S3 Putonghua Practice Paper: Initials, Finals and Tones, Pinyin Spelling Rules, Neutral Tone and Erhua, Vocabulary and Measure Words, Reading Aloud and Intonation, Listening and Speaking

S3 | Putonghua | Time: 60 minutes | Total: 100 marks | 24 questions

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Part A - Initials, Finals and Tones (17 marks)

Show working in question 1; answer the rest in Hanyu Pinyin with clear tone marks.

1. A reading passage has 120 syllables and Ming reads it in 1.5 minutes. Find his reading speed in syllables per minute and the time needed to read 300 syllables at the same speed. [5]

2. Write the four tones of the syllable ma (first, second, third and fourth tone) with tone marks, and state the common change of a third tone in connected speech. [4]

3. Distinguish aspirated and unaspirated initials: give one minimal pair each for b and p, d and t, g and k, and explain how aspiration changes meaning. [4]

4. List the six simple finals and explain how ü is written after j, q and x. [4]

Part B - Pinyin Spelling Rules (17 marks)

Answer according to the Hanyu Pinyin spelling rules, paying attention to abbreviated forms and tone-mark placement.

5. Write the abbreviated forms of iou, uei and uen after an initial and give one common word for each. [5]

6. Write the sentence wǒmen yìqǐ qù xuéxiào in correctly word-divided pinyin and count the total number of syllables. [4]

7. State the rule for placing tone marks and say which letter carries the mark in liu, gui and xue. [4]

8. Explain when y and w are used in Hanyu Pinyin and give two examples of each. [4]

Part C - Neutral Tone and Erhua (17 marks)

The neutral tone carries no tone mark; erhua adds r to the syllable and may change the meaning.

9. Give three common words with a neutral tone and explain how the neutral tone is shown in pinyin. [5]

10. Explain how erhua is written, give the pinyin of huār and yìdiǎnr, and state two functions of erhua. [4]

11. In a 200-syllable script, 12% of the syllables are in the neutral tone. Find the number of neutral-tone syllables. [4]

12. Compare the pronunciation and meaning of mǎimài and mǎimai, and explain how the neutral tone changes the meaning. [4]

Part D - Vocabulary and Measure Words (17 marks)

Use the correct measure word for each noun; in the Cantonese-Putonghua items give the Putonghua wording.

13. Give the correct measure word for each noun: shoes, umbrella, fish, paper (write one + measure word + noun for each). [5]

14. Distinguish the use of hūrán and tūrán and make one sentence with each. [4]

15. A stationery shop buys 5 dozen pencils at 12 pencils per dozen and shares them equally among 8 students. Find the total number of pencils, the number each student gets and the remainder. [4]

16. Give the Putonghua wording for these Hong Kong Cantonese terms: snow cabinet (fridge), single vehicle (bicycle), taxi and store. [4]

Part E - Reading Aloud and Intonation (16 marks)

4 marks each; mark pauses with a slash and state whether the intonation rises or falls.

17. Mark two pauses in the sentence about the fine weather and going to the park together, and explain the function of pauses. [4]

18. State the intonation pattern of statements, questions and exclamations, with one example each. [4]

19. Three passages total 480 syllables and must be read within 4 minutes. Find the average speed in syllables per minute and the time needed at 100 syllables per minute. [4]

20. Explain the use of the modal particles ma, ne, ba and a, with one example each. [4]

Part F - Listening and Speaking (16 marks)

4 marks each; answer listening items in note form and speaking items in full sentences.

21. Which three kinds of information should you note down when listening to an announcement? Give one example of each. [4]

22. If a speaker talks at about 180 syllables per minute, how many syllables are needed for a 3-minute talk? List three ways to keep to the time limit. [4]

23. You phone the school to ask about an activity. Write one polite sentence each for the opening, the enquiry and the closing. [4]

24. How should you take turns and respond to others in a group discussion? Write two points for each. [4]