



Pearson
Edexcel

Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Chinese (9CN0/03)
Paper 03: Speaking

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General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

GCE A Level 9CN0_3A

Paper 3 mark scheme

For this paper, there are a number of levels-based mark schemes to be applied to each task.

General guidance on using levels-based mark schemes

Step 1 Decide on a band

- You should first of all consider the answer as a whole and then decide which descriptors most closely match the answer and place it in that band. The descriptors for each band indicate the different features that will be seen in the student's answer for that band.
- When assigning a level you should look at the overall quality of the answer and not focus disproportionately on small and specific parts of the answer where the student has not performed quite as well as the rest. If the answer covers different aspects of different bands of the mark scheme you should use a 'best fit' approach for defining the level and then use the variability of the response to help decide the mark within the level, for example if the response is predominantly band 5–8 with a small amount of band 9–12 material, it would be placed in band 5–8 but be awarded a mark near the top of the band because of the band 9–12 content.

Step 2 Decide on a mark

- Once you have decided on a band you will then need to decide on a mark within the band.
- You will decide on the mark to award based on the quality of the answer; you will award a mark towards the top or bottom of that band depending on how students have evidenced each of the descriptor bullet points.
- You will modify the mark based on how securely the trait descriptors are met at that band.
- You will need to go back through the answer as you apply the mark scheme to clarify points and assure yourself that the band and the mark are appropriate.

Guidance on timing of the speaking assessment

It is your responsibility to cover all parts of each task and ask appropriate questions to ensure that the candidate is able to access the maximum amount of marks available. The speaking assessment should last between 16 to 18 minutes in total and you must ensure that timings are followed. The timing of the assessment begins with the candidate's first utterance in relation to Task 1. Once the maximum stipulated assessment time has passed, you must bring the assessment to a natural end, allowing the candidate to complete their last sentence.

You must **stop** marking at the end of the sentence once the maximum assessment time has passed, even if the recorded conversation has gone beyond the maximum time.

Task 1 – Discussion on a theme

Three-mark grids are applied to task 1:

- knowledge and understanding of society and culture (AO4)
- accuracy and range of language (AO3)
- interaction (AO1).

The knowledge and understanding of society and culture mark grid assesses the students' ability to communicate information about and demonstrate appreciation of different aspects of culture and society related to the countries/communities where the language is spoken. They are also assessed on their ability to respond critically and analytically to different aspects of the culture and society by selecting relevant material, presenting and justifying points of view, developing arguments, drawing conclusions based on understanding and evaluating issues, themes and cultural and social contexts. When deciding how to reward an answer, examiners should consult both this mark grid as well as the **AL speaking task 1: indicative content** at the end of the mark scheme, which is associated with each question. Indicative content contains points that students are likely to use to construct their answer. It is possible for an answer to be constructed without mentioning some or all of these points, as long as students provide alternative responses that fulfil the requirements of the question.

Knowledge and understanding of society and culture (AO4)

Marks	Description
0	No rewardable material.
1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Occasionally relevant, straightforward ideas, mostly generalised, occasionally supported by information/examples/references; frequent loss of focus on the cultural and social context.• Occasional evidence of analysis; points of view are given with limited justification, arguments may be made but not developed, occasionally leading to straightforward conclusions that may be contradictory; mainly relies on description rather than analysis.
4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant, straightforward ideas sometimes supported by information/examples/references; some loss of focus on the cultural and social context.• Some analysis of the cultural and social context is evident, with straightforward arguments and points of view which are sometimes developed and justified, sometimes drawing straightforward conclusions; relies on description rather than analysis in places.
7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant, occasionally perceptive ideas frequently supported by pertinent information/examples/references; focus predominantly maintained on the cultural and social context.• Analysis of cultural and social context demonstrated by frequently developed and justified arguments and viewpoints, often drawing convincing conclusions.

Marks	Description
10-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant, perceptive ideas consistently supported by pertinent information/examples/references; consistently focused on the cultural and social context. • Analysis of cultural and social context demonstrated by consistently developed and justified arguments and viewpoints, drawing convincing conclusions.

