Statistics

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Listening section

Task 1

Suggested responses

Question 1 (Content)

House checklist:
3 or 4 bedrooms    Family room
2 or 3 bathrooms    Living room
Close to shopping centre Rumpus room
Dining room         Swimming pool
Double garage

Question 2 (Content, Deduction, Recognition and appreciation)

He is likely to be satisfied for the following reasons:

- The real estate agent was very patient and gave detailed information to the man. She even provided extra information, e.g. the pool was solar-heated and the house was close to amenities such as schools and public transport.
- She provided good service. When the man asked to look at the house, she offered to drive him to it.
- The man showed he was satisfied with her service when he said he wanted to see the house straight away.
Comments

Most candidates responded adequately to this task. To achieve a better result, candidates needed to address the Content part as well as the Deduction and Recognition and appreciation parts of the criterion. A number of candidates simply translated what they heard, which only met the Content part of the criterion.

Some responses were difficult to understand because of unclear handwriting or the use of fragmented English.

Task 2

Suggested responses

Question 1 (Deduction, Recognition and appreciation)

The two speakers are friends. At the start of the conversation, the female recognised the male pretty quickly even though they hadn’t seen each other for two or three years. Towards the end of the conversation, the male invited the female to his house to look at the photographs and videos he had taken.

Question 2 (Content, Deduction)

The conversation was about how people from different countries celebrate New Year.

In Germany, there is a tree-climbing competition. People select a tall straight tree and cut off all the lower branches. On New Year’s Day, young men gather under the tree and take turns to climb it. The fastest climber is the "Climbing Hero".

In Switzerland, people gather on snowy mountains and sing songs to farewell the old year and welcome the New Year.

In Great Britain, people thoroughly clean their houses on New Year’s Day, believing that the cleaning will scare away evil spirits so that people will enjoy happiness in the New Year.

In Argentina, the most important activity on New Year’s Day is the “New Year Bath”. People come to the river with their family, throw baskets of fresh flower petals into the river, then jump in and wash themselves thoroughly with the petals. They believe that they will be happier in the New Year as they are free of dirt.

Question 3 (Deduction, Recognition and appreciation)

The female speaker was very interested in what she was being told, saying things such as “Very interesting”, “Where else did you go?” and “What did they do?”. Towards the end of the conversation, when she was invited to the male person’s house to look at the photos and videos, she immediately accepted the invitation and made an appointment for the following Sunday.

Comments

Most candidates responded quite well to the questions in this task.
**Task 3**

*Suggested responses*

**Question 1 (Content, Deduction)**

China has a 5000-year history of growing tea. Today, China has some of the world’s best varieties of tea, such as Pu’er, Longjing and Wulong.

**Question 2 (Content, Deduction)**

In the 16th century, a boat left China and headed for Europe. The crew included five sailors from China as well as sailors from several other countries. On the way, the boat encountered very strong winds and the crew faced starvation when it was blown off course. The boat eventually arrived at a port but, by that time, all of the sailors except for the five from China had become very ill with scurvy. The Chinese sailors had been drinking tea containing vitamin C, which protected them from scurvy.

**Question 3 (Content, Recognition and appreciation)**

The speaker’s intention is to urge people to drink Chinese tea. China has a long history of tea making and Chinese tea is world-famous. Tea can help prevent diseases, as the story told us. Its health benefits may even help protect people from diseases caused by radiation from computers.

**Comments**

Candidates responded adequately to the questions, although some candidates were let down by unclear handwriting or their use of fragmented English.

Prospective candidates need to demonstrate their understanding of the elements in the assessment criterion, e.g. Content, Deduction and Recognition and appreciation. Candidates generally also need to improve their English language literacy. Although minor spelling or grammatical errors will not affect the overall Listening grade awarded, responses that demonstrate an inadequate command of English will not receive full credit.

**Speaking section**

In 2010, all candidates were required to present a prepared two-minute speech in Chinese to an examiner. The majority of candidates were individually assessed in person, with remaining candidates assessed during individual telephone conversations. Candidates were sent information on four topics several weeks before the assessment date and required to research and prepare a two-minute speech on each topic. Candidates were able to take into the examination room notes written on one double-sided palm card for each topic and refer to them as they presented one of their four speeches.

There were two tasks in this section.
Task 1

Each candidate presented a speech (the examiner selected the topic). A demonstration of relevance, logic and organisation of a high level was expected. Most candidates performed well in this task, with appropriate and clear divisions of introduction, development and conclusion evident.

Task 2

Candidates were required to respond spontaneously to any questions from the examiner. This task provided candidates with the opportunity to express themselves on a variety of themes and topics based on the syllabus. Most candidates performed adequately in this task.

Prospective candidates should ensure they have an appropriate understanding of the Speaking section task instructions and respond accordingly.

Reading section

Task 1

Suggested responses

Question 1 (Content, Recognition and appreciation)

Sentences 1 and 8
These sentences describe what to do when receiving a gift. Sentence 1 says that it is good manners not to open a gift in front of the person giving it. Sentence 8 says that it is good manners to open a gift in front of the giver.

