S2 Chinese Language Practice Paper (Set 2): narrative and explanatory reading, classical Chinese, language use and practical writing

S2 Chinese Language | Time: 60 minutes | Total: 100 marks | 22 questions

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Section A: Narrative Reading (16 marks)

Read the passage below and answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. (a) According to the passage, state the three steps Mr Chan took to examine the watch and what fault he found. (4 marks)

2. (b) Which two methods of character description are used for Mr Chan? Give one example of each. (4 marks)

3. (c) What is the function of Mr Chan's remark, "A watch is like a person. Running slow does not matter; what is worst is having no one willing to set it right"? (4 marks)

4. (d) Why is it effective to end with "that tick, tick, tick was the clearest sound in the whole street"? (4 marks)

Section B: Explanatory Reading (16 marks)

Read the explanatory text below and answer the questions.

5. (a) In which year did Hong Kong Post begin operating? In which year were the first stamps issued? How many years apart are the two events? (4 marks)

6. (b) How long is the Peak Tram? How long does the whole journey take? How many metres does it travel per minute on average? (4 marks)

7. (c) What does "a steepest gradient of 48 per cent" mean? Explain with the example given in the text. (4 marks)

8. (d) Which two explanatory methods does the text mainly use? Give one example of each. (4 marks)

Section C: Classical Chinese (16 marks)

Read The Two Children Debating the Sun and answer the questions.

9. (a) Explain the quoted words: "arguing" (bian), "reason" (gu), "distance from" (qu) and "hot water" (tang). (4 marks)

10. (b) What view does each child hold? Support each with one reason from the text. (4 marks)

11. (c) Confucius "could not decide". Why did the children laugh at him, and what does this show? (4 marks)

12. (d) Translate "Who says you know so much?" into modern Chinese and describe its tone. (4 marks)

Section D: Idioms and Synonyms (16 marks)

Read each item and write your answers on the lines.

13. (a) Choose the best idiom from the box to fill each blank (1 mark each, 4 marks): (1) He practised calligraphy for ten years without a break, and this _____ spirit was at last praised by his teacher. (2) Ming meant to add one brief note but said far too much, which was _____. (3) The new band _____ at its first public performance and won applause from the whole hall. (4) Chances do not come to you; sitting at home waiting is no different from _____.

14. (b) Distinguish the near-synonyms (4 marks): (1) He _____ the library to extend his loan (request / beg). (2) The flood victims _____ the rescue workers to bring water quickly (request / beg). (3) Compare the uses of "simple" and "shabby".

15. (c) Write an antonym for each word (1 mark each, 4 marks): (1) generous (2) cautious (3) modest (4) thrifty

16. (d) Write one sentence using "to persevere without giving up" and explain its meaning. (4 marks)

Section E: Sentences, Punctuation and Rhetoric (16 marks)

Read each item and answer as instructed.

17. (a) Correct the faulty sentences (2 marks each): (1) Through this voluntary activity, made me understand the importance of unity. (2) We must prevent such accidents from not happening again.

18. (b) Punctuate the sentence (4 marks): the teacher asked me why are you late I lowered my head and said sorry the bus broke down on the way

19. (c) Transform the sentences (2 marks each): (1) Mr Chan repaired that watch (change to the passive). (2) Mother said, "You must come home early tonight" (change to reported speech).

20. (d) Name the rhetorical device in each sentence (1 mark each): (1) The moon hangs in the sky like a silver plate. (2) The grass crept secretly out of the soil. (3) His voice was so loud that people three streets away could hear it. (4) Spring is hope, spring is strength, spring is a beginning.

Section F: Practical and Composition Writing (20 marks)

Read each item and write as instructed.

21. (a) Notice (8 marks): you lost a blue water bottle in the school library. It has a name sticker on it and a small crack in the lid. Write a lost-property notice of about 80 characters, including the time and place of loss, the features of the item and how to contact you.

22. (b) Composition (12 marks): write an essay of at least 400 characters entitled "An Apology I Will Never Forget".

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