



2012 Mandarin (Simplified)

Higher – Reading and Directed Writing

Finalised Marking Instructions

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2012 Mandarin (Simplified) Higher: Reading

Marking Key

The comprehension questions are designed to find out whether the candidates have understood the main points of the passage, including where appropriate something of the author's purpose in writing the text.

In the marking schemes which follow, a bullet point designates information required for the award of 1 mark; a word or concept underlined must be evident within an answer before the mark can be awarded.

To assess an answer, tick each piece of information which constitutes a correct point. If the information is subsequently contradicted in the same answer, put a cross through the relevant tick. Similarly, if correct information is accompanied in the same answer by information which shows lack of real understanding, put a cross through the relevant tick.

No marks can be awarded in a sentence whose overall meaning is unclear.

The inclusion of irrelevant information in an answer should not be penalised unless it contradicts the text.

If information required but not given in answer to one question appears in answer to a different question, it cannot be credited with any marks unless it would also correctly answer that question.

The total mark awarded for each question should be written on the inside margin, at the end of the relevant question.

When the comprehension questions have been marked, marks should be totalled and written on the inside margin as a mark out of 20.

Section I – General Points

Correct points should be marked with a tick and the total number of marks written in the inside margin after each heading.

No marks should be given for points written under a different heading unless they would also answer that heading. In such a case, the mark should be transferred to the total for the heading under which the mark was originally allocated. Where candidates list irrelevant information, no credit should be given for this, even if there is some correct information in the middle of it.

The total number of marks scored should be written in the inner margin at the end of Section I.

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Higher – Reading and Directed Writing**

Questions/Acceptable answers			Unacceptable answers	Irrelevant/Insufficient
1.	(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting the environment is in fashion/using them protects the environment 	1 mark	
	(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Reflective) jacket <u>and</u> helmet (both required) 	1 mark	Hat
	(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are easy to fold/use/work You can take the bikes/them onto the train/underground 	2 marks	
2.	(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For inventing it/them/the bike He has devoted his life (to this pursuit/project)/(it has been) a lifelong pursuit/interest/passion He is constantly innovating/updating/modifying/improving <p style="text-align: right;">(2 from 3)</p>	2 marks	
	(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Make them) lighter (Make them) <u>more</u> comfortable 	2 marks	Easier

Questions/Acceptable answers

Unacceptable answers

Irrelevant/Insufficient

- 3.**
- (a)**
- more and more people are using them/folding bikes **3 marks**
 - (even though the bike is small) it (still) occupies/takes up space
 - (as a result) there is (even) less space/it is very crowded/the carriage becomes (even) more crowded
- (b)**
- it's cheaper **1 mark**
- (c)**
- (They are) the most environmentally friendly (mode of transport) **3 marks**
 - reduce car pollution/use
 - (Protecting the environment) is worthwhile

Questions/Acceptable answers

Unacceptable answers

Irrelevant/Insufficient

4. (a) • they have improved (their technology) **3 marks**
- the whole folding time is only 7-15 seconds
 - they can go quite fast/they're not slow
- (b) • (Riding a bike) is a good way (for office workers) to exercise **2 marks**
- drivers need to pay a congestion fee/charge for entering the city (which is very expensive)

Translation into English

The translation into English is allocated 10 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.

Category	Mark	Description
Good	2	Essential information and relevant details are understood and conveyed clearly and accurately, with appropriate use of English.
Satisfactory	1	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.
Unsatisfactory	0	The candidate fails to demonstrate sufficient understanding of the essential information and relevant details. Errors may include mistranslation and/or the failure to translate relevant details.

5. UNIT 1

TEXT	GOOD 2	SATISFACTORY 1	UNSATISFACTORY 0
他们指出，很多骑折叠自行车的人	They pointed out that many people who use folding bikes		

UNIT 2

TEXT	GOOD 2	SATISFACTORY 1	UNSATISFACTORY 0
是先开着自己的汽车到车站， 然后带着自行车上火车。	drive (their car) to the station first, and then take the bike to the train.		

UNIT 3

TEXT	GOOD 2	SATISFACTORY 1	UNSATISFACTORY 0
下车后才骑很短一段路，	They cycle only a very short distance after they get off the train		

UNIT 4

TEXT	GOOD 2	SATISFACTORY 1	UNSATISFACTORY 0
这怎么能叫环保呢？而且，无论再怎么环保，	It cannot be called protecting the environment. Moreover, no matter how you protect the environment		

UNIT 5

TEXT	GOOD 2	SATISFACTORY 1	UNSATISFACTORY 0
也不能让乘客连站的地方都没有。	it's impossible/not right to deprive passengers of a place to stand in the carriage/it should not let passengers have no space to stand in a carriage.		

Higher Writing

Task: Directed Writing, addressing 6 bullet points.

- Assessment Process:
- 1 With reference to *Content, Accuracy and Language Resource*, assess the overall quality of the response and allocate it to a pegged mark.
 - 2 Check that all 6 bullet points have been addressed.
 - 3 Deduct 2 marks (ie single marks, not pegged ones) for each bullet not addressed, up to a maximum of 2 bullets. If 3 or more bullets have not been addressed, the mark must be 0.