Additional guidance

Perceptive: demonstrates an in-depth understanding by making connections between ideas and information; goes beyond the standard, predictable response; shows insight/originality.

Ideas include thoughts, feelings, impressions, opinions.

Straightforward ideas, arguments, conclusions, are deemed to be those that give the standard, predictable response.

Task 1 – Discussion on a theme (continued)

Accuracy and range of language mark grid

This mark grid assesses students' ability to use a range of grammatical structures and vocabulary in order to produce articulate communication with a range of expression. It also assesses students' ability to apply grammar and syntax accurately and accuracy of pronunciation.

Accuracy and range of language (A03)

Marks	Description
0	No rewardable language.
1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited variation in the use of grammatical structures and vocabulary, limited or repetitive use of complex and idiomatic language, occasional variation of expression; communication is sometimes restricted/stilted.Limited sequences of accurate language; often errors occur that hinder clarity of communication and occasionally prevent meaning being conveyed.Pronunciation and intonation are inconsistent, leading to occasional impairment in communication.
4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Some variation in the use of grammatical structures and vocabulary, with use of some repetitive complex and idiomatic language, resulting in some variation of expression; some sequences of articulate communication.Accurate sequences of language, resulting in some coherent speech; sometimes errors occur that hinder clarity of communication.Pronunciation and intonation are intelligible though sometimes inaccurate.
7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Frequent variation in use of grammatical structures and vocabulary, including examples of complex and idiomatic language, resulting in frequent variation of expression and frequent sequences of articulate communication.Accurate language throughout most of the conversation, resulting in generally coherent speech; errors occur but rarely hinder clarity of communication.Pronunciation and intonation are intelligible and mostly accurate.
10-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Consistent variation in use of grammatical structures and vocabulary, including different types of complex structures and idiomatic language, expressing ideas in a variety of ways, resulting in articulate communication.Accurate language throughout resulting in coherent speech that is immediately understandable; any errors do not hinder clarity of the communication.Pronunciation and intonation are accurate, intelligible and authentic sounding.

Additional guidance

Complex language: considered to include the following.

- use of aspect markers
- passive voice
- the 把 construction, for example 他把车修好了。
- use of interrogative sentences in which 吗 is used
- using extended sentences to express abstract ideas or convey justified arguments that require a range of lexis and structures, for example, conjunctions and pronouns
- using synonyms and a variety of expressions
- any grammar and structures included in the grammar list that are specific to A Level.

Variation in use of grammatical structures and vocabulary: the traits in the mark grid differentiate between the variation of grammatical structures and vocabulary used by students. Examiners should judge in which mark band to place students and which mark to award, based on the effect that the variety of grammatical structures and vocabulary has on the quality of the communication; the wider the variety, the more articulate the communication will become, (see definition of *articulate* below).

Examples of a variety of grammatical structures and vocabulary are: a selection of different verbs, tenses, adjectives, vocabulary and complex language (see above for definition of complex language) for a variety of purposes such as to present and justify points of view, develop arguments, draw conclusions based on understanding and evaluating issues.

Articulate: articulate communication is fluent, effective and coherent as students control/manipulate the language to express with some ease what they want to say for a number of different purposes. If students are restricted by their language skills they may not be able to express themselves for all purposes, for example to develop arguments.

Errors: students are not expected to produce perfect, error-free speech in order to access the top band. The mark grid describes the frequency of errors and the impact that errors have on clarity.

Errors that **do not hinder clarity:**

- errors that do not affect meaning, for example gender, adjectival agreements
- infrequent errors that do not distract the listener from the content of what is being said.

Errors that hinder clarity:

- errors that make speech difficult to understand immediately (even if the meaning is eventually understood) or errors that force listeners to strain to understand what is meant, for example inappropriate use of near synonyms, such as 满意 instead of 满足 as in 老师对你的作业很满意 / 老师对你的作业很满足
- using English word order (for example 我学习在图书馆)
- serious mispronunciation such as tones which block communication for example, pronouncing 看书 as 砍树; 照 as 找; 上午 as 下午; 网上 as 晚上)
- frequent errors hinder clarity as they distract the listener from the content of what is being said.

