

**Comments on candidate performance****General comments**

Number of entries in 2012: 7

Candidates had been well prepared by centres for each component. The overall level of performance was very strong, with some excellent performances.

**Candidate performance in Reading and advice to centres**

- The inferential question was the most challenging part of Paper I. Some candidates just retold the reading passage and did not develop arguments or analysis of the text.
- Many candidates mostly provided information from the text rather than attempting to draw inferences.
- Some included quotes from the text in their answer but simply retold these in English instead of using them to develop their argument.
- Grammatical mistakes often appeared in candidates' responses to the translation.
- Centres should encourage candidates to read the entire passage in order to be able to answer the questions accurately.
- Answers to the comprehension questions should be as detailed as possible.
- Centres should encourage candidates to draw inferences from the passage — not just to provide factual information or repeat their answers to the comprehension questions
- More attention should be given to the development of translation skills. In particular, care should be taken with recognising and accurately translating tenses.

**Candidate performance in Listening and Speaking and advice to centres**

- Performance in Listening and Discursive Writing was very encouraging, with many excellent performances.
- In Discursive Writing, candidates generally achieved good results when they incorporated appropriate learned material into their answer, and when their essays were fully relevant to the topics.
- Candidates should be encouraged to provide full and detailed answers as far as possible. Candidates should try to avoid prejudging the content.
- In the Speaking test, centres are to be commended, as the performance of candidates in this component was highly pleasing

**Candidate performance in the Folio and advice to centres**

- The Folio was one of the parts of the examination that was least well done
- Some candidates offered little analysis or critical reflection in the Folio. Some pieces merely provided a retelling/summary of the text(s) studied.
- Teachers should read the Folio Guidelines carefully. The selection of texts could be wider and a title or essay question that generates debate or critical analysis is crucial.

**General**

Candidates should be encouraged to make full use of the SQA Modern Languages website, and to refer to Marking Instructions and External Assessment Reports for AH Chinese.