National
Qualifications
2026

2026 Mandarin (Simplified)

Reading and Translation

Advanced Higher

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

These marking instructions have been prepared by examination teams for use by Qualifications Scotland appointed markers when marking external course assessments.

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General marking principles for Advanced Higher Mandarin (Simplified) Reading and Translation

This information is provided to help you understand the general principles you must apply when marking candidate responses to questions in this paper. These principles must be read in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidate responses.

(a) Marks for each candidate response must **always** be assigned in line with these general marking principles and the detailed marking instructions for this assessment.

(b) Marking should always be positive. This means that, for each candidate response, marks are accumulated for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding: they are not deducted from a maximum on the basis of errors or omissions.

(c) If a specific candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.

(d) Award a mark to each answer. Marks are not transferable between questions.

(e) The marks available in this paper are as follows:

- **(i)** The first set of questions (worth 23 marks) in section 1 requires candidates to provide answers based on comprehension of information from the text. The marks available for each question generally range between 1-4 marks.
- **(ii)** The last question in section 1 is the overall purpose question. For this question candidates must draw meaning from their overall understanding of the text. There is a maximum of 7 marks available for full reference to the text and detailed comment. Pegged marks of 5/3/1 are given for degrees of reference to the text and comment. 0 marks will be given where candidates show little or no inferential skills or understanding of the overall purpose of the text.
- **(iii)** Section 2 is the translation question (worth 20 marks). For this question candidates must translate the underlined section of the text. The section for translation will be divided into 10 sense units. For each sense unit, 2, 1 or 0 marks will be awarded: 2 marks for a full translation, 1 for partial translation, and 0 for an unsuccessful attempt.

(f) Credit should be given according to the accuracy and relevance of candidates' answers. Candidates may be awarded marks where the answer is accurate but expressed in their own words'.

Marking instructions for each question

Section 1 - Reading

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
					Do not accept:
1.			• the number of self-employed people in China has reached 200 million • 18% are university graduates • more than half of them were born after 1990 **Any 2 from 3**	**2**	
2.	(a)	(i)	• the development of the internet technology	**1**	
		(ii)	• online writing • owning/running an online shop • making videos **Any 2 from 3**	**2**	
		(iii)	• (provide) flexible hours • (provide) convenient locations • improve creativity • improve problem-solving skills **Any 3 from 4**	**3**	
	(b)		• require work experience • work overtime at weekends • low pay	**3**	

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
					Do not accept:
3.	(a)	(i)	• to have **more** opportunities • to be their own boss • to have plenty of time to enjoy life **Any 2 from 3**	**2**	
		(ii)	• it allows young people to develop their interests/realise their dreams	**1**	
	(b)		• spend time with their children • have an income	**2**	
4.	(a)		• do not have a monthly income • do not have medical insurance/need to pay for doctors • do not know when to retire **Any 2 from 3**	**2**	
	(b)		• self-employment means jobless • parents want them to work in a well-known/famous company	**2**	
5.	(a)		• increases employment opportunities • has more career choices • enriches people's lives **Any 2 from 3**	**2**	
	(b)		• improve support for self-employment • encourage people to try various/diverse forms of employment **Any 1 from 2**	**1**	

<table>
<tr><th colspan="3">Question</th><th>Expected response(s)</th><th>Max mark</th><th>Additional guidance</th></tr>
<tr><td>6.</td><td></td><td></td><td>

