S6 Chinese Literature Practice Paper

S6 | Chinese Literature | Time: 90 minutes | Total: 100 marks | 24 questions

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Part A: Tang and Song Verse Forms and Line Counts (18 marks)

Show your working; give percentages and decimals to one place.

1. (5 marks) A five-character quatrain has four lines of five characters each. Find the total number of characters; if it is rewritten as a seven-character quatrain, find the percentage increase.

2. (5 marks) A regulated verse (lu shi) has eight lines. If the poet writes four lines a day, how many days are needed? State also the requirement that the two middle couplets be parallel.

3. (4 marks) A certain ci tune has two stanzas: 48 characters in the upper stanza and 47 in the lower. Find the total number of characters; if a line averages six characters, about how many lines are there (round up)?

4. (4 marks) A song suite (tao shu) uses 3 tune names in one mode, with 2 songs under each tune name. Find the number of songs; if each song averages 30 characters, about how many characters is the whole suite?

Part B: Structure and Devices in Classical Prose (17 marks)

Show the working first, then the conclusion; percentages to one decimal place.

5. (4 marks) A discursive essay has 480 characters, of which 180 form the argument section. Find the argument section as a percentage of the whole (one decimal place).

6. (5 marks) The essay has 480 characters in 6 paragraphs. Find the average characters per paragraph; if the first paragraph has 60 characters, what is the average for the remaining paragraphs?

7. (4 marks) The essay has 12 parallel couplets, each with two lines of seven characters. Find the total characters in the parallel lines and their percentage of the 480-character essay (one decimal place).

8. (4 marks) Give one example each of parallelism, rhetorical question (setting the question) and rhetorical question (expecting no answer) in classical prose, and explain the function of each in a discursive essay.

Part C: Modern Fiction and Prose (17 marks)

Show your working; percentages to one decimal place.

9. (5 marks) Lu Xun published "A Madman's Diary" in 1918 and "Call to Arms" in 1923. Find the interval in years; if 12 stories appeared in that period, what is the average per year (one decimal place)?

10. (4 marks) Compare first-person limited, omniscient and objective (dramatic) narrative viewpoints, giving one strength and one limitation of each.

11. (4 marks) A 3000-character short story is divided into 5 sections, with the first taking 20 percent. Find the characters in the first section and the average for each remaining section.

12. (4 marks) Distinguish symbol from simile/metaphor in a prose essay and give one example of each with its effect.

Part D: Identifying Literary Devices (16 marks)

Short answers: name the device and give the reason for your judgement.

13. (4 marks) Distinguish simile, metaphor and metonymic substitution (borrowed comparison), giving one example of each.

14. (4 marks) What is irony? Give one example each of verbal irony and situational irony, and explain the effect.

15. (4 marks) What is plain line drawing (bai miao)? Compared with detailed description, what are its strengths and limits in pace and emotional force?

16. (4 marks) Distinguish positive foil from contrast by opposition, giving one example of each and its function.

Part E: Figures in Literary Publishing and Events (16 marks)

Show your working; amounts are in dollars.

17. (4 marks) The fee is $450 per thousand words and the writer submits 3,200 words. Find the fee.

18. (4 marks) A poetry collection is printed in 1,500 copies and 1,140 are sold. Find the sell-through rate (one decimal place) and the number of unsold copies.

19. (4 marks) A literary prize is $50,000 with 10 percent tax withheld. Find the net amount; if shared equally among 4 winners, how much does each receive?

20. (4 marks) A reading group has 30 sign-ups and 24 attend. Find the attendance rate (one decimal place); if next month's target is 90 percent, what is the minimum number who must attend (round up)?

Part F: Guided Writing and Time Planning (16 marks)

Show your working; marks to one decimal place.

21. (4 marks) The paper lasts 90 minutes; the essay is 1,200 characters and you write 20 characters a minute. Find the writing time and the minutes left for reading the question, outlining and checking.

22. (4 marks) Reading the question takes 6 minutes, outlining 9 minutes and checking 15 minutes. Find the total and its percentage of the 90-minute paper (one decimal place).

23. (4 marks) The essay is worth 16 marks: content 40 percent, structure 30 percent and language 30 percent. Find the full marks for each part (one decimal place).

24. (4 marks) State three time-planning principles for a guided essay and explain why you read the question before writing.
