S3 Chinese Language Practice Paper (Set 1): narrative and explanatory reading, classical Chinese, language use and practical writing

S3 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 time, place, characters and what happened. (4 marks)

Time: 11:40 p.m., late at night. Place: on the last red minibus from Mong Kok, through the Lion Rock Tunnel, to Tai Po. Characters: the narrator, the driver and the young woman with a bouquet going to visit her mother in hospital. What happened: repairs at the tunnel forced a detour, and the woman feared she would not get out of the ward before midnight; the driver drove extra steadily, then handed her the bouquet and pointed out the way, and she ran towards the hospital with the flowers.

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

(1) Speech: "The road ahead is under repair, so I must take a detour. We will be ten minutes late" and "Miss, the hospital is at the next junction. If you run, you will still make it" show a plain, considerate manner. (2) Action: "drove extra steadily on the detour", "slowed down on the bumpy stretches" and "handed the flowers to her" reveal his care for a passenger through what he does. Answers naming description of expression, supported by "glanced at her in the mirror", are also acceptable.

3. (c) What is the function of the final sentence, "the worth of a journey lies not in arriving on time, but in people being willing to slow down for someone else"? (4 marks)

(1) Structurally it sums up the whole text and echoes the earlier delay of "we will be ten minutes late", turning a small incident into a realisation and closing the piece. (2) In content it states the theme: human consideration matters more than efficiency. "Slow down" refers both to the driver reducing speed and to his willingness to give up time for another person, which deepens the theme.

4. (d) What is the main idea of the passage? (4 marks)

Through a late-night minibus journey, the writer shows a driver who still cares for a passenger rushing to hospital despite the delay, and suggests that true kindness and worth lie not in punctuality and efficiency but in people being willing to understand one another and go one step further for someone else.

Section B: Explanatory Reading (16 marks)

Read the explanatory text below and answer the questions.

5. (a) According to the passage, state the range of sustained wind speed for Signal No. 8 and Signal No. 10. (4 marks)

Signal No. 8: sustained winds of 63 to 117 kilometres per hour; Signal No. 10: sustained winds of 118 kilometres per hour or above.

6. (b) Why is Signal No. 8 divided into four directions? (4 marks)

As the centre of a tropical cyclone moves, the direction from which Hong Kong is lashed changes, and winds from different directions affect different districts differently. Dividing the signal into northwest, southwest, northeast and southeast reminds the public which way the wind comes from, so that precautions such as securing windows and clearing balcony objects can be taken early.

7. (c) Using the example in the passage, how many minutes did the No. 8 signal last from 2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.? Show your working. (4 marks)

From 2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. is 4 hours 30 minutes. Four hours = 4 x 60 = 240 minutes; adding 30 minutes gives 270 minutes in total.

8. (d) How do explanatory writing and narrative writing differ in purpose and method? (4 marks)

Explanatory writing aims to explain the nature, causes or working of something, stresses objectivity and accuracy, and often uses classification, examples and figures, as this text does with the signals. Narrative writing aims to recount events and convey feelings, stresses characters, time and sequence, and often uses description and expression of emotion, like the minibus story in Section A.

Section C: Classical Chinese (16 marks)

Read the classical passage below and answer the questions.

9. (a) Explain the meaning of these characters in the passage: jin, ni, han, qian. (4 marks)

Jin: to boast, to be proud of oneself. Ni: to look sideways, with a hint of disdain. Han: to nod. Qian: to send away, to dismiss.

10. (b) Translate "There is nothing special, only that the hand is practised" into modern Chinese. (4 marks)

It is nothing special; it is simply that the hand is practised and familiar with the work. (Full marks for a complete and fluent rendering of the sense.)

11. (c) How did the oil seller prove his point? (4 marks)

He put a gourd on the ground, covered its mouth with a copper coin, and slowly poured oil with a ladle so that the oil went through the hole and the coin stayed dry. By showing the skill himself he proved that practice brings mastery, just as Chen Yaozi hit the mark nine or ten times out of ten through a practised hand.

12. (d) What lesson does the story teach? Give one everyday example. (4 marks)

The lesson: skill comes largely from repeated practice, one should not be complacent about a single ability, and one should not despise the special skill of others. Example: a student who practises calligraphy or typing every day becomes fast and accurate over time, yet must still stay humble, because a practised hand needs continuing practice.

Section D: Language Use (16 marks)

Follow the instructions for each question.

13. (a) Fill each blank with one of these idioms: never giving up, not ashamed to learn from subordinates, aiming too high, constantly improving. (4 marks) 1. His results were already good, yet he revised the report again and again: he believes in ____. 2. When study is hard, ____ will always lead to a solution. 3. Knowing his foundations were weak, he still aimed only for the most advanced course: he was ____. 4. He gladly asks younger students when he does not understand: his ____ attitude is worth learning.

