



National  
Qualifications  
SPECIMEN ONLY

**S811/77/11**

**Cantonese  
Reading and Translation**

Date — Not applicable

Duration — 1 hour 30 minutes

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**Total marks — 50**

**SECTION 1 — READING — 30 marks**

Attempt ALL questions.

Write your answers clearly, in **English**, in the answer booklet provided. In the answer booklet you must clearly identify the question number you are attempting.

**SECTION 2 — TRANSLATION — 20 marks**

Attempt to translate the whole extract.

Write your translation clearly, in **English**, in the answer booklet provided. In the answer booklet you must clearly identify the section number you are attempting.

**You may use a Chinese dictionary.**

Use **blue** or **black** ink.

Before leaving the examination room you must give your answer booklet to the Invigilator; if you do not, you may lose all the marks for this paper.



\* S 8 1 1 7 7 1 1 \*

SECTION 1 — READING — 30 marks

Attempt ALL questions

Read the whole article carefully and then answer, in English, ALL the questions that follow.

This article is about the choices facing young people.

如果選擇錯了，人生也不會毀了

我小的時候，因為家裏生活困難，所以不論是在生活上、學習上，選擇都很少。但是當了母親以後，我希望我的孩子能自己選擇並決定他們想要的東西。因為我相信，就算他們選擇錯了，他們還有機會，人生不會因此毀了。有人說，我們有很多選擇，然而我認為選擇只有兩種：一種是選擇自己要的是什麼；另一種  
5 選擇是為了滿足別人，讓別人高興。

我有兩個孩子，一個兒子叫強強，十歲了，一個女兒叫麗麗。八歲了。他們小時候，我總是以為兒子不懂自己要什麼，而女兒很會做選擇。我的兒子非常自我，每次都選最好的、最貴的，但是他有一個問題，就是常常不能做決定，不但如此，就算做了決定，經常又會改變自己原來的決定。相對來說，我的女兒總是  
10 很快做出決定，而且對自己的選擇不會改變。

比如有一次，我們全家去法國度假，到一個玩具店買玩具。麗麗很快買了一個很普通、很便宜的玩具熊；可是強強卻不能做決定，一直換不同的玩具。最後他決定買一個飛機，但是要付錢的時候，看到一個玩具機器人，又想換買這個機器人。我們都很生氣，因為我們都認為他不知道自己什麼，只會選最貴的，所以  
15 不準他買玩具機器人。然而，在二十多年以後，麗麗還清楚地記得這件事。她說，她買了玩具熊以後就後悔了，可是因為我們都表揚她的決定，而且批評她哥哥一直換玩具，所以她不敢換，但是她卻很羨慕哥哥，每次都去嘗試得到自己想要的東西。

強強大學畢業以後，想到美國學習商業碩士。不過他從來沒學過商業，而申  
20 請的學校都是美國最有名的大學。他的一些朋友笑話他，覺得他不現實，應該選擇適合他程度的學校。可是他卻說：“到國外學習要花那麼多錢，如果不能去最好的學校，那就不必出國了。”後來，他不但去了一個很有名的大學，而且畢業的時候，還取得了很優秀的成績。

有些父母不讓孩子繼續追求他們的夢想，因為他們覺得孩子不了解自己的能力，目標太高、不容易達到，或者覺得這些目標不實際。但是，我認為，就算孩子  
25 失敗了，只要他們願意對自己的選擇負責任，我們就應該鼓勵孩子繼續對未來的夢想。

強強也曾經問我：“如果我以後去商店當售貨員，你會不會很失望？”我說：“不會。”他說：“可是，我去美國學習了這麼長時間，花了那麼多錢，去  
30 當售貨員，你難道不失望？”我告訴他，只要他快樂，我就不會失望。而且他能

在美國學習，這是人生中很特別的經驗。我又說，我自己在大學四年裏學了經濟，在會計事務所工作了三年，後來又去英國學習，我自己也花費了十年的時間。雖然我現在的工作跟以前經歷沒有什麼太大的關係，但是這些經歷讓我知道我自己想要的是什麼。

- 35 我覺得我們不需要跟孩子說：“我教你怎麼做。”最重要的是，在他們做選擇的時候，能陪伴在他們身邊。慢慢地，他們會認識到自己是什麼樣的人，有什麼優點，適合做什麼。他們也能根據自己的個性，找出適合他們的方向，變得更有自信，更加樂觀。而我相信有自信的人，也很少會做出錯誤的決定。

MARKS

### Questions

Re-read lines 1–5.

1. (a) What did the writer feel as a result of her upbringing in hard economic times? State **two** things. 2
- (b) She believes there are two kinds of choice in life. What are they? 2

Re-read lines 6–18.

2. She talks about a holiday in France when her young children were in a toy shop.
  - (a) When it came to choosing toys, what was the difference in approach between her daughter Li Li and her son Qiang Qiang? Give **four** details. 4
  - (b) Li Li regretted her choice of purchase. Why did she decide to keep her choice? State **two** reasons. 2
  - (c) Why was she jealous of her brother? 1

Re-read lines 19–27.

