

**GCSE
CHINESE (MANDARIN)
8673/WF**

Paper 4 Writing Foundation

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.

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Part 1 – General marking guidance for GCSE MFL Writing Tests

Level of response marking instructions

Level of response mark schemes are broken down into levels, each of which has a descriptor. The descriptor for the level shows the average performance for the level. There are marks in each level.

Before you apply the mark scheme to a student's answer read through the answer and annotate it (as instructed) to show the qualities that are being looked for. You can then apply the mark scheme.

Step 1 Determine a level

Start at the lowest level of the mark scheme and use it as a ladder to see whether the answer meets the descriptor for that level. The descriptor for the level indicates the different qualities that might be seen in the student's answer for that level. If it meets the lowest level then go to the next one and decide if it meets this level, and so on, until you have a match between the level descriptor and the answer. With practice and familiarity you will find that for better answers you will be able to quickly skip through the lower levels of the mark scheme.

When assigning a level you should look at the overall quality of the answer and not look to pick holes in small and specific parts of the answer where the student has not performed quite as well as the rest. If the answer covers different aspects of different levels of the mark scheme you should use a best fit approach for defining the level and then use the variability of the response to help decide the mark within the level, ie if the response is predominantly level 3 with a small amount of level 4 material it would be placed in level 3 but be awarded a mark near the top of the level because of the level 4 content.

Step 2 Determine a mark

Once you have assigned a level you need to decide on the mark. The descriptors on how to allocate marks can help with this. The exemplar materials used during standardisation will help. There will be an answer in the standardising materials which will correspond with each level of the mark scheme. This answer will have been awarded a mark by the Lead Examiner. You can compare the student's answer with the example to determine if it is the same standard, better or worse than the example. You can then use this to allocate a mark for the answer based on the Lead Examiner's mark on the example.

You may well need to read back through the answer as you apply the mark scheme to clarify points and assure yourself that the level and the mark are appropriate.

Indicative content in the mark scheme is provided as a guide for examiners. It is not intended to be exhaustive and you must credit other valid points. Students do not have to cover all of the points mentioned in the Indicative content to reach the highest level of the mark scheme.

An answer which contains nothing of relevance to the question must be awarded no marks.

Marks will be allocated in the following way at Foundation Tier:

	Communication	Content	Quality of language	Conveying key messages	Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures	Total
Question 1	8					8
Question 2		10	6			16
Question 3				5	5	10
Question 4		10	6			16
Total	8	20	12	5	5	50

Foundation Question 1

There are 8 marks for Communication.

Candidates are required to write four sentences about what is in the photo. Each sentence is marked separately and is worth a maximum of two marks, according to these assessment criteria.

Mark	Communication
2	The relevant message is clearly communicated.
1	The message is relevant but has some ambiguity and causes a delay in communication.
0	The message is irrelevant or cannot be understood.

Statements must refer to what is in the photo and cannot refer to what is not in it. 'I like the photo' and similar opinions about the photo, without mentioning what is in it, will score 0. However, if the sentence reads, for example, 'I like the photo because it is sunny', it will score 2 marks.

If the sentence could possibly be true or is very broadly relevant, accept it. For instance, it is acceptable if the candidate writes 'The tent is green', even though the photo is in black and white. However, if the sentence is clearly false, it receives a mark of 0. For example, 'There is an elephant', when there clearly isn't one.

It is acceptable to write a figure (eg 'There are 2 people') rather than a word. This is true of all questions at both Foundation and Higher tiers.

The aim of this question is for candidates to write in the present tense, but other tenses are also acceptable.

For 2 marks

- The response must be in the form of a sentence, using an appropriate verb or stative verb. The same verb/grammatical structure may be repeated in more than one sentence, eg 这儿有…… plus different nouns or 他很…… plus different adjectives.
- Any sentence that is broadly relevant to the photo is given 2 marks. For example, imagine that the photo is of a man in a café. The student writes, in the target language: It's a man. He's old (even if to your eyes he may not be – 'old' to a 16-year old may be different from your perception of 'old'). He's a father (even if this is not apparent from the photo, it would potentially be true). He's a teacher (he could be, for all we know).

