



National
Qualifications
SPECIMEN ONLY

S845/77/11

**Mandarin (Simplified)
Reading and Translation**

Date — Not applicable

Duration — 1 hour 30 minutes

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 4 5 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.

如果选择错了，人生也不会毁了

我小的时候，因为家里生活困难，所以不论是在生活上、学习上，选择都很少。但是当了母亲以后，我希望我的孩子能自己选择并决定他们想要的东西。因为我相信，就算他们选择错了，他们还有机会，人生不会因此毁了。有人说，我们有很多选择，然而我认为选择只有两种：一种是选择自己要的是什么；另一种选择是为了满足别人，让别人高兴。

我有两个孩子，一个儿子叫强强，十岁了，一个女儿叫丽丽。八岁了。他们小时候，我总是以为儿子不懂自己要什么，而女儿很会做选择。我的儿子非常自我，每次都选最好的、最贵的，但是他有一个问题，就是常常不能做决定，不但如此，就算做了决定，经常又会改变自己原来的决定。相对来说，我的女儿总是很快做出决定，而且对自己的选择不会改变。

比如有一次，我们全家去法国度假，到一个玩具店买玩具。丽丽很快买了一个很普通、很便宜的玩具熊；可是强强却不能做决定，一直换不同的玩具。最后他决定买一个飞机，但是要付钱的时候，看到一个玩具机器人，又想换买这个机器人。我们都很生气，因为我们都认为他不知道自己需要什么，只会选最贵的，所以不准他买玩具机器人。然而，在二十多年以后，丽丽还清楚地记得这件事。她说，她买了玩具熊以后就后悔了，可是因为我们都表扬她的决定，而且批评她哥哥一直换玩具，所以她不敢换，但是她却很羡慕哥哥，每次都去尝试得到自己想要的东西。

强强大学毕业以后，想到美国学习商业硕士。不过他从来没学过商业，而申请的学校都是美国最有名的大学。他的一些朋友笑话他，觉得他不现实，应该选择适合他程度的学校。可是他却说：“到国外学习要花那么多钱，如果不能去最好的学校，那就不必出国了。”后来，他不但去了一个很有名的大学，而且毕业的时候，还取得了很优秀的成绩。

有些父母不让孩子继续追求他们的梦想，因为他们觉得孩子不了解自己的能力，目标太高、不容易达到，或者觉得这些目标不实际。但是，我认为，就算孩子失败了，只要他们愿意对自己的选择负责任，我们就应该鼓励孩子继续对未来的梦想。

强强也曾经问我：“如果我以后去商店当售货员，你会不会很失望？”我说：“不会。”他说：“可是，我去美国学习了这么长时间，花了那么多钱，去当售货员，你难道不失望？”我告诉他，只要他快乐，我就不会失望。而且他能

在美国学习，这是人生中很特别的经验。我又说，我自己在大学四年里学了经济，在会计事务所工作了三年，后来又去英国学习，我自己也花费了十年的时间。虽然我目前的工作跟以前经历没有什么太大的关系，但是这些经历让我知道我自己想要的是什么。

- 35 我觉得我们不需要跟孩子说：“我教你怎么做。”最重要的是，在他们做选择的时候，能陪伴在他们身边。慢慢地，他们会认识到自己是什么样的人，有什么优点，适合做什么。他们也能根据自己的个性，找出适合他们的方向，变得更有自信，更加乐观。而我相信有自信的人，也很少会做出错误的决定。

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

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)

“虽然我目前的工作跟以前经历没有什么太大的关系， . . . ，也很少会做出错误的决定。”

[END OF SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER]



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Marking Instructions

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 Mandarin (Simplified) 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"> • Have little choice • in both life and learning 	2	<p>Use your professional judgement, subject knowledge and experience, and understanding, to award marks to candidate responses.</p> <p>Ignore extraneous material that does not contradict the answer.</p>
	(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose what one wants • To satisfy others/make others happy 	2	
2.	(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Son: often can't make a decision/always chose the best/most expensive/changed his mind even after the decision has been made • Daughter: makes decision fast/never changes her mind • In a toy store, Li Li very quickly bought a common, cheap toy bear • Qiang Qiang was going to buy a plane, but changed his mind when paying for it. He decided to buy a toy robot. <p>Any 3 from 4</p>	4	
	(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents praised her • Parents scolded her brother for changing all the time 	2	
	(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He always tried to get what he wanted 	1	