Category	Mark	Content	Accuracy	Language Resource – Variety, Range, Structures
Very Good	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All bullet points are covered fully, in a balanced way, including a number of complex sentences. • Some candidates may also provide additional information. • A wide range of verbs/verb forms and constructions is used. • Overall this comes over as a competent, well thought-out account of the event which reads naturally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The candidate handles all aspects of grammar and writing of characters accurately, although the language may contain some minor errors or even one more serious error. • Where the candidate attempts to use language more appropriate to post-Higher, a slightly higher number of inaccuracies need not detract from the overall very good impression. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The candidate is comfortable with almost all the grammar used and generally uses a different verb in each sentence. • There is good use of a variety of adjectives, adverbs and prepositional phrases. • The candidate uses conjunctions throughout the writing. • The language flows well.
Good	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All bullet points are addressed, generally quite fully, and some complex sentences may be included. • The response to one bullet point may be thin, although other bullet points are dealt with in some detail. • The candidate uses a reasonable range of verbs/verb forms and other constructions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The candidate generally handles verbs and adjectives accurately but simply. • There may be some errors in writing characters. • Where the candidate is attempting to use more complex characters and structures, these may be less successful, although basic structures are used accurately. • There may be minor misuse of dictionary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There may be less variety in the verbs used. • Most of the more complex sentences use conjunctions. • In one bullet point the language may be more basic than might otherwise be expected at this level. • Overall the writing will be competent, mainly correct, but pedestrian.

Category	Mark	Content	Accuracy	Language Resource – Variety, Range, Structures
Satisfactory	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The candidate uses mainly simple, more basic sentences. • The language is perhaps repetitive and uses a limited range of verbs and fixed phrases not appropriate to this level. • In some examples, one or two bullet points may be less fully addressed. • In some cases, the content may be similar to that of good or very good examples, but with some serious accuracy issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The verbs are generally correct, but basic. • Some prepositions may be inaccurate or omitted. • While the language may be reasonably accurate in three or four bullet points, in the remaining two control of the language structure may deteriorate significantly. • Overall, there is more correct than incorrect and there is the impression overall that the candidate can handle tenses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A limited range of verbs is used to address some of the bullet points. • Candidate relies on a limited range of vocabulary and structures. • Sentences may be basic and mainly brief. • There is minimal use of adjectives. • There may be several character errors.
Unsatisfactory	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some cases the content may be basic. • In other cases there may be little difference in content between Satisfactory and Unsatisfactory. • The language is repetitive, with undue reliance on fixed phrases and a limited range of common basic verbs such as <i>to be, to have, to play, to watch</i>. • While the language used to address the more predictable bullet points may be accurate, serious errors occur when the candidate attempts to address the less predictable areas. • The Directed Writing may be presented as a single paragraph. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There may be one sentence which is not intelligible to a sympathetic native speaker. • Several errors are serious. • One area may be very weak. • Overall, there is more incorrect than correct. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The candidate copes mainly only with the predictable language required at the earlier bullet points. • There is inconsistency in the use of various expressions, especially verbs. • Sentences are more basic. • An English word or Pinyin may appear in the writing or a word may be omitted. • There may be an example of serious dictionary misuse.

Category	Mark	Content	Accuracy	Language Resource – Variety, Range, Structures
Poor	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The content and language may be very basic. • However, in many cases the content may be little different from that expected at Unsatisfactory or even at Satisfactory. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepositions are not used correctly. • The use of characters is probably inaccurate throughout the writing. • Some sentences may not be understood by a sympathetic native speaker. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbs used more than once may be written differently on each occasion. • The candidate has a very limited vocabulary. • Several English words or Pinyin may appear in the writing. • There are examples of serious dictionary misuse.
Very Poor	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The content is very basic <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The candidate has not completed at least three of the core bullet points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Virtually) nothing is correct. • Most of the errors are serious. • Very little is intelligible to a sympathetic native speaker. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The candidate copes only with “have” and “am”. • Very few words are correctly written in the foreign language. • English words or Pinyin are used extensively. • There may be several examples of serious dictionary misuse.

What if....?	
the candidate only addresses one part of one of the introductory, predictable bullet points?	In such a case the candidate is deemed to have not addressed the bullet points and a 2 mark penalty is made (ie 2 marks are deducted from the final mark awarded). This procedure applies at all categories.
some bullet points fit into one category but others are in the next, lower category?	<p>It is important to look carefully at which bullet points are better addressed.</p> <p>If the better sections include the more predictable bullet points, the marker is less likely to be generous than if the unpredictable bullet points are of a better quality. If there is a serious decline after the initial bullet points, a lower mark must be awarded.</p> <p>It is also important to consider the balance of the bullet points. Sometimes a candidate writes twice as much about the opening bullet points – or even bullet points which are not there – than for the four remaining bullet points. In such cases, the lower mark being considered should be awarded.</p>
the marker is having great difficulty in deciding whether the writing is good enough to pass or not quite good enough to pass?	It is essential to consider carefully the accuracy of the verbs overall. If more verbs are correct than wrong, then it is likely that the candidate deserves to pass, unless there are many other inaccuracies in the writing.
the Directed Writing, from the point of view of content, looks as if it belongs in a top category, but where accuracy is concerned, contains some possibly serious grammatical errors in more basic structures as a result of using relatively advanced structures combined with a less than confident knowledge of the more basic structures?	This is a case where the candidate is more adventurous, but less accurate. It is always important to assess what it is the candidate <u>can</u> do, and thus highlight the positive. However, in such cases, it is likely that the candidate will be awarded 9.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]