- The use of first person, second person or third person is acceptable, for example: ‘you are playing football’.
- There may be minor character writing errors, but the message must be communicated without ambiguity.

For 1 mark

- There is no subject or verb and a minimum of three characters, for example: ‘three people’, unless it is linked with a stative verb, eg 很高 or word expression like 他高.
- The use of a measure word in an otherwise appropriate response.
- Language error(s) causing ambiguity or a delay in communication, for example: ‘They are eating lemonade’.
- A delay in communication because the response is too long, where one part communicates well but another part does not, for example: ‘There is a family and they are a field’.

For 0 marks

- The message makes no sense.
- Two characters or less, unless the situation stated above.

Foundation Question 2

There are 10 marks for Content + 6 marks for Quality of language (16 marks in total).

Candidates write approximately 30 characters in total about four different bullet points. All bullet points are compulsory and must be covered, but there is no need for equal coverage of the bullets.

Everything a candidate writes must be marked, even if it is well beyond the suggested number of characters. This principle applies to all writing questions at Foundation and Higher.

When deciding a particular mark, it is advisable to identify the band of marks first, and then decide whether you are tempted by the band above or the band below. This will enable you to award an appropriate mark within a mark range.

The question is marked for Content and for Quality of language, according to the following criteria:

Marks	Response
9–10	A full coverage of the required information. Communication is clear.
7–8	A good coverage of the required information. Communication is mostly clear but perhaps with occasional lapses.
5–6	A reasonable coverage of the required information. Communication is generally clear but there are likely to be lapses.
3–4	A partial coverage of the required information. Communication is sometimes clear but there are instances where messages are not conveyed.
1–2	A minimal coverage of the required information. Communication is often not clear and there may be frequent instances where messages are not conveyed.
0	The content does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

The candidate's response must be relevant to the bullet points. Any information which cannot be deemed relevant must be ignored when awarding a mark for Content.

- A minimum number of bullet points must be covered for the award of marks for Content, as follows:
 - 9–10 marks: 4 bullet points
 - 5–8 marks: 3 bullet points
 - 3–4 marks: 2 bullet points
 - 1–2 marks: 1 bullet point
- The information that the candidate gives must be clear. If what is written is unclear, this will have a bearing on the mark for Content. For example, the candidate may convey information in relation to all four bullet points, but lapses in clarity may mean that a lower mark than the 9 or 10 is more appropriate. The more lapses in clarity that there are, the lower the mark is likely to be. All of the information that a candidate attempts to give in relation to a particular bullet point may be unintelligible, in which case that bullet point will not have been covered, meaning that a mark of 9 or 10 will be impossible, as the response will not display full coverage of the required information.
- The suggested number of characters is 30. If a candidate writes less than 20 characters, it will not be sufficient to access the top band.
- 'Lapses' are instances where the inaccuracy of the language is such that there is a delay in communication or nothing at all is conveyed.
- There is no requirement in this question for the candidate to refer to events in the past or future, so using the present tense only will enable coverage of the bullet points. However, the bullet points tend to be general and so references to the past or to the future are acceptable. For example, if the bullet point says 'Holidays', the candidate may choose to write about a past or future holiday. Lapses will occur when there is a mix of time markers and tenses, for example: 'Last week I will go to the beach'.
- There is no requirement for candidates to present their piece of writing in a particular way because of the context, eg a blog or email does not need to look like a blog or email. It is the content which is to be marked.

Quality of language

Marks	Response
5–6	Uses a variety of appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures. Generally accurate.
3–4	Vocabulary and grammatical structures generally appropriate to the task, with some attempt at variety. More accurate than inaccurate.
1–2	Vocabulary and structures used may be limited, repetitive or inappropriate. There may be frequent errors.
0	The language produced does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

- The whole of the response must be assessed when awarding the mark for Quality of language, even if some of it is irrelevant to the bullet points. There are no dependencies between the two sets of criteria.