3. The writer talks about Qiang Qiang in later life when he was a student.
  - (a) Why did his friends laugh at him? State **three** things. 3
  - (b) What exactly did he do when he went to study abroad? State any **one** thing 1
  - (c) For what reasons do some parents stop their children pursuing their dreams? Give **two** reasons. 2
  - (d) According to the writer, what should young people be encouraged to do? 2

[Turn over

## Questions (continued)

Re-read lines 28–33.

4. Qiang Qiang asked his mother how she would have felt if he had got a job as a shop assistant.
- (a) What did she say in reply to this? State **two** things. 2
- (b) What were the writer's own experiences as a student and in the world of work? 2

Now consider the article as a whole.

5. What is the writer's overall purpose in writing about this subject? Justify your response with close reference to the points made and the language used. 7

**SECTION 2 — TRANSLATION — 20 marks**

6. Translate the underlined section into English: (lines 33–38)

雖然我現在的工作跟以前經歷沒有什麼太大的關係 . . . 也很少會做出錯誤的決定。

[END OF SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER]



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## Marking Instructions

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These marking instructions have been provided to show how SQA would mark this specimen question paper.

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## General marking principles for Advanced Higher Cantonese Reading and Translation

*Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.*

- (a) Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.
- (b) If a 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.
- (c) Award a mark for each answer. Marks are not transferable between questions and the answers for each question must come from the item.
- (d) Marks are available as follows:
  - (i) The first set of questions (worth 23 marks) in Section 1 asks candidates to provide answers based on comprehension of information from the text. There are generally 1–4 marks available for each question.
  - (ii) The last question in Section 1 is the overall purpose question, and candidates must identify the overall purpose of the text and draw meaning from their overall understanding of the text. There is a maximum of 7 marks available for reference to the text and detailed comment. Pegged mark descriptors (5/3/1) and associated commentary are available, along with further guidance, in the detailed marking instructions.
  - (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 is divided into ten sense units. For each sense unit, award 2, 1 or 0 marks: 2 marks for a full translation, 1 for partial translation and 0 for an unsuccessful attempt.
- (e) Award marks according to the accuracy and relevance of the candidate's answers. Award 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
1.	(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have little choice</li> <li>• in both life and learning</li> </ul>	2	Use your professional judgement, subject knowledge and experience, and understanding, to award marks to candidate responses.  Ignore extraneous material that does not contradict the answer.
	(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose what one wants</li> <li>• To satisfy others/make others happy</li> </ul>	2	
2.	(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Son: often can't make a decision/always chose the best/most expensive/changed his mind even after the decision has been made</li> <li>• Daughter: makes decision fast/never changes her mind</li> <li>• In a toy store, Li Li very quickly bought a common, cheap toy bear</li> <li>• Qiang Qiang was going to buy a plane, but changed his mind when paying for it. He decided to buy a toy robot.</li> </ul>	4	
	(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents praised her</li> <li>• Parents scolded her brother for changing all the time</li> </ul>	2	
	(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He always tried to get what he wanted</li> </ul>	1	

Question		Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
3.	(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He never studied business before,</li> <li>• but the universities he applied for were the most famous ones</li> <li>• He is not realistic</li> </ul>	3	Use your professional judgement, subject knowledge and experience, and understanding, to award marks to candidate responses.  Ignore extraneous material that does not contradict the answer.
	(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He went to study in a very famous university</li> <li>• He received an excellent grade when he graduated</li> </ul> <p><b>Any 1 from 2</b></p>	1	
	(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents think that their children don't understand their own abilities</li> <li>• Their goals are high/not easy to achieve</li> <li>• The goals are not practical</li> </ul> <p><b>Any 2 from 3</b></p>	2	
	(d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing encouraging children to continue to have their dreams/have imagination about the future</li> <li>• As long as children are willing to be responsible for their own choices</li> </ul>	2	
4.	(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She won't be disappointed</li> <li>• It would be good to be aware if her son realises he has made a wrong choice/as long as he was happy</li> <li>• It is a very special experience to study in the US</li> </ul> <p><b>Any 2 from 3</b></p>	2	
	(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Studied economics for four years in the UK</li> <li>• Worked in an accountancy company</li> </ul>	2	



