S3 Chinese Practice Paper (Set 2): a Sham Shui Po bookshop, the Tsing Ma Bridge, a classical passage, idioms and writing

S3 Chinese Language | Time: 60 minutes | Total: 100 marks | 22 questions

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Section A: Narrative Reading - The Second-hand Bookshop in Sham Shui Po (16 marks)

Read the passage above and answer the questions.

1. (a) According to the passage, what condition is the shop sign in? What is the owner's surname and how old is he this year? (4 marks)

2. (b) What does Mr Chow think are the most valuable things in the shop, and how does he keep them? (4 marks)

3. (c) What does the sentence "The people who come here to read grew up on these stairs" mean? (4 marks)

4. (d) When the landlord raised the rent, what two decisions did Mr Chow make, and what attitude do they show? (4 marks)

Section B: Explanatory Reading - The Tsing Ma Bridge (16 marks)

Read the passage above and answer the questions.

5. (a) Which two places does the Tsing Ma Bridge link? What are the total length and the main span in metres? (4 marks)

6. (b) The deck has two levels. What is each level used for? (4 marks)

7. (c) Why did the engineers use a suspension design, and how does tower height relate to the main cables? (4 marks)

8. (d) What two benefits did the bridge bring after it opened? (4 marks)

Section C: Classical Chinese - Digging a Well (16 marks)

Read the passage above and answer in modern English.

9. (a) Explain the meaning of "gai ji" and "chuan jing" in the passage. (4 marks)

10. (b) What did the Dings actually mean by "we gained one man by digging a well", and how should "gained the labour of one man" be explained? (4 marks)

11. (c) How did the rumour that "the Dings dug a well and got a man out of it" arise, and what does it show about rumours? (4 marks)

12. (d) What view does the writer express in the closing line, "seeking news in this way is worse than hearing no news at all"? (4 marks)

Section D: Idioms and Synonyms (16 marks)

Answer all questions.

13. (a) Decide whether the idiom in the sentence is used correctly; if not, give a more suitable idiom. "His talk was empty and full of wrong figures, yet the audience found it jin jin you wei (with keen relish)." (4 marks)

14. (b) Give one synonym each for "xiao xin yi yi" (very careful) and "huang ran da wu" (suddenly understand), and make a sentence with "xiao xin yi yi". (4 marks)

15. (c) Choose the most suitable idioms from the four given to fill the blanks: (1) In learning one should be ( ), building a foundation before tackling hard problems. (2) He works ( ), having studied only one kind of Hong Kong butterfly for ten years. (4 marks)

16. (d) Explain the idiom "han niu chong dong" and say what it usually describes. (4 marks)

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

Answer all questions.

17. (a) Punctuate the following sentence: "Mr Chow said the most valuable things were not the books but the bus tickets cinema stubs students notes and letters written to lovers that were tucked inside them." (4 marks)

18. (b) Correct the two faulty sentences and name the fault. (1) Through this interview, made me understand the value of the old bookshop. (2) His attitude very sincerely accepted my apology. (4 marks)

19. (c) Rewrite as instructed: (1) Turn "the landlord raised the rent by forty per cent, yet Mr Chow did not shut the shop" into a concession sentence with "although ... still". (2) Turn "this small shop deserves our care" into a rhetorical question. (4 marks)

20. (d) Name the rhetorical device in each sentence: (1) The shelves on three walls rose to the ceiling, as if they wanted to store the stories of the whole street. (2) At a breath of wind the ceiling fan turned half a circle, lazily. (4 marks)

Section F: Practical and Composed Writing (20 marks)

Answer both questions.

21. (a) Practical writing (8 marks): You are Chan Siu Ming, chairperson of the Class 3A committee. During last week's inter-class basketball match you argued with a Class 3B student in the heat of the moment and later mocked them in a social media post. Write a letter of apology of at least 150 words to the chairperson of Class 3B, explaining what happened, admitting the mistake and proposing how to make amends. (8 marks)

22. (b) Composed writing (12 marks): Write an essay of at least 400 words entitled "An Unforgettable Wait". (12 marks)

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