- Once you have decided on the mark for Content, you should read through the response once more and decide on the mark for Quality of language. Each band has three strands: variety of vocabulary; variety of structures; accuracy of the language. Sometimes it will be necessary to adopt a 'best fit' approach, because the three strands will not be consistently demonstrated. So, for example, the writing may be very accurate, but the vocabulary and structures are so repetitive that a mark in the 3–4 band is more appropriate than the 5–6 band. If you find that two of the three strands fit a particular band you are likely to award a mark in that band. Whether it is the top or bottom mark in the band will depend on how well or how poorly the third strand is reflected in the writing as a whole.
- This mark is not limited by the Content mark, unless the mark for Content is 0, in which case the mark for Quality of language must also be 0.
- However, sometimes a candidate may only attempt one or two of the bullets in a very short piece of writing; or they may answer all of them very briefly, using six or seven characters. Even if this writing is totally accurate with appropriate vocabulary and structures, a high mark for Quality of language would be inappropriate because of the lack of linguistic variety.
- Variety of language will be shown through, for example, different adjectives; different persons of the verb; some variety in the nouns and verbs used.
- In this question, you are looking for a variety of language and **not** complexity.

Foundation Question 3

5 marks for Conveying key messages + 5 marks for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures (10 marks in total).

Candidates translate into the target language a number of sentences in English, totalling at least 25 words. The translation is marked for Conveying key messages and for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures, according to the following criteria:

Conveying key messages

Marks	Responses
5	All key messages are conveyed.
4	Nearly all key messages are conveyed.
3	Most key messages are conveyed.
2	Some key messages are conveyed.
1	Few key messages are conveyed.
0	No key messages are conveyed.

The translation is divided into 12 key messages. A tick will be awarded for each key message that is communicated, despite any minor inaccuracies. The total number of ticks awarded equates to a mark according to this table.

Total ticks	Mark
12	5
10/11	4
7/8/9	3
4/5/6	2
1/2/3	1
0	0

When deciding on whether a key message is conveyed, you should ask yourself the question: ‘Would a native speaker understand the target language version without reference to the original English?’ If the answer is ‘yes’, award a tick.

Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures

Marks	Response
5	Very good knowledge of vocabulary and structures; highly accurate.
4	Good knowledge of vocabulary and structures; generally accurate.
3	Reasonable knowledge of vocabulary and structures; more accurate than inaccurate.
2	Limited knowledge of vocabulary and structures; generally inaccurate.
1	Very limited knowledge of vocabulary and structures; highly inaccurate.
0	The language produced does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Once you have decided on the mark for Conveying key messages, you should read through the translation once more and decide on the mark for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures.

- This mark is not limited by the Conveying key messages mark, unless the mark for Conveying key messages is 0, in which case the mark for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures must also be 0.
- There is no direct correlation between the two marks, but your first thought should be to see if the same mark is appropriate. For example, a candidate may have been given 5 ticks and you have awarded a mark of 3 for Conveying key messages. You may have had to hesitate when deciding on one of the ticks but gave the benefit of the doubt. This may then encourage you to consider a mark of 2, rather than 3, for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures.
- If a candidate leaves gaps, you must assume that any attempt would have been highly inaccurate and award a mark accordingly. Not to do so will penalise unfairly those candidates who make an attempt but commit serious errors in so doing.
- Perfection is **not** required for full marks. For example, occasional missing accents and minor spelling errors do not preclude a top band mark. However, if there are numerous minor errors and incorrect use of accents which change the meaning of a word, this is likely to have an impact on the mark for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures.

Foundation Question 4/Higher Question 1

10 marks for Content + 6 marks for Quality of language (16 marks in total).

Candidates write approximately 75 characters in total about four different bullet points. All bullet points must be covered, but **there is no need for equal coverage of the bullets**.

When deciding a particular mark, it is advisable to identify the band of marks first, and then decide whether you are tempted by the band above or the band below. This will enable you to award an appropriate mark within a mark range.

