basis of their gender identity and/or how they refer to the gender identity of others in their exam responses.

A consistent use of 'they/them' as a singular and pronouns beyond 'she/her' or 'he/him' will be credited in exam responses in line with existing mark scheme criteria.

Further copies of this mark scheme are available from aqa.org.uk

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Listening and Reading tests

General principles of marking

Non-verbal answers

Follow the mark scheme as set out.

Verbal answers (English or target language)

1. The basic principle of assessment is that students should gain credit for what they know, understand and can do; provided their written response communicates the required message without ambiguity, it will get the mark. The following guidance should be borne in mind when marking.
 - (a) Credit should be given for all answers which convey the key idea required intelligibly and without ambiguity. This applies whether the answer is in English or target language. A separate assessment of spelling, punctuation and grammar is not required because of the nature of the answers. However, these aspects are an integral part of assessing communication and marks cannot be awarded where errors in spelling, punctuation or grammar lead to a failure to communicate the required information **without ambiguity**.
 - (b) Where a student has given alternatives or additional information in an answer, the following criteria should be applied: – if the alternative/addition does not contradict the key idea/make it ambiguous, **accept** – if the alternative/addition contradicts the key idea or makes it ambiguous, **reject**.
 - (c) Where numbered lines are given within a question/section of a question, credit should be given for correct answers, no matter which line they appear on.
 - (d) Where a question has more than one **section (eg (i) and (ii))**, a candidate may include as part of the answer to one section the information required to answer another section. Eg, in Listening, information required to answer section (ii) might be given as part of the answer to section (i). In such cases, credit should be given for having answered section (ii), provided that no incorrect answer has been given for that section in the correct place on the question paper.
2. In questions where students are asked to give for example a list of three items, only the first three items they write down should be considered for assessment purposes.
3. No mark scheme can cover all possible answers. When in doubt, look for the key idea.
4. Where a student has crossed out an answer and what was underneath remains legible then it should be marked. When part of an answer is crossed out, then only what remains should be considered.
5. .../. means that these are acceptable alternative answers in the mark scheme. (.....) means that this information is not needed for full marks to be awarded.
6. In questions which are T/F/? or ✓/X/? in either Section A or Section B, a mix and match approach should be tolerated and credit given where it is clear and unambiguous (eg consistent use by the candidate). If candidates write 'True' instead of 'V' for Vrai in Section B, this should also be credited despite the wrong language being used.

Question	Accept	Mark
01	C, E, F (in any order) C (park) E (schools) F (shops)	3

Question	Accept	Mark
02.1	B (7 lessons.)	1

Question	Accept	Mark
02.2	C (after school.)	1

Question	Accept	Mark
03.1	B (live at the school.)	1

Question	Accept	Mark
03.2	B (kind)	1

Question	Key idea	Accept	Reject	Mark
04	• see (his) grandma (1) • see the lanterns/go to the city centre (1) (must be in this order)	• visit gran • see the lights		2

Question	Key idea	Accept	Reject	Mark
05	• (filled with) pork (1) • delicious/tasty/yummy (1) (must be in this order)	• meat • nice/good to eat	• chicken/beef/lamb or any specific meat	2

Question	Key idea	Accept	Reject	Mark
06	Past: (It was) countryside Future: (It could be a) city	Past: rural area/farm(land) Future: urban area		2

Question	Accept	Mark
07	Job: D (writer) Reason: 1 (financial success)	2

Question	Accept	Mark
08	Job: B (office worker) Reason: 4 (location)	2

Question	Accept	Mark
09	N (negative)	1

Question	Accept	Mark
10	P + N (positive and negative)	1

Question	Accept	Mark
11	P (positive)	1

Question	Accept	Mark
12	P (positive)	1

Question	Key idea	Accept	Reject	Mark
13	- cloudy (1) - rainy (1) (must be in this order)	- overcast - rain/drizzle		2

Question	Key idea	Accept	Reject	Mark
14	• fine/sunny/clear (1) • warm (1) (in any/either order)			2

Question	Accept	Mark
15.1	A (Dazhong is not sociable.)	1

Question	Accept	Mark
15.2	B (had homework to do.)	1

Question	Accept	Mark
16.1	B (help her with her schoolwork.)	1

Question	Accept	Mark
16.2	B (Dazhong refused.)	1

Question	Key idea	Accept	Reject	Mark
17	- His grandad doesn't understand English. (1) - He can call/speak to (his grandad in Chinese/Mandarin). (1) - He can write (letters to his grandad in Chinese). (1) (any two of above)	- His grandad doesn't speak English. - talk/chat - send letters	He calls/speaks to people other than his grandad.	2

Question	Key idea	Accept	Reject	Mark
18	- Speaking (Chinese/Mandarin is not easy/is difficult/is hard.) (1) - Writing (characters is harder/is more difficult.) (1) (in any/either order)	Chinese characters	People learning Chinese all know. (on its own) Speaking is harder than writing.	2

Question	Accept	Mark
19.1	A (how they will get around)	1

Question	Accept	Mark
19.2	C (opting for student tickets)	1

Question	Accept	Mark
19.3	E (working at weekends)	1

Question	Key idea	Accept	Reject	Mark
20.1	- colleagues - boyfriend and girlfriend (any one of above)	a couple/partners	friends	1

Question	Key idea	Accept	Reject	Mark
20.2	get married		celebrate the Spring Festival	1

Question	Key idea	Accept	Reject	Mark
21	- it/getting married at Chinese New Year is inconvenient. - booking a restaurant is troublesome. (must be in this order)			2

Question	Accept	Mark
22	D, G (in any order) D (hair loss) G (lack of sleep)	2

Question	Accept	Mark
23	A, H (in any order) A (addiction) H (work pressure)	2

Question	Accept	Mark
24	B, F (in any order) B (depression) F (lack of physical activity)	2

Question	Accept	Mark
25	A (Slow down to 30 kilometres per hour.)	1

Question	Accept	Mark
26	B (Turn left and take the seaside road.)	1

Question	Accept	Mark
27.1	A (foggy)	1

Question	Accept	Mark
27.2	A (by underground)	1

Total = 50 marks