2011 Cantonese

Intermediate 1 Writing

Finalised Marking Instructions

Intermediate 1

Task: Form completion (simple personal profile). Candidates are required to write 3 sentences under each of 4 headings.

Assessment Process:

1. Assess the overall quality of the response and allocate it to a category/ mark, with reference to the extended Criteria for Marking overleaf.

2. Check that 3 sentences have been written under each heading.

3. Deduct 2 marks (ie single marks, not pegged ones) for each incomplete section, up to a maximum of 2 incomplete sections. If 3 or 4 sections are incomplete, the mark must be 0.

Category	Mark	Content	Accuracy	Language Resource – Variety, Range, Structures
Very Good	15	• All four areas are covered fully, in a balanced way, perhaps including some complex sentences and/or there is some personal input. • In some cases, the candidate has greatly exceeded the requirements of the task.	• Characters are accurate. • Where the candidate attempts to use language more appropriate to Intermediate 2, a slightly higher number of inaccuracies need not detract from the overall very good impression.	• There is good use of adjectives, adverbs and prepositional phrases and, where appropriate, sentence structure. • The candidate may use co-ordinating conjunctions and/or subordinate clauses. • A range of vocabulary is used successfully. • The language flows well.
Good	12	• All four tasks are addressed, perhaps mainly using simple sentences. • In some cases, the candidate addresses three of the four areas more fully, perhaps using a few complex sentences. • There is perhaps some repetition of characters, especially in areas 1 and 4.	• Where the candidate is attempting to use more complex sentence structure, this is unsuccessful, although basic sentence structure is used accurately. • The accuracy of characters is high, with one or two minor slips.	• There may be one or two examples of a co-ordinating conjunction, but most sentences are simple sentences. • Within the areas of Family and Leisure Time, there may be a tendency to use the same structures on two or three occasions. • Where relevant, sentence structure is simple.

Category	Mark	Content	Accuracy	Language Resource – Variety, Range, Structures
Satisfactory	9	• The candidate uses only simple, basic sentences. • The language is fairly repetitive and uses a limited number of characters.	• Most characters are accurate. • While the language may be reasonably accurate in three areas, it may deteriorate in the remaining one.	• Sentences are basic and mainly brief. • There is minimal use of adjectives.
Unsatisfactory	6	• The content is basic. • The language is repetitive, eg I have, I learn, I play may feature three times within one area.	• The characters written are generally accurate. • One or two errors are serious, often in an expression such as 'my mother's name'. • There may be one sentence which is not intelligible to a sympathetic native speaker. • The final two areas may well be significantly weaker than the first two.	• Sentences are basic. • An English word/a few Pinyin may appear in the writing.

Category	Mark	Content	Accuracy	Language Resource – Variety, Range, Structures
Poor	3	• The content is very basic, eg My school is (name). My school is big, My school has a football team. • The language is simple.	• The language is probably inaccurate throughout the writing. • Three or four sentences may not be understood by a sympathetic native speaker.	• Sentences are very short. • The candidate has a very limited vocabulary. • Several English words/many Pinyin may appear in the writing.
Very Poor	0	• The candidate has not completed at least two of the areas. • The candidate has written the answers under the wrong heading on at least three occasions.	• (Virtually) nothing is correct. • Most of the errors are serious. • Very little is intelligible to a sympathetic native speaker.	• Very few characters are written correctly. • English words are used or Pinyin dominates.

What if …?	
the candidate has performed poorly in the introductory section or has even omitted it?	It is not impossible that even the best candidates will omit this on the day of the examination. Pay minimal attention to this. Do not allow it to influence your judgement of the addressing of the four tasks below.
three sections fit into one category but the fourth one is in the next, lower category?	Award the grade that the three sections are worth, assuming that they clearly belong in that category. If, on the other hand, you are undecided between two categories, award the higher mark.
… and if the discrepancy is by more than one pegged mark?	In this case, you should probably compromise on the middle mark. In other words, if three sections are Satisfactory but one is Poor, then the overall grade Unsatisfactory should be awarded.
two sections are at one level and two at another?	In such a case it may be wise to consider which two categories are better. If the better sections include the first section, which is very basic, you are less likely to be generous than if the final sections were of a better quality. You must look carefully at the quality of the candidate's work and then come to a decision. If you cannot decide, the rule of thumb is always to give the candidate the benefit of the doubt.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]