Errors that **prevent meaning being conveyed:**

- errors that mean the listener cannot understand the message
- errors that convey the wrong message
- errors that make it unclear who is doing the action, i.e., using the incorrect person or the verb
- mother-tongue interference.

NB: these are provided as examples only and do not constitute a finite list.

Task 1 – Discussion on a theme (continued)

Interaction mark grid

This mark grid assesses students' ability to interact with the examiner by giving relevant responses based on what they have heard, by initiating communication and eliciting points of view.

Interaction (A01)

Marks	Description
0	No rewardable material.
1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interacts with occasional spontaneity to some questions and statements, but requires frequent prompting; occasionally able to sustain the conversation, using communication strategies if necessary; frequent hesitation.• Occasionally initiates communication but development often relies on the examiner's lead; may elicit points of view/check for understanding, though this may appear contrived.
3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interacts spontaneously for extended sections of the conversation, responding mostly with assurance but needing occasional prompting; able to sustain most of the conversation, using communication strategies if necessary; occasional hesitation.• Initiates communication by frequently taking the lead to develop the conversation; elicits points of view/checks for understanding although occasionally at an inappropriate moment.
5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interacts spontaneously throughout, responding with assurance to questions and statements; able to sustain conversation throughout, using communication strategies if necessary; minimal hesitation.• Initiates communication by consistently taking the lead to develop the conversation; elicits points of view/checks for understanding naturally and appropriately at different points in the conversation.

Additional guidance

Interacts spontaneously: responds to questions and statements that arise as a natural part of the conversation; gives a relevant, impromptu response based on what they have heard.

Communication strategies: strategies that aid communication and allow the conversation to be sustained, for example rephrasing, circumlocution, adjusting the message, asking for clarification/repetition, repair strategies such as self-correction; these strategies enable students to deliver the message when exact vocabulary or expressions are not known.

Elicit points of view/check for understanding: as part of the language of genuine discourse, students are required to engage the examiner in the conversation by asking for their points of view and checking that their own point of view has been understood. They are expected to do this throughout the oral assessment at appropriate points during the conversation. This constitutes questions such as:

Traditional characters	Simplified characters
你同意我的看法嗎？	你同意我的看法吗？
是不是可以認為……？	是不是可以认为……？
我們可以說……嗎？	我们可以说……吗？
你是怎麼看……問題的？	你怎么看……问题的？
你對……有什麼看法？	你对……有什么看法？
你明白我的意思嗎？	你明白我的意思吗？

The constraints of the assessment mean that the teacher/examiner should contribute only brief opinions in response to these types of questions, in order to give students the maximum length of assessment time.

Task 2, Part 1 – Independent research presentation

One-mark grid is applied to this part of the task:

- responding to written language in speech (AO2).

Responding to written language in speech mark grid

This grid is used to assess the student's two-minute presentation **only**, it is not applied to the discussion that follows the presentation. This mark grid assesses students' ability to understand and respond in speech to written language that is drawn from a variety of sources and to summarise information from written sources in speech. The written sources will be those that students read as part of their independent research and they must refer to at least two named written sources during their presentation.

For guidance on what might be included in an oral presentation and how it may be structured, see **Indicative content for task 2 part 1, independent research presentation** at the end of the mark scheme.

Responding to written language in speech (AO2)

Marks	Description
0	No rewardable material
1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary makes limited reference to named written sources, makes generalised comments rather than being focused on authors' main points/ideas.• Gives a personal response with limited justification, loses focus on the written sources, straying into general opinion. <p><i>Responses that refer to just one single written source can be awarded a maximum of 3 marks only.</i></p>
4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary refers to named written sources but lacks clarity or is uneven in its coverage of authors' main points/ideas.• Gives a mostly relevant personal response with occasional justification, some loss of focus on the written sources.
7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presents a mostly clear summary of named written sources, generally clear outline of authors' main points/ideas.• Gives a relevant personal response to the written sources supported with some justification.
10–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presents a clear summary of named written sources, giving a clear outline of authors' main points/ideas.• Gives a convincing personal response to the written sources supported with clear justification.

