S2 Putonghua Practice Paper

S2 | Putonghua | Time: 45 minutes | Total: 100 marks | 24 questions

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Part A: Pinyin and Tones (16 marks)

Write the full pinyin with tones and state the tone-change rule.

1. Write the pinyin of the greeting ni3 hao3 ("hello") and state how the tones are actually pronounced when read together.

2. The pinyin of "to learn" is xue2. On which letter does the tone mark go? Give the rule.

3. Write the pinyin of bu4 shi4 ("is not") and explain the tone change of bu4.

4. The pinyin of "chair" is yi3 zi. Which tone does the second syllable take?

Part B: Initials, Finals and Spelling Rules (16 marks)

State the initial or final and explain the spelling rule.

5. How many initials are there in Putonghua?

6. The pinyin of "middle" is zhong1. Give its initial and its final.

7. How is the final i written when it forms a syllable on its own? Give one example.

8. When the final of nü3 follows n, are the two dots kept? What happens after j, q and x?

Part C: Measure Words and Collocation (16 marks)

Fill in a suitable measure word and explain the collocation.

9. Which measure word completes "one ___ horse"?

10. Which measure word completes "three ___ sheets of paper"?

11. Which measure word completes "five ___ flowers"?

12. Name three kinds of noun that can follow tiao2, with one example each.

Part D: Listening and Working with Numbers (18 marks)

Note the key facts, show the working and give the unit.

13. The recording says: leave home at 9:15 a.m. and the journey takes 40 minutes. What time do you arrive?

14. An adult ticket costs 48 dollars and a student ticket 24 dollars. Find the total cost of three adult tickets and two student tickets.

15. At about 120 characters per minute, how many characters are spoken in 2 minutes 30 seconds?

16. An activity runs from 2:40 p.m. to 4:10 p.m. How many minutes is that?

Part E: Reading Pauses and Intonation (16 marks)

Decide the pause, intonation or pronunciation and give a reason.

17. Where should the two pauses fall in the sentence "Today I went to the library and borrowed three books"?

18. How should the intonation be handled at the end of a question?

19. Which tone are de, le and ma usually read in when reading aloud?

20. What reading speed, in characters per minute, is suitable for reading aloud?

Part F: Topic Talk (18 marks)

Write out the structure, the number of characters and the time allocation.

21. A talk lasts 2 minutes at about 120 characters per minute. About how many characters are needed?

22. What are the three parts of the structure of a topic talk?

23. Should a topic talk use colloquial speech or bookish written style?

24. How should the two minutes be allocated?