The question is marked for Content and for Quality of language, according to the following criteria.

(NOTE THAT THESE CRITERIA ARE DIFFERENT FROM FOUNDATION QUESTION 2):

Content

Marks	Response
9–10	A very good response covering all aspects of the task. Communication is clear and a lot of information is conveyed. Opinions are expressed.
7–8	A good response covering all aspects of the task. Communication is mostly clear but perhaps with occasional lapses. Quite a lot of information is conveyed. Opinions are expressed.
5–6	A reasonable response covering almost all aspects of the task. Communication is generally clear but there are likely to be lapses. Some information is conveyed. An opinion is expressed.
3–4	A basic response covering some aspects of the task. Communication is sometimes clear but there are instances where messages break down. Little information is conveyed. An opinion is expressed.
1–2	A limited response covering some aspects of the task. Communication is often not clear and there may be frequent instances where messages break down. Very little information is conveyed. There may be no opinions expressed.
0	The content does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

The candidate's response must be relevant to the bullet points. Any information which cannot be deemed relevant in the broadest sense must be ignored when awarding the mark for Content.

A **minimum** number of bullet points must be covered for the award of marks for Content, as follows:

- 7–10 marks: 4 bullet points
- 5–6 marks: 3 bullet points
- 3–4 marks: 2 bullet points
- 1–2 marks: 1 bullet point

The information that the candidate gives must be clear. If what is written is unclear, this will have a bearing on the mark for Content. For example, the candidate may convey information in relation to all four bullet points, but lapses in clarity may mean that a lower mark than the 9 or 10 is more appropriate. The more lapses in clarity that there are, the lower the mark is likely to be. All of the information that a candidate attempts to give in relation to a particular bullet point may be unintelligible, in which case that bullet point will not have been covered, meaning that the **maximum mark** will be 6.

You must accept any information which is a plausible response to the bullet point, even if it does not explicitly mention, for instance, a time or place. For example, if the bullet asks what the candidate did last weekend, and he/she writes 'I went to see my grandparents and then went to a theme park', this can feasibly be an account of what happened last weekend, even though 'last weekend' is not mentioned. Equally, if the student is asked to say what he/she does on a typical visit to a shopping centre and they write 'I bought some clothes and went to see a film', this is also an acceptable fulfilment of the task, even though 'shopping centre' is not mentioned.

The band refers to the amount of information that is conveyed, as follows:

- 9–10: a lot
- 7–8: quite a lot
- 5–6: some
- 3–4: little
- 1–2: very little

All of these have to be considered with reference to the suggested number of characters, which is approximately 75. In other words, a candidate who writes approximately 75 characters, clearly understandable and relevant to all four bullet points, will be able to achieve 10 marks, provided the other criteria are met. Conversely, a candidate may write much more than 75 characters, but the language is so inaccurate that little or very little information is conveyed successfully and the mark will be much lower. If a candidate writes considerably fewer than 75 characters, 'a lot of information' will not be conveyed.

The candidate must give opinions in order to have access to certain marks, as follows:

- 7–10: two opinions
- 3–6: one opinion

This is not an automatic mark and the other criteria within a particular band must be met. If there is no opinion, the maximum mark is 2. An opinion may be expressed simply, for example: 'I like going shopping'. Any positive or negative adjective ('interesting'; 'boring', etc) is classed as an opinion. A neutral or descriptive adjective is only classed as an opinion if it is preceded by something like 'I think that'. For example: 'I think that my town is big'.

Quality of language

Marks	Response
5–6	A variety of appropriate vocabulary is used. Complex structures and sentences are attempted. There are references to three time frames, which are largely successful. Errors are mainly minor. Some more serious errors may occur, particularly in complex structures and sentences, but the intended meaning is nearly always clear. The style and register are appropriate.
3–4	Some variety of appropriate vocabulary is used. There may be some attempt at complex structures and sentences. There are references to at least two different time frames, although these may not always be successful. There may be some major errors, and more frequent minor errors, but overall the response is more accurate than inaccurate and the intended meaning is usually clear. The style and register may not always be appropriate.
1–2	The range of vocabulary may be narrow, repetitive and/or inappropriate to the needs of the task. Sentences are mainly short and simple or may not be properly constructed. There may be frequent major and minor errors. Little or no awareness of style and register.
0	The language produced does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

The whole of the response must be assessed when awarding the mark for Quality of language, even if some of it is irrelevant to the bullet points.