Sentences 2 and 5
These sentences describe a visitor’s behaviour during a meal. Sentence 2 says a visitor would leave some food on their plate/bowl when the meal is over (to show they have had enough). In sentence 5, it is considered good manners to finish everything on the plate/bowl.

Sentences 3 and 11
Both of these sentences are also about behaviour when eating. Sentence 3 says that the plate/bowl should stay on the table during the meal. Sentence 11 says it is good manners if the plate/bowl is held or even picked up if necessary when eating.

Sentences 4 and 9
These sentences discuss visitors’ arrival times when visiting friends. In sentence 4, it is considered to be polite if a visitor arrives 5 to 10 minutes late. However, sentence 9 says it is appropriate to arrive on time or even a few minutes early.

Sentences 6 and 12
These sentences also concern eating behaviour. Sentence 6 suggests that eating quietly is polite while sentence 12 suggests that eating noisily demonstrates satisfaction with the food.
Sentences 7 and 10
Both of these sentences discuss talking while eating. In sentence 7, it is fine to talk while eating. However, sentence 10 suggests that a person should not speak with a mouthful of food.
(Any four of the above pairings were acceptable.)

Comments
Most candidates responded adequately to this task, although many simply translated the text without demonstrating their recognition and appreciation of the contradictions as required. To achieve a better result, candidates needed to address the recognition and appreciation element of the criterion, rather than just the content element.

Task 2

Suggested responses

Question 1 (Content)
Xu Beihong is famous for painting the artwork “Galloping Horses”. The painting is so realistic it is almost as if the horses can be heard galloping.

Question 2 (Deduction, Recognition and appreciation)
The Chinese saying “功夫不负有心人” means that those who strive will succeed.
Xu Beihong was a living example of this. At the age of 9, he was taught how to paint by his father. As a child, he dreamt of going to the Louvre Museum in Paris to see famous paintings.
When he finally arrived in Paris as an adult, Xu Beihong was often seen in the Louvre. He would often paint for more than 10 hours without a break. He would also paint every night after a day of studying or copying paintings at the museum.
Xu Beihong had painted several thousand artworks involving horses and observed their daily habits and behaviour before he painted his masterpiece, “Galloping Horses”.
He also liked drawing lions and went to a zoo every day for three months to observe and draw lions.
He became a famous painter as a result of his dedication, hard work and skill.

Comments
All candidates responded to the questions. To improve their results for this task, candidates needed to select the most suitable information from the text to meet the elements of the criterion: Content, Deduction and Recognition and appreciation. Many candidates simply translated information that appeared relevant.
Task 3

Suggested responses

Question 1 (Content, Deduction)

It was because the Winter Olympic Games were held in Vancouver in 2010, the Year of the Tiger. The Chinese team was 8th highest overall in the number of medals won with five gold, two silver and four bronze. It was China’s highest medal count at a Winter Olympic Games.

Question 2 (Content)

The Chinese team came together and celebrated with a cake where the topping was designed in the shape of the Chinese flag. Led by Yangyang, China’s first Winter Olympics gold medallist, the team sang the Chinese national anthem and autographed (signed) a Chinese flag. A traditional Chinese festival was thus turned into a patriotic gathering.

Question 3 (Content, Deduction, Recognition and appreciation)

Candidates’ responses described a variety of reactions. Good responses included the following:

- Although China had participated in the Winter Olympics since 1980, they had not won any gold medals until 2002 when they won two. China won a further two gold medals in 2006. In 2010, China won five gold medals.
- Women did particularly well, winning all five gold medals in Vancouver.
- The medals were won in five different areas.
- China faces a challenge at the Winter Olympics as its development of winter sport is not balanced. Events involving snow are weaker than those held on ice. Men are less competitive than women. The medals won were not from a large variety of events.
- China has a long way to go before becoming a winter sports power.

Comments

Most candidates demonstrated their understanding of obvious information in the text, but were less successful in interpreting more subtle information. Some candidates were not able to support their conclusion successfully by using information in the text.

Prospective candidates should ensure they have an appropriate understanding of the assessment criterion’s elements: Content, Deduction and Recognition and appreciation. Many candidates should also improve their English language literacy.

Writing section

Comments

Task 1

All candidates were able to respond to this task, and some made good use of expressions. However, many candidates did not appear to have read the task carefully. Subsequently, their
blogs were about a special week in the candidate’s life rather than a typical week, which had an effect on results.

**Task 2**

All candidates responded to this task. However, once again, many candidates did not appear to have read the task carefully. The task was to argue whether all students in Queensland schools should learn Chinese as a school subject rather than some students learning Chinese because they have an interest. Many candidates provided insufficient support for their arguments. Articles for publication in newspapers usually have titles, yet most candidates neglected this convention.

**Advice to prospective candidates**

Prospective candidates should ensure that they have:

- an understanding of the terminology used in the task suggestions in the syllabus
- an understanding of the task instructions in the examination
- the ability to write simplified characters for at least those listed in the syllabus
- the ability to write in paragraphs and include more than one or two full stops for an article of 200–300 characters.