Additional guidance

Personal response: this is considered to be giving justified opinions, demonstrating engagement with the written sources by making focused comments, giving a reaction to/expressing feelings and thoughts about the written sources.

Task 2, Part 2 – Discussion on independent research

Three-mark grids are applied to this part of the task:

- knowledge and understanding of society and culture (AO4)
- accuracy and range of language (AO3)
- interaction (AO1).

The knowledge and understanding of society and culture mark grid assesses students' ability to communicate information about and demonstrate appreciation of different aspects of culture and society related to the countries/communities where the language is spoken. They are also assessed on their ability to respond critically and analytically to different aspects of the culture and society by selecting relevant material, presenting and justifying points of view, developing arguments, drawing conclusions based on understanding and evaluating issues.

Knowledge and understanding of society and culture (AO4)

Marks	Description
0	No rewardable material
1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Occasionally relevant, straightforward ideas, mostly generalised, occasionally supported by information/examples/references; frequent loss of focus on the cultural and social context.• Occasional evidence of analysis; points of view are given with limited justification, arguments may be made but not developed, occasionally, leading to straightforward conclusions which may be contradictory; mainly relies on description rather than analysis.
4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant, straightforward ideas sometimes supported by information/examples/references; some loss of focus on the cultural and social context,• Some analysis of the cultural and social context is evident, with straightforward arguments and points of view that are sometimes developed and justified, sometimes drawing straightforward conclusions; relies on description rather than analysis in places.
7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant, occasionally perceptive ideas frequently supported by pertinent information/examples/references; focus predominantly maintained on the cultural and social context.• Analysis of cultural and social context demonstrated by frequently developed and justified arguments and viewpoints, often drawing convincing conclusions.
10–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant, perceptive ideas consistently supported by pertinent information/examples/references; consistently focussed on the cultural and social context.• Analysis of cultural and social context demonstrated by consistently developed and justified arguments and viewpoints, drawing convincing conclusions.

Additional guidance

Perceptive: demonstrates an in depth understanding by making connections between ideas and information; goes beyond the standard, predictable response; shows insight/originality.

Ideas include thoughts, feelings, impressions, opinions.

Straightforward ideas, conclusions, arguments are deemed to be those that give the standard, predictable response.

Task 2, Part 2 – Discussion on independent research (continued)

Accuracy and range of language mark grid

This mark grid assesses students' ability to use a range of grammatical structures and vocabulary in order to produce articulate communication with a range of expression. It also assesses students' ability to apply grammar and syntax accurately and accuracy of pronunciation.

Accuracy and range of language (A03)

Marks	Description
0	No rewardable language
1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited variation in the use of grammatical structures and vocabulary, limited or repetitive use of complex and idiomatic language, occasional variation of expression; communication is sometimes restricted/stilted.Limited sequences of accurate language; often errors occur that hinder clarity of communication and occasionally prevent meaning being conveyed.Pronunciation and intonation are inconsistent, leading to occasional impairment in communication.
4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Some variation in the use of grammatical structures and vocabulary, with use of some repetitive complex and idiomatic language, resulting in some variation of expression; some sequences of articulate communication.Accurate sequences of language, resulting in some coherent speech; sometimes errors occur that hinder clarity of communication.Pronunciation and intonation are intelligible though sometimes inaccurate.
7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Frequent variation in use of grammatical structures and vocabulary, including examples of complex and idiomatic language, resulting in frequent variation of expression and frequent sequences of articulate communication.Accurate language throughout most of the conversation, resulting in generally coherent speech; errors occur but rarely hinder clarity of communication.Pronunciation and intonation are intelligible and mostly accurate.
10-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Consistent variation in use of grammatical structures and vocabulary, including different types of complex structures and idiomatic language, expressing ideas in a variety of ways, resulting in articulate communication.Accurate language throughout resulting in coherent speech that is immediately understandable; any errors do not hinder clarity of the communication.Pronunciation and intonation are accurate, intelligible and authentic-sounding.

