

External Assessment Report 201 2 Intermediate 2 Mandarin/Cantonese

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

Number of entries in 2012: 34

Candidates had been well prepared by centres for each component and performance was pleasing.

Candidate performance in Reading and advice to centres

- Most candidates handled all four Reading texts well and performed well in this paper. Reading texts 1, 2 & 3 were handled very well with most candidates scoring high marks. There was significant improvement in candidates' handling of text 4.
- Some candidates lost marks due to lack of accuracy and detail in answers.
- A number of candidates identified the single character '游' from Vocabulary '旅游' and gave the answer 'to swim' rather than 'to travel'.
- Centres should provide candidates with opportunities to handle longer texts, and give more detailed answers, particularly in Question 4
- Centres should work with candidates to increase their level of accuracy in terms of character recognition. (E.g. Confusion t between 'to swim' and 'to travel')

Candidate performance in Listening and advice to centres

- Overall, performance in this paper was impressive. It was handled well and with confidence
- However, candidates should be reminded to listen carefully and not to prejudge the content.

Candidate performance in Writing and advice to centres

- There were many well-prepared and excellent responses. Many able candidates used a good range of vocabulary and expressions, and addressed all the compulsory bullet points convincingly. On the whole, performance was very good.
- Teachers should reminded candidates to respond to each bullet point
- It is very important that candidates and centres have a clear understanding of SQA Pegged Mark Descriptors and how these criteria are applied.

General

- Centres are strongly encouraged to make full use of current resources. (E.g. Hanban and SQA's support materials, and resources from SQA's Support Events).
- The availability of marking instructions is also useful, and can assist with future preparation of candidates.
- Candidates should ensure that responses in Writing are constructed in a way that displays a good range of vocabulary and is in line with demands of the Course.
- Candidates should have the necessary dictionary skills, so that they can make effective use of this resource under exam conditions.
- Candidates should be reminded to maintain a balance between content and accuracy in the Writing paper, and should attempt all sections.