Question		Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance									
5.		<p>What is the writer's overall purpose in writing about this subject? Justify your response with close reference to the points made and the language used.</p> <p>Possible answers could be:</p> <p>The article is directed mainly at parents and its intention is to encourage parents to support their children to make choices and decisions for themselves in life.</p> <p>The article could also be directed towards children to encourage them to make decisions for themselves and to take responsibility for their actions.</p> <p>Children should be allowed to choose for themselves, with parental support. — 我希望我的孩子能自己選擇並決定他們想要的東西。</p> <p>Even if children make the wrong decision, it is not the end of the world and they will learn from the experience. — 因為我相信，就算他們選擇錯了，他們還有機會，人生不會因此毀了。</p> <p>The author suggests that you must either decide to do what you actually want or just do things to please other people. The example of her young children in the toy shop illustrates this.</p> <p>She encourages parents to support their children's choices and dreams as long as the children are willing to take responsibility, even when the decision is the wrong one. —</p>	7	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Pegged marks</th> <th>Criteria</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <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(s) 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> </tbody> </table>		Pegged marks	Criteria	7 OR 5	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(s) column, or any other equally appropriate response.	3 OR 1	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.	0	The candidate's answer simply provides information to be found in the text with no attempt to draw inferences.
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Question	Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
	<p>我認為，就算孩子失敗了，只要他們願意對自己的選擇負責任，我們就應該鼓勵孩子繼續對未來的夢想。</p> <p>The author encourages children to follow their dreams, despite any ridicule or criticism they may receive from others. This is illustrated by the example of her son applying for top universities despite him never having studied business. Through his ambition, he proved everyone wrong.</p> <p>Likewise, she criticises some parents who are negative about the goals their children set for themselves. — 他們覺得孩子不了解自己的能力，目標太高、不容易達到，或者覺得這些目標不實際。</p> <p>She supports her child's choice, regardless of what it is as long as he is happy with it. Happiness is all important. — 我告訴他，只要他快樂，我就不會失望。</p> <p>The author believes that even if choices might not seem to be the right ones, they can still be beneficial and become part of life experiences. Life experience can still help children to find out what they want and who they are. — 雖然我現在的工作跟以前經歷沒有什麼太大的關係，但是這些經歷讓我知道我自己想要的是什麼。</p>		

Question	Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
	<p>The author believes that parents don't have to tell their children what to do, but should be with them and support them. — 我覺得我們不需要跟孩子說：“我教你怎麼做。”最重要的是，在他們做選擇的時候，能陪伴在他們身邊。</p> <p>The author believes that allowing children to make their own choices can help them to find themselves, and become more confident and make better decisions. — 慢慢地，他們會認識到自己是什麼樣的人，有什麼優點，適合做什麼。</p> <p>The author puts across her argument by using the example of her own situation as a child, where because of poverty she had no real choices in life. She compares this with her own children and gives examples of their own decision making and her son's ultimate success in life. In this way she makes the situation real rather than theoretical. It's a real personal account of something she really believes in.</p> <p>The parents' frustration at the son's lack of decision making is shown by the use of phrases such as. — 我們都很生氣，因為我們都認為他不知道自己要什麼，只會選最貴的，所以不準他買玩具機器人。</p>		

Section 2 — Translation

Question	Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
6.	<p>Translate the underlined section into English: (lines 33–38)</p> <p>“雖然我現在的工作跟以前經歷沒有什麼太大的關係係 . . . 也很少會做出錯誤的決定。”</p>		<p>The translation into English is allocated 20 marks. The text for translation is divided into a number of sense units. Each sense unit is worth 2 marks. Award marks according to the quality and accuracy of the translation into English. Award a mark for each sense unit, as follows.</p> <p><b>2 marks – good</b> The candidate understands and conveys essential information and relevant details, clearly and accurately, with appropriate use of English.</p> <p><b>1 mark – satisfactory</b> The candidate understands and conveys essential information clearly and comprehensibly, although some of the details may be translated in an imprecise or inaccurate manner. They convey the key message in spite of inaccuracies and weaknesses in the use of English.</p> <p><b>0 marks – unsatisfactory</b> The candidate fails to demonstrate sufficient understanding of the essential idea.</p>

Sense unit	Good – 2	Satisfactory – 1	Unsatisfactory – 0
<p><b>Sense unit 1</b></p> <p>雖然我現在的工作跟以前經歷沒有什麼太大的關係，</p>	<p>Although my current job is not relevant to all these experiences,</p>		
<p><b>Sense unit 2</b></p> <p>但是這些經歷讓我知道我自己想要的是什麼。</p>	<p>it helped me to know what I wanted.</p>		
<p><b>Sense unit 3</b></p> <p>我覺得我們不需要跟孩子說：“我教你怎麼做。”</p>	<p>I don't think it is necessary to say to children, I'll teach you what to do.</p>		
<p><b>Sense unit 4</b></p> <p>最重要的是，在他們做選擇的時候，能陪伴在他們身邊。</p>	<p>The most important thing is to be with them when they make choices.</p>		
<p><b>Sense unit 5</b></p> <p>慢慢地，他們會認識到自己是什麼樣的人，</p>	<p>Gradually, they will know what kind of person they are,</p>		
<p><b>Sense unit 6</b></p> <p>有什麼優點，適合做什麼。</p>	<p>what their strengths are, and what suits them.</p>		

Sense unit	Good – 2	Satisfactory – 1	Unsatisfactory – 0
<p><b>Sense unit 7</b></p> <p>他們也能根據自己的個性， 找出適合他們的方向，</p>	<p>They can also find the directions which suit them based on their personalities,</p>		
<p><b>Sense unit 8</b></p> <p>變得更有自信，更加樂觀。</p>	<p>become more confident and happier.</p>		
<p><b>Sense unit 9</b></p> <p>而我相信有自信的人，</p>	<p>I believe people with self-belief,</p>		
<p><b>Sense unit 10</b></p> <p>也很少會做出錯誤的決定。</p>	<p>will be less likely to make a wrong decision.</p>		

[END OF SPECIMEN MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]