Once you have decided on the mark for Content, you should read through the response once more and decide on the mark for Quality of language. A mark of 0 for Content automatically results in a mark of 0 for Quality of language but, apart from that, the Content mark does not limit the mark for Quality of language. However, a short piece is unlikely to demonstrate sufficient variety for a high mark for Quality of language.

- Each band has five strands: variety of vocabulary; complexity of structures and sentences; reference to time frames; accuracy of the language; style and register. Sometimes it will be necessary to adopt a ‘best fit’ approach, because the five strands will not be consistently demonstrated. Whether it is the top or bottom mark in the band will depend on whether the criteria are nearer to those of the band above or below.
- In order to score in the 5–6 band, there **must** be reference to all three time frames (past, present and future). For the 3–4 band, there **must** be reference to at least two time frames. Reference to a particular time frame may be demonstrated with one example. The verb used to refer to a particular time frame need not be totally correct, provided the message is clear. These marks are not awarded automatically and the other criteria in the band are equally important. Notice that references are to **time frames**, not tenses. So, for example, the present tense usage in the following sentence is a reference to a **future** time frame: ‘I’m going to the concert next week’.
- When considering the complexity of the language, you should bear in mind that a) this is the overlap question and is attempted by both Foundation and Higher candidates; b) that the criteria for Quality of language in this question are not as demanding as the language criteria for Higher Question 2. However, for a mark of 5 or 6, complex structures and sentences are attempted. They may not always be successful and this may lead to serious errors because of the complexity of the structure or sentence which the candidate attempts. Complexity may be shown in some of the following ways: different tenses; intensifiers; time markers; connectives; subordinate clauses; infinitive constructions. This should not be seen as a ‘tick list’, but rather as an indication of the definition of complexity at GCSE level.

- The setting and bullet points are likely to mean that the style and register of the writing will be appropriate. If informal address is used when the task is in a formal setting, or vice versa, there is no need to penalise the candidate merely for that. It may, however, be a contributory factor in the award of the overall mark if there are other weaknesses.
- There is no requirement for candidates to present their piece of writing in a particular way because of the context, eg a blog or email does not need to look like a blog or email. It is the content which is to be marked.

Appendix 1

Notes on the use of language

The following notes are a guide to the kind of language that may help to fulfil the criteria for higher bands of marks in the Quality of language and Range of language categories. They should **not** be seen as a checklist.

Variety of vocabulary

Consider particularly:

- the use of vocabulary from different themes/topics
- the use of synonyms, such as, using 打算 instead of 想/要
- the emphasis of measure words where they may not be seen as essential, such as 我喝了一杯茶 instead of 我喝了茶
- use of more sophisticated vocabulary – though the emphasis is on avoiding a lot of conspicuous repetition.

Variety of structures

Consider, for example:

- use of connectives such as 因为……所以……, 虽然……但是……, 不但……而且……, 除了……还……, 又……又……, 一边……一边……, 如果……就……, 一……就……
- use of indirect speech 我觉得
- use of modal verbs
- use of comparative expressions (比, 跟……一样)
- use of superlatives (最)
- use of complex sentences and a range of time frames
- use of exclamations (太……了).

Use of complex/longer sentences

Consider:

- use of 得 structure
- use of time clauses, such as ……有兴趣.
- use of sequence words 先, 然后/再, 最后
- use of 是……的 structure to express emphasis
- use of disjunctive pronouns (妈妈送我去……, 爸爸给我过生日)
- use of 对 structure (对……影响很大).