Additional guidance

Complex language considered to include the following:

- use of aspect markers
- passive voice
- the 把 construction, for example 他把车修好了。
- use of interrogative sentences in which 吗 is used
- using extended sentences to express abstract ideas or convey justified arguments that require a range of lexis and structures, for example, conjunctions and pronouns
- using synonyms and a variety of expressions any grammar and structures included in the grammar list that are specific to A Level.

Variation in use of grammatical structures/varied use of vocabulary: the traits in the mark grid differentiate between the variation of grammatical structures and vocabulary used by students. Examiners should judge in which mark band to place students and which mark to award, based on the effect that the variety of grammatical structures and vocabulary has on the quality of the communication; the wider the variety, the more articulate the communication will become, (see definition of *articulate* below).

Examples of a variety of grammatical structures and vocabulary are: a selection of different verbs, tenses, adjectives, vocabulary and complex language (see definition above) for a variety of purposes such as to present and justify points of view, develop arguments, draw conclusions based on understanding and evaluating issues.

Articulate: articulate communication is fluent, effective and coherent as students control/manipulate the language to express with some ease what they want to say for a number of different purposes. If students are restricted to what they can say, they may not be able to express themselves for all purposes, for example to develop arguments.

Errors: students are not expected to produce perfect, error-free speech in order to access the top band. The mark grid describes the frequency of errors and the impact that errors have on clarity.

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Errors that hinder clarity:

- errors that make speech difficult to understand immediately (even if the meaning is eventually understood) or errors that force listeners to strain to understand what is meant, for example inappropriate use of near synonyms, such as 满意 instead of 满足 as in 老师对你的作业很满意 / 老师对你的作业很满足

- using English word order (for example 我学习在图书馆)
- serious mispronunciation such as tones which block communication for example, pronouncing 看书 as 砍树; 照 as 找; 上午 as 下午; 网上 as 晚上)
- frequent errors hinder clarity as they distract the listener from the content of what is being said.

Errors that **prevent meaning being conveyed:**

- errors that mean the listener cannot understand the message
- errors that convey the wrong message
- errors that make it unclear who is doing the action, i.e., using the incorrect person or the verb
- mother-tongue interference.

NB: these are provided as examples only and do not constitute a finite list.

Task 2, Part 2 – Discussion on independent research (continued)
Interaction mark grid

This mark grid assesses students’ ability to interact with the examiner by giving relevant responses based on what they have heard, by initiating communication and eliciting points of view.

Interaction (A01)

Marks	Description
0	No rewardable material.
1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interacts with occasional spontaneity to some questions and statements, but requires frequent prompting; occasionally able to sustain the conversation, using communication strategies if necessary; frequent hesitation. • Occasionally initiates communication but development often relies on the examiner’s lead; may elicit points of view/check for understanding, though this may appear contrived.
3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interacts spontaneously for extended sections of the conversation, responding mostly with assurance but needing occasional prompting; able to sustain most of the conversation, using communication strategies if necessary; occasional hesitation. • Initiates communication by frequently taking the lead to develop the conversation; elicits points of view/checks for understanding although occasionally at an inappropriate moment.
5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interacts spontaneously throughout, responding with assurance to questions and statements; able to sustain conversation throughout, using communication strategies if necessary; minimal hesitation. • Initiates communication by consistently taking the lead to develop the conversation; elicits points of view/checks for understanding naturally and appropriately at different points in the conversation.

Additional guidance

Interacts spontaneously: responds to questions and statements that arise as a natural part of the conversation; gives a relevant, impromptu response based on what they have heard.