Question		Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional Guidance
3.	(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He never studied business before, • but the universities he applied for were the most famous ones • He is not realistic 	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"> • He went to study in a very famous university • He received an excellent grade when he graduated <p>Any 1 from 2</p>	1	
	(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents think that their children don't understand their own abilities • Their goals are high/not easy to achieve • The goals are not practical <p>Any 2 from 3</p>	2	
	(d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing encouraging children to continue to have their dreams/have imagination about the future • As long as children are willing to be responsible for their own choices 	2	

Question		Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional Guidance
4.	(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She won't be disappointed • It would be good to be aware if her son realises he has made a wrong choice/as long as he was happy • It is a very special experience to study in the US <p>Any 2 from 3</p>	2	<p>Use your professional judgement, subject knowledge and experience, and understanding, to award marks to candidate responses.</p> <p>Ignore extraneous material that does not contradict the answer.</p>
	(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studied economics for four years in the UK • Worked in an accountancy company 	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选择并决定他们想要的东西。</p> <p>Even if children make the wrong decision, it is not the end of the world and they will learn from the experience. — 因为我相信，就算他们选择错了，他们还有机会，人生不会因此毁了。</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	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.

Question	Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional Guidance
	<p>我认为，就算孩子失败了，只要他们愿意对自己的选择负责，我们就应该鼓励孩子继续对未来的梦想。</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. — 他们觉得孩子不了解自己的能力，目标太高、不容易达到，或者觉得这些目标不实际。</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. — 我告诉他，只要他快乐，我就不会失望。</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. — 虽然我目前的工作跟以前经历没有什么太大的关系，但是这些经历让我知道我自己想要的是什么。</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. — 我觉得我们不需要跟孩子说：“我教你怎么做。”最重要的是，在他们做选择的时候，能陪伴在他们身边。</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，他们会认识到自己是什么样的人，有什么优点，适合做什么。</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. — 我们都很生气，因为我们都认为他不知道自己需要什么，只会选最贵的，所以不准他买玩具机器人。</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>“虽然我目前的工作跟以前经历没有什么太大的关系， ...，也很少会做出错误的决定。”</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>2 marks – good The candidate understands and conveys essential information and relevant details, clearly and accurately, with appropriate use of English.</p> <p>1 mark – satisfactory 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>0 marks – unsatisfactory The candidate fails to demonstrate sufficient understanding of the essential idea.</p>

Sense unit	Good – 2	Satisfactory – 1	Unsatisfactory – 0
<p>Sense unit 1</p> <p>虽然我目前的工作跟以前经历没有什么太大的关系，</p>	<p>Although my current job is not relevant to all these experiences,</p>		
<p>Sense unit 2</p> <p>但是这些经历让我知道我自己想要的是什么。</p>	<p>it helped me to know what I wanted.</p>		
<p>Sense unit 3</p> <p>我觉得我们不需要跟孩子说：“我教你怎么做。”</p>	<p>I don't think it is necessary to say to children, I'll teach you what to do</p>		
<p>Sense unit 4</p> <p>最重要的是，在他们做选择的时候，能陪伴在他们身边。</p>	<p>The most important thing is to be with them when they make choices.</p>		
<p>Sense unit 5</p> <p>慢慢地，他们会认识到自己是什么样的人，</p>	<p>Gradually, they will know what kind of person they are,</p>		
<p>Sense unit 6</p> <p>有什么优点，适合做什么。</p>	<p>what their strengths are, and what suits them.</p>		

Sense unit	Good – 2	Satisfactory – 1	Unsatisfactory – 0
<p>Sense unit 7</p> <p>他们也能根据自己的个性， 找出适合他们的方向，</p>	<p>They can also find the directions which suit them based on their personalities,</p>		
<p>Sense unit 8</p> <p>变得更有自信，更加乐观。</p>	<p>become more confident and happier.</p>		
<p>Sense unit 9</p> <p>而我相信有自信的人，</p>	<p>I believe people with self-belief,</p>		
<p>Sense unit 10</p> <p>也很少会做出错误的决定。</p>	<p>will be less likely to make a wrong decision.</p>		

[END OF SPECIMEN MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]