Use of time frames/tenses

- The criteria for Quality of language in Foundation Question 4/Higher Question 1 include ‘references to two/three time frames’. In Chinese a verb does not inflect or change its form to indicate tense: therefore a time word, or a time expression, or a time reference or context for the action of the verb must be clearly provided when referring to past, present or future events and actions. Modal verbs such as 想, 会, 打算, 希望 or 要 + verb, etc can indicate the future. Aspectual particles/(aspect marks) can also be accepted for actions with different time references, eg verb + 过 or 了 can indicate past experience.
- The criteria for Accuracy in Higher Question 2 refer to ‘tense formations’. In this question, a candidate can impress by showing that he/she can use a good range of tenses, thereby adding to the range and complexity of language.

Appendix 2

A glossary of terms used in the Writing assessment criteria

NB This alphabetical list corresponds to all questions on both Foundation and Higher papers.

ambiguity	A problem with immediate communication caused by grammatical inaccuracy or a contradiction (eg, 'I love it because it's boring').
appropriate	Language which is suitable for the requirements of the task.
coherent	Language which is easy to follow with a logical sequencing of ideas. See 'fluent'.
complex sentences	Sentences which contain a subordinate clause or clauses. See Appendix 1 for examples.
complex structures	See Appendix 1 for examples.
confidence	Accurate use of language.
delay in communication	A problem with immediate communication caused by grammatical or lexical inaccuracy.
fluent	Language which is easy to follow with a logical sequencing of ideas. See 'coherent'.
grammatical structures	Structures which are listed in the specification.
justified	The reason for holding a stated opinion.
key messages	With reference to the translation questions on both papers, these are the key messages as identified in the mark scheme.
lapses	A problem with communication caused by grammatical inaccuracy.
linking words	Words such as 因为, 但是 used to create longer sentences.
longer sentences	These may be complex, with more difficult subordinations, or more simple through the use of linking words such as 因为……所以……, 虽然……但是……
major errors	Errors which impair communication.
minor errors	Errors which do not have a bearing on communication.
opinions	A positive/negative verb or adjective used to give an opinion; or a neutral adjective, such as 'big', preceded by something like 'I think that'. For example 'I think that my bedroom is very small'.
secure	Accurate.
structures	See 'grammatical structures'.
style and register	The style of writing. Usually this will be determined by the nature of the task, requiring informal or formal register.
time frames	The use of time markers, which refer to past, present or future events, eg 昨天早饭我吃面包 (past); 今天我吃面条 (present); 明天我想吃鸡蛋 (future).
variety	Use of different verbs, nouns and adjectives which avoid a lot of conspicuous repetition.

Part 2 – Marking guidance for June 2025 series**Question 01**

For this question, students are required to write four sentences. Each sentence is marked according to the following criteria. The maximum mark is 8.

[8 marks]

Mark	Response
2	The relevant message is clearly communicated.
1	The message is relevant but has some ambiguity and causes a delay in communication.
0	The message is irrelevant or cannot be understood.

The following are examples of responses that students may give to this question. This is by no means a definitive list.

	2 marks	1 mark	0 marks	
01.1	她是妈妈。	她妈妈	她是	[2 marks]
01.2	他十二岁。	也十二岁	他岁	[2 marks]
01.3	这儿/里有四个人。	四个人	四人	[2 marks]
01.4	他们买东西。	买东西	东西	[2 marks]

NB The whole sentence should be considered when awarding marks.

Question 02

For this question, there are four compulsory bullet points, which are assessed for Content (10 marks) and Quality of language (6 marks), as specified in the criteria below. The maximum mark is 16. The student is expected to produce approximately 30 characters over the whole question. The number of characters is approximate and you must mark all work produced by the student.

