

2009 HSC Chinese Background Speakers Sample Answers — Written Examination

This document contains ‘sample answers’, or, in the case of some questions, ‘answer may include’. These are developed by the examination committee for two purposes. The committee does this:

- (a) as part of the development of the examination paper to ensure the questions will effectively assess students’ knowledge and skills, and
- (b) in order to provide some advice to the Supervisor of Marking about the nature and scope of the responses expected of students.

The ‘sample answers’ or similar advice, are not intended to be exemplary or even complete responses. They have been reproduced in their original form as part of the examination committee’s ‘working document’. While the handwritten notes have been typed for legibility, no further editorial change or addition has occurred.

Section I — Listening and Responding

Part A

Question 1 (a)

Sample answer:

Li Qiang is a Sichuan earthquake disaster volunteer helper. He is a fourth year university student who is about to graduate.

Question 1 (b)

Sample answer:

The interviewer's initial opinion is coloured by his understanding of today's young people's ultimate dream of getting into university and securing a good job, so he cannot believe Li Qiang's forfeiting his future for the earthquake victims. His opinion is also coloured by his experience of recent opportunists who use the excuse of helping victims to make their personal gains. He thought Li Qiang is one of them.

Question 1 (c)

Sample answer:

Li Qiang uses simple but detailed language to describe what he has been doing in the interview. He has no intention to defend himself or brighten his name, which indicates his sincerity. The emotion expressed in his mentioning of the victims certainly has made an impact on the interviewer.

Section I — Listening and Responding

Part B

Question 2

Answers could include:

The letter should compare and contrast the two ladies' different opinions towards the impact of the Olympic Games. Shuyun believes there are negative impacts to individual households like separating family members, abandoning the crops and affecting young people's opportunities to contribute to the nation through farming. However Haixia believes individuals should sacrifice themselves for their nation's benefits to support the Olympic Games. Textual reference should be quoted.

Section II — Reading and Responding

Part A

Question 3 (a)

Sample answer:

This is the only school in town, which is the pride of the community. The school has won all the academic awards and some national prizes.

Question 3 (b)

Sample answer:

Locals were encouraged by the success of two science students. School authorities also enjoy the fame achieved by the students who study science. The shortfall in the number of Chinese teachers is due to the fact that many of them have left their profession.

Question 3 (c)

Sample answer:

The author uses metaphors, exaggerated language and irony etc to portray Ma Debao.

Question 3 (d)

Sample answer:

The local school's decision of promoting science over arts subjects must influence many young people's study choices. The frustration of the two Chinese language teachers' Lin Yuxiang and Ma Debao is also related to the pressures. Students can find many more relevant examples from the extract and the rest of chapter 1 and chapter 2.

Section II — Reading and Responding

Part A (continued)

Question 4

Answers could include:

- Both texts embody overseas Chinese experiencing frustration and isolation in the process of adapting to a new culture and integrating into a new society. They also experience conflicts between their own culture and values and the new culture and values.
- In *Beijing Natives in New York*, Wang Qiming and Guo Yan experienced language barriers and cultural shock finding it hard to lower their social status to make a living.
- In *Cheers! Thomas Mann!*, both Zhang Ailing and Yang Lian were alienated in a foreign country and was remote from locals. The author called people a ‘sunflower facing the east’ that is only concerned for own home country and could never adjust to the local culture. This is similar to Wang Qiming’s and Guo Yan’s situation that they all felt left out in a new environment.

Section II — Reading and Responding

Part B

Question 5

Answers could include:

Candidates could express their opinion to agree or disagree with Miao Zheng:

Agree – Quote ancient or modern examples of people trying to be educated in order to succeed. Personal relevant references could be used too.

Disagree – The idea of ‘education is most important’ is out-dated and there should be other ways leading to success.

Textual references should be quoted to support arguments.