1. constantly improving (jing yi qiu jing) 2. never giving up (qie er bu she) 3. aiming too high (hao gao wu yuan) 4. not ashamed to learn from subordinates (bu chi xia wen). One mark each.

14. (b) Choose the correct word: must / necessities; right / power. (4 marks) 1. Students taking the examination ____ bring their admission form and identity card. 2. Clean water is a ____ of human life. 3. Every student has the ____ to join extra-curricular activities. 4. A district council has duties but no ____ to amend the law itself.

1. must (bi xu) 2. necessity (bi xu, the noun) 3. right (quan li) 4. power (quan li, authority). One mark each.

15. (c) Add suitable punctuation to the passage below. (4 marks) The Observatory reminds the public to stay in a safe place during a typhoon he asked will you still go to school tomorrow I answered unless the Observatory lowers the signal to No. 3 we must stay at home

The Observatory reminds the public, "Stay in a safe place during a typhoon." He asked, "Will you still go to school tomorrow?" I answered, "Unless the Observatory lowers the signal to No. 3, we must stay at home." Marks are given for correct quotation marks, colons, question marks, commas and full stops.

16. (d) Correct the word that does not collocate properly in each sentence. (4 marks) 1. We must protect public property and not damage it at will. 2. The teacher raised our confidence. 3. This activity increased the friendship among classmates. 4. He strictly carried out his own opinion.

1. "protect" should be "cherish" or "take care of". 2. "raised" should be "strengthened" or "built up" (confidence). 3. "increased" should be "promoted" or "enhanced" (friendship). 4. "carried out" should be "insisted on" or "expressed" (an opinion). One mark for each correct correction.

Section E: Sentence Transformation and Rhetoric (16 marks)

Rewrite or identify the sentences as instructed.

17. (a) Correct these two faulty sentences (missing element; wrong word order) and write out the complete corrected sentences. (4 marks) 1. Through this volunteer service, made me understand the joy of helping others. 2. He in the library yesterday carefully finished reading that novel.

1. This volunteer service made me understand the joy of helping others. (Remove either "through" or "made", so that the sentence has a subject.) 2. Yesterday he carefully finished reading that novel in the library. (The time expression should come before the place expression.)

18. (b) Turn these statements into rhetorical questions without changing the meaning. (4 marks) 1. We should treasure every chance to practise. 2. Even this small matter deserves our reflection.

1. Should we not treasure every chance to practise? 2. Does not even this small matter deserve our reflection? (Any rhetorical form that keeps the meaning is acceptable.)

19. (c) Identify the rhetorical device in each sentence (simile, personification, parallelism, hyperbole). (4 marks) 1. The wind rocked the minibus like a drunken man. 2. The bouquet smiled in the young woman's hands. 3. He ran fast, jumped high and laughed loud. 4. The road was so long that it seemed it would never end.

1. simile 2. personification 3. parallelism 4. hyperbole. One mark each.

20. (d) Change these reported sentences into direct speech. (4 marks) 1. The driver said that he would drive more steadily. 2. The young woman asked me whether the hospital was at the next junction.

1. The driver said, "I will drive more steadily." 2. The young woman asked me, "Is the hospital at the next junction?" (Pronouns, punctuation and tone must change accordingly.)

Section F: Practical and Guided Writing (20 marks)

Answer both questions.

21. (a) Suppose you are an S3 student in a Tai Po secondary school. You have noticed that the minibus stop near your home is poorly lit at night and has no rain shelter, so elderly passengers easily trip when getting on and off. Write a proposal of about 200 words to the Tai Po District Council suggesting two improvements with reasons. (10 marks)

Format (4 marks): salutation to the Chairman of the Tai Po District Council, a clear title, paragraphs in the body, and a signature with date. Content (4 marks): improvement one, extra lighting with motion sensors, because night visibility is poor and elderly passengers risk falling; improvement two, a rain shelter with seating, because Hong Kong has a long rainy season and most waiting passengers are elderly people and students. Language (2 marks): appropriate, polite wording, about 200 words, clearly organised.

22. (b) Write a narrative of about 300 words titled "An Unforgettable Wait". Include a specific event, characters and feelings. (10 marks)

Content (5 marks): a specific event with cause, development and result, fitting the theme of waiting. Structure (3 marks): clear paragraphs with an opening, development and ending, and a link between the first and last paragraphs. Language (2 marks): accurate wording, with description and feeling, about 300 words. (Copying the title only, or writing off the topic, scores at most 1 mark for content.)

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