Communication strategies: strategies that aid communication and allow the conversation to be sustained, for example rephrasing, circumlocution, adjusting the message, asking for clarification/repetition, repair strategies such as self-correction; these strategies enable students to deliver the message when exact vocabulary or expressions are not known.

Elicit points of view/check for understanding: as part of the language of genuine discourse, students are required to engage the examiner in the conversation by asking for their points of view and checking that their own point of view has been understood. They are expected to do this throughout the oral assessment at appropriate points during the conversation. This constitutes questions such as:

Traditional characters	Simplified characters
你同意我的看法嗎？	你同意我的看法吗？
是不是可以認為？	是不是可以认为？
我們可以說……嗎？	我们可以说……吗？
你是怎麼看……問題的？	你是怎么看……问题的？
你對……有什麼看法？	你对……有什么看法？
你明白我的意思嗎？	你明白我的意思吗？

The constraints of the assessment mean that the teacher/examiner should contribute only brief opinions in response to these types of questions, in order to give students the maximum length of assessment time.

Task 1: Indicative content

In their response, while presenting and justifying points of view, developing arguments and drawing conclusions based on understanding, students may refer critically and analytically to the following points. However, the indicative content is not exhaustive, and students should be rewarded for any valid response.

Task 1 Stimulus CN1

Theme 4 Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Since the 1978 reform, the Chinese economy has boomed in the cities. There are many more opportunities to obtain jobs with higher incomes, resulting in millions of people from the countryside being attracted into the cities. People are choosing to leave their homes in the countryside to earn better incomes for their families' futures.• This often results in such parents leaving their children in the care of their grandparents or relatives in the countryside for two reasons: (i) they cannot afford the higher cost of living in the cities; (ii) it is hard for these children to get into the education system in the cities.• Left-behind children grow up without their parents' direct care and support. These children may lack love and affection from people, and this may impact them in various ways: hampering the development of communication skills; causing difficulties in forming relationships; and possibly also increasing the risk of developing addictions or a tendency to violence.• These negative impacts on left-behind children may mean that they end up under educated and under qualified compared to their peers, with the long-term effect that they cannot get a well-paid job and so end up repeating the cycle of poverty their parents were in.
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Task 1 Stimulus CN2

Theme 4 China-UK relationship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Chinese economy has been developing rapidly during last 40 years. More and more Chinese companies are seeking new business opportunities to expand into international markets including the UK.• The UK is a relatively obvious choice to open a new business for the following reasons: the UK has a mature market, an effective system of trade and a functioning legal system; it is close to Europe and can be a base for expanding into Europe; many business people have been taught English in school in China; there are already large numbers of Chinese living and studying in the UK.• The new businesses set up in the UK are likely to: provide employment in the UK; foster cooperation and communication between the UK and China through these companies; increase cultural understanding between the two countries through employees working in a Chinese company and gaining understanding of communication styles and culture.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further benefits for the Chinese side include gaining a better understanding of UK business customs, UK law, and the English language.
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Task 1 Stimulus CN3

Theme 1 Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The single-child policy was in operation from 1978 until 2015. Thus, for nearly 40 years the 4-2-1 family pattern emerged: there are four grandparents who need to be cared for by two parents and one child. The one child is under great pressure, with potentially four grandparents who may need support and care in later life. • Traditionally, Chinese parents rely on the care and assistance of their children when they are older. With modern lifestyles, young people are busy at work, with some even working far away from where their parents and grandparents live. This makes it hard to look after the older generations. • An only child can encourage their parents and grandparents to widen their interests and to socialise with other older people. They could also try to persuade the older generation to accept paid-for care or to move into care homes. • An only child can make an effort to keep in regular contact with the older generations by phone or video calls, and to visit regularly.
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Task 1 Stimulus CN4