[16 marks]**Content**

Level	Marks	Response
5	9–10	A full coverage of the required information. Communication is clear.
4	7–8	A good coverage of the required information. Communication is mostly clear but perhaps with occasional lapses.
3	5–6	A reasonable coverage of the required information. Communication is generally clear but there are likely to be lapses.
2	3–4	A partial coverage of the required information. Communication is sometimes clear but there are instances where messages are not conveyed.
1	1–2	A minimal coverage of the required information. Communication is often not clear and there may be frequent instances where messages are not conveyed.
0	0	The content does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Quality of language

Level	Marks	Response
3	5–6	Uses a variety of appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures. Generally accurate.
2	3–4	Vocabulary and grammatical structures generally appropriate to the task, with some attempt at variety. More accurate than inaccurate.
1	1–2	Vocabulary and structures used may be limited, repetitive or inappropriate. There may be frequent errors.
0	0	The language produced does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

A mark of zero for Content automatically results in a mark of zero for Quality of language, but apart from that, the Content mark does not limit the mark for Quality of language.

Bullet	Accept	Reject
your friend's personality	Accept answers linking to personality	
your friend's appearance	Accept any descriptions of appearance	
your friend's hobby	Accept any hobby or activity	
your friend's future plans	Accept any future activities/plans within the context	

The following indicative content is an example of the response that students may give to this question.

我的朋友是英国人。他很友好。 他很高，也很好看。他喜欢跑步。他想做老师。

(29 characters)

Question 03

The translation is assessed for Conveying key messages (5 marks) and Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures (5 marks), as specified in the criteria below. The maximum mark is 10. When awarding the marks, the student's response across all five sentences should be considered as a whole.

[10 marks]**Conveying key messages**

Level	Marks	Response
5	5	All key messages are conveyed.
4	4	Nearly all key messages are conveyed.
3	3	Most key messages are conveyed.
2	2	Some key messages are conveyed.
1	1	Few key messages are conveyed.
0	0	No key messages are conveyed.

Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures

Level	Marks	Response
5	5	Very good knowledge of vocabulary and structures; highly accurate.
4	4	Good knowledge of vocabulary and structures; generally accurate.
3	3	Reasonable knowledge of vocabulary and structures; more accurate than inaccurate.
2	2	Limited knowledge of vocabulary and structures; generally inaccurate.
1	1	Very limited knowledge of vocabulary and structures; highly inaccurate.
0	0	The language produced does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

A mark of zero for Conveying key messages automatically results in a mark of zero for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures, but apart from that, the Conveying key messages mark does not limit the mark for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures.

Key messages

The translation is divided into 12 key messages (see below). As a general rule, the **wrong person** or **wrong time frame** of a verb will not receive a tick. Minor inaccuracies, such as in character writing, however, providing it does not lead to different meaning, will not on their own prevent the award of a tick.

	Message	Accept	Reject
1	He has	他有	Any wrong pronoun
2	a blue coat.	(一件) 蓝色大衣。	Other incorrect colour Wrong item of clothes
3	She likes	她……喜欢	
4	history	历史。	Other incorrect subject
5	the most.	……最……	
6	The classroom	教室	Other incorrect place
7	is above	在……上面/边 ……上面/边是/有……	上面 (missing 在) incorrect preposition
8	the library.	图书馆	Other incorrect place
9	My older brother	我哥哥	Any other members of family
10	is a scientist.	是(一个) 科学家。	other incorrect occupation
11	Last month,	上个月,	Wrong time word is used
12	I went to China.	我去(了) 中国。 Providing no.11 is correct.	

Other reasonable alternative translations will also be accepted.

A tick will be awarded for each key message that is communicated, despite any minor inaccuracies. The total number of ticks awarded equates to a mark according to this table.

Total ticks	Mark
12	5
10/11	4
7/8/9	3
4/5/6	2
1/2/3	1
0	0

Question 04

For this question, there are four compulsory bullet points which are assessed for Content (10 marks) and Quality of language (6 marks), as specified in the criteria below. The maximum mark is 16. The student is expected to produce approximately 75 characters for this task. The number of characters is approximate and you must mark all work produced by the student.

