

CHINESE LANGUAGE

GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level

Paper 8681/01
Speaking

General comments

All the candidates demonstrated a high level of competence in Mandarin. They spoke with confidence and clarity.

It is important that candidates are familiar with the format of the speaking test and with the mark scheme (see Syllabus) before they take the examination. Very able candidates lost marks because they did not ask questions of the Examiner and therefore no marks could be awarded for 'Seeking Information and Opinions'.

Paper 8681/02
Reading and Writing

General comments

Understanding of the texts

Candidates demonstrated an excellent understanding of the arguments, ideas and information in the two articles.

Responding to the questions

On the whole, candidates responded well, though, occasionally, instead of using their own words they simply copied answers straight from the texts.

Quality of language

In general, quality of language was good and candidates were able to organise information in their own words as well as show engagement with the texts.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

All candidates answered this question correctly.

Question 2

All candidates answered this question correctly.

Question 3

All candidates answered **(b)** and **(c)** correctly. Some of the answers to **(a)** and **(e)** were copied straight from the text and some of the answers to **(d)** were not so complete.

Question 4

In general, candidates responded to all five questions reasonably well. However, not all answers to **(b)**, **(c)** and **(d)** were complete and some of the answers to **(e)** were copied straight from the text.

Question 5

While some candidates responded successfully to this question in adequate language, managing to combine material from both texts with their own ideas, others did not respond sufficiently to the second part of the question.

Paper 8681/03

Essay

General comments

All candidates demonstrated a sound grasp of the language. They were competent users of the target language and able to express their opinions clearly.

The very top marks could not be awarded where essays lacked independent judgement and the treatment of the subject matter was too factual. For an essay to be awarded top marks, the mark scheme (see Syllabus) requires that it be 'coherently argued and structured': this is an area requiring attention in order to ensure that candidates' work is not only linguistically fluent, but also logically sound.