Theme 1 Education and Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The competitive pressure in the education system means that students and parents often feel that extracurricular activities are a waste of time, and that time is better spent on studying key exam subjects. This also means that fewer extracurricular activities are offered by schools. Some of these are chargeable, meaning that parents may consider them too expensive. • The use of leisure time by young people has changed. Young people prefer to use their free time on their smart phones, tablets or the internet, playing games or chatting, resulting in less enthusiasm for the traditional pattern of extracurricular activities. • The impact that lack of participation in extracurricular activities has on the physical and psychological wellbeing of young people has been recently noted. Some schools are beginning to put effort into arranging attractive extracurricular activities: some are even going as far as making these compulsory. • Parents also have a responsibility to guide their children into lives which have a healthy balance of study, extracurricular activities and leisure. They could, for example, put a restriction on screen time and insist on outdoor activities.
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Task 1 Stimulus CN5

Theme 3 Communications, Science and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nowadays Chinese people are widely enjoying the benefits which internet brings to modern life. However, they also have learned that personal information can be passed around or stolen, allowing others to take advantage of them or even exploit them.• In recent years China has introduced some laws and regulations on the handling of online personal data. However, with a huge population many of whom use the internet, the amount of personal information online has meant that abuse of personal data has become a massive problem. Examples include cyber crime and nuisance phone calls.• Individuals need to learn to protect their online data, such as checking the credibility of websites before inputting any information, and being careful about what personal data to give away.• The local Chinese community also has a responsibility to promote responsible use of information such as not using data from uncertain sources; standing up against cyber bullying; not transmitting unreliable information or news.
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Task 1 Stimulus CN6

Theme 3 Economy and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Huge numbers of young people live and work in Chinese cities, attracted by the better job opportunities and good incomes. However, these city lifestyles also come with busy, long working hours, meaning that young people often do not spend time cooking.• Thus takeaway services have increased, providing fast, fresh, tasty, relatively healthy food at affordable prices. Above all, the service offered is quick and convenient.• Takeaway services are likely to continue to grow in the future, as the trend for demanding quick and convenient food (as above) is unlikely to cease. The industry is likely to diversify into offering an even greater range such as vegan food, healthier choices such as fresh salads, or to meet specific dietary requirements such as reduced salt.• As Chinese students return from their studies abroad into the cities, the demand for international menus is also likely to grow: not only the Western food which is already widely available, but also Southeast Asian and other cuisines. However, with increased competition, the market may reach saturation soon.
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Task 1 Stimulus CN7

Theme 2 Traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Mid-Autumn Festival is hugely popular around the world, being second only to the Spring Festival amongst traditional Chinese festivals. With centuries of history behind the celebration, and with its emphasis on appreciating the weather and the harvest, people are keen both to celebrate the festival and pass on its customs to the next generation wherever they are in the world.• Traditionally, families reunite during the festival: this is also a reason for its popularity. The moon cake is symbolic of this, with its round shape representing the perfect, united family life.• Recently, the traditional festival foods may all be conveniently bought in Chinese supermarkets in most big cities around the world. This has allowed the festival to be celebrated with greater ease. In the future, the sale of foods may develop not only to introduce new, healthier types of food, but the packaging may develop to be more environmentally friendly.• Moreover, technological means can be used to celebrate the festivals in modern Chinese societies. For example, festival greetings can be sent to those in different countries via mobile phone apps. Families can meet virtually using video calling technology, and gifts may also be sent electronically, allowing for the easy exchange of greetings.
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Task 1 Stimulus CN8

Theme 2 Cultural activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The celebrity TV shows are attractive to young Chinese, because not only are these programmes relaxing, entertaining and fun, but young people can also admire their favourite stars in a different setting to usual. The stars also use these shows to promote interaction with their fans.• The stars cultivate their images very carefully, becoming idols for many young people. The young people are drawn into watching the programmes dreaming that they too may one day be on TV as a celebrity.• On the positive side, young people may be influenced by celebrity shows into learning about new ideals, new places, current fashions or the wider world. Some celebrities take care to include some educational content into their shows.• On the negative side, young people may become engrossed and spend too much time and energy watching celebrity shows. This may lead to them neglecting their studies or their regular routines. Some may even foster unrealistic dreams of becoming a celebrity themselves without being aware of the hard work needed.
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