- the writer adopted a formal tone to make the article more credible and authoritative.
- the writer used positive word choice, especially to convey why self-employed jobs are attractive to young people. Examples of this include 方便, 提高, 灵活. This helped to give the article an overall positive approach.
- the writer used subtitles to explain why self-employment became popular amongst young people in China, as it provided flexible working hours and convenient working locations, and it improved creativity and problem-solving skills. For example, 活的工作时间，方便的工作地点，提高年轻人的创造能力，独立解决问题的能力。
- through the comments of a HR expert Ms. Wang, the readers are convinced that self-employment has many advantages. For example, it allowed young people to have more room for development, be their own bosses, and had a lot of time to enjoy life. The writer also highlighted Ms. Wang's comment that self-employment allows young people to develop their interests and realize their dreams. For example: 让年轻人发展兴趣和实现梦想。This point of view was justified by emphasising importance of choosing a job that interests you, as you will learn various skills quickly and be more likely to succeed at work. For example, 你会很快的学到各种技能，工作也更容易成功。

</td><td>7</td><td>

<table>
<tr><th>Pegged Marks</th><th>Criteria</th></tr>
<tr><td>7
OR
5</td><td>The candidate provides a clear, concise, and reflective answer, drawing inferences which are entirely appropriate, analytical and which demonstrate a sophisticated and accurate reading of the text. The answer clearly relates to the advice given in the Expected response column, or any other equally appropriate response.</td></tr>
<tr><td>3
OR
1</td><td>The candidate provides an answer which may contain some degree of misreading, but which offers evidence of appropriate inferencing skills. The candidate may, however, tend to supply information from the text with little attempt to draw inferences.</td></tr>
<tr><td>0</td><td>The candidate's answer simply provides information to be found in the text with no attempt to draw inferences.</td></tr>
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Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
			• the writer also addressed some disadvantages of self-employment in a list by using 第一 . . . 第二 . . . structure effectively in leading the reader through this paragraph. This gave the article a balance of arguments. However, the advantages heavily outweighed the disadvantages of self-employment, suggesting the writer is in favour of self-employment, and encouraged more people to take their path. • the writer adopted an optimistic tone from the beginning to the end to convince readers self-employment is being accepted by more young people, because it increased employment opportunities for young people, enriched their career choices, and is also in line with social and economic development. 它增加了就业机会，让人们有了更多的工作选择，同时，也丰富了人们的生活 • in the last paragraph of the article, the writer summarised and confirmed that the Chinese Government will increase its support for self-employment in the future. This echoed the title of the article. 在将来，政府会提高对自主就业的支持		

Section 2 – Translation

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
7.			Translate the underlined section into English: (lines 21-24) 人们常常说，兴趣是最好的老师。...也会得到家人的支持。	**20**	The translation into English is allocated 20 marks. The text for translation will be divided into a number of sense units. Each sense unit is worth 2 marks, which will be awarded according to the quality and accuracy of the translation into English. In assessing the candidate's performance, the descriptions detailed below will be used. Each sense unit will be awarded one of the marks shown. **2 – Good:** Essential information and relevant details are understood and conveyed clearly and accurately, with appropriate use of English. **1 – Satisfactory:** Essential information is understood and conveyed clearly and comprehensibly, although some of the details may be translated in an imprecise or inaccurate manner. The key message is conveyed in spite of inaccuracies and weaknesses in the use of English. **0 – Unsatisfactory:** The candidate fails to demonstrate sufficient understanding of the essential information.

Sense Units	Good - 2	Satisfactory - 1	Unsatisfactory - 0
Unit 1 人们常常说，兴趣是最好的老师。	People often say that interest is the best teacher.		
Unit 2 因为你对自己选择的工作感兴趣，	Because you are interested in the job you choose,		
Unit 3 所以会用很多的时间	you will spend a lot of time		
Unit 4 去学习和实践。	learning and practising.		
Unit 5 你会学到各种技能，	You will learn various skills,		

Sense Units	Good - 2	Satisfactory - 1	Unsatisfactory - 0
Unit 6 也更容易成功。	and are more likely to succeed.		
Unit 7 如果你热爱自己的工作，	If you are passionate about your job,		
Unit 8 你就会对将来有信心，	you will have confidence in the future,		
Unit 9 你会找到工作和生活的平衡，	you will find a balance between work and life,		
Unit 10 也会得到家人的支持。	and also get the support from family.		

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]