[16 marks]**Content**

Level	Marks	Response
5	9–10	A very good response covering all aspects of the task. Communication is clear and a lot of information is conveyed. Opinions are expressed.
4	7–8	A good response covering all aspects of the task. Communication is mostly clear but perhaps with occasional lapses. Quite a lot of information is conveyed. Opinions are expressed.
3	5–6	A reasonable response covering almost all aspects of the task. Communication is generally clear but there are likely to be lapses. Some information is conveyed. An opinion is expressed.
2	3–4	A basic response covering some aspects of the task. Communication is sometimes clear but there are instances where messages break down. Little information is conveyed. An opinion is expressed.
1	1–2	A limited response covering some aspects of the task. Communication is often not clear and there may be frequent instances where messages break down. Very little information is conveyed. There may be no opinions expressed.
0	0	The content does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

There may be some imbalance in the coverage of the four compulsory bullet points but, provided at least some coverage of all bullet points is evident, students will have access to full marks where the other criteria are met.

Quality of language

Level	Marks	Response
3	5–6	A variety of appropriate vocabulary is used. Complex structures and sentences are attempted. There are references to three time frames, which are largely successful. Errors are mainly minor. Some more serious errors may occur, particularly in complex structures and sentences, but the intended meaning is nearly always clear. The style and register are appropriate.
2	3–4	Some variety of appropriate vocabulary is used. There may be some attempt at complex structures and sentences. There are references to at least two different time frames, although these may not always be successful. There may be some major errors, and more frequent minor errors, but overall the response is more accurate than inaccurate and the intended meaning is usually clear. The style and register may not always be appropriate.
1	1–2	The range of vocabulary may be narrow, repetitive and/or inappropriate to the needs of the task. Sentences are mainly short and simple or may not be properly constructed. There may be frequent major and minor errors. Little or no awareness of style and register.
0	0	The language produced does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

- (a) A major error is one which seriously affects communication.
- (b) A mark of zero for Content automatically results in a mark of zero for Quality of language. Apart from that, the Content mark does not limit the mark for Quality of language.

Question 04.1 Content

Bullet	Comments
your views on your house	Any views on one's home are acceptable, eg a house, a flat.
a recent celebration at home	The celebration does not necessarily mean a festival. It can be any occasion, providing it makes sense within the context and expresses joy. It must reference the past.
a place that you often go to in your neighbourhood	Any places in local areas are acceptable, providing they makes sense within the context.
where you would like to live in the future	There needs to be a reference to the future, either by the use of a future time frame or through a future time marker, eg 三十岁的时候.

Question 04.2 Content

Bullet	Comments
activities young people like	Any activities young people like to do are acceptable, providing they are clear in the context. Young people may refer to 年轻人、中学生、学生 or just 我/我们 as candidates themselves are young people.
how you spent last weekend	Any reasonable activities given are acceptable with indication it took place in the past, providing any equivalent past time expression indicated for last weekend, such as 上个周末、上个星期六 or 上个星期天/日.
your views about local leisure facilities	Positive and/or negative views are acceptable, providing they are reasonable.
suggestions on how to improve these facilities for the future	There needs to be a reference to the future, either by the use of a future time frame or through a future time marker, eg, 我二十岁的时候.

The following indicative content is an example of the response that students may give to this question. It demonstrates a balanced coverage of the compulsory bullet points.

Either or	Question 04.1	This is a possible response (indicative content): 我家不大不小。昨天是爸爸的生日，我们在家给爸爸过了生日。除了牛肉，妈妈还做了面条。虽然面条很好吃，但是我吃得不多。我家附近的公园很美丽，我常常去那儿。我工作的时候，我想住在中国。 (78 characters) [16 marks]
	Question 04.2	This is a possible response (indicative content): 年轻人喜欢上网和看电影。我觉得上网比看电影有意思。上个周末，我去公园跑了步。我一边跑步一边听音乐。我们的公园很小。在我十八岁的时候，如果我住的地方有个大公园，那就太好了。 (76 characters) [16 marks]

However, there may be some imbalance in the coverage of the compulsory bullet points but, provided at least some coverage of all bullet points is evident, students will still have access to full marks where the other criteria are met.