



B O A R D O F S T U D I E S
NEW SOUTH WALES

2011 Chinese Background Speakers HSC Examination 'Sample Answers'

When examination committees develop questions for the examination, they may write 'sample answers' or, in the case of some questions, 'answers could include'. The committees do this to ensure that the questions will effectively assess students' knowledge and skills.

This material is also provided to the Supervisor of Marking, to give some guidance about the nature and scope of the responses the committee expected students would produce. How sample answers are used at marking centres varies. Sample answers may be used extensively and even modified at the marking centre OR they may be considered only briefly at the beginning of marking. In a few cases, the sample answers may not be used at all at marking.

The Board publishes this information to assist in understanding how the marking guidelines were implemented.

The 'sample answers' or similar advice contained in this document are not intended to be exemplary or even complete answers or responses. As they are part of the examination committee's 'working document', they may contain typographical errors, omissions, or only some of the possible correct answers.

Section I — Listening and Responding

Part A

Question 1 (a)

Sample answer:

Liu Lan blames Green International because its core business is producing and selling timber and paper. This leads to logging, which contributes to climate change.

Question 1 (b)

Sample answer:

Liu Lan is very concerned about environmental protection. She is against logging and the destruction of forests. She calls on the government to legislate to stop illegal logging. She thinks people must do something to reduce, or even stop, global warming. She believes trading in timber and paper products will damage forests and lead to world climate change. It will also affect community life, especially in developing countries.

Question 1 (c)

Sample answer:

The conversation is not effective. Zhang Biao wants to advertise his company as an environmentally friendly company. He said that his company's slogan is 'Environment Protection is the priority' and that the company also contributed a lot to society etc. Neither claim attracted any attention or response from Liu Lan. Finally, Zhang Biao gave up.

Liu Lan is very keen to propagate her view on climate change and hopes the company will take action to help protect the forest. Before the meeting, she had the view that since the company deals with the production of timber/paper, its business must be bad for the environment. Any response would just be an excuse. Therefore, she just kept talking about her views, ignoring the other's response and questions. Her questions are more like accusations. There is no discussion. Her tone is similar to a boss giving instructions to their subordinates. This causes Zhang Biao to lose his patience with her.

Part B

Question 2

Answers could include:

For:

- Ah Ming may get bored living in a comfortable environment.
- It is more meaningful to obtain happiness through facing challenges.
- His mother is very traditional and she wants her son to do things her way.

Against:

- Ah Ming must think carefully because to get married is a great decision.
- They need time to understand each other better.
- Happiness is not obtained just by overcoming challenges. It also depends on the nature of the challenges.

Section II — Reading and Responding

Part A

Question 3 (a)

Sample answer:

The author has nothing to complain about in life because she has her writing and her readers, and always receives letters from readers in Chinese-speaking communities. Compared to other Chinese people living overseas who have a lonely and tough life, she considers herself fortunate.

Question 3 (b)

Sample answer:

Through the objective description of a grafted plant in the Da An Park, the author presents herself as a fusion of two worlds — Taipei (her homeland) and the West. She has been influenced by both Western culture and her own Chinese culture. The grafted plant is also a metaphor for Chinese people living overseas. Two types of flowers that appeared on the same plant looked distinctively beautiful, but also present some uneasiness and contradiction. Similarly, the influences of Eastern and Western culture enrich the life of migrants, but their ways of thinking slowly change.

Question 3 (c)

Sample answer:

On her return to Taipei, the author feels lonely and not really a part of the community. Even though she was an onlooker, the experience of living overseas has allowed the author to develop a broader outlook on life. As a result, when she returns to Taipei and sees that the local people are only concerned with the regional political struggle, she realises that they have only a narrow mindset. The differences in the scope of vision creates a gap between the author and the local people. She has nothing in common with them even though they are her own countrymen.

Question 3 (d)

Sample answer:

The whole article consists of eight short texts which are linked to the theme of people being far from home. In the first and last texts the author talks about her own experience, showing a connection throughout the texts and the related connection of beginning and ending. Even though it appears there are many stories of people from different nations and of different ages, the theme is the same – the feeling of loneliness and being on the edge of the community. Therefore, structurally it is not untidy but connected and complete.

Question 4

Answers could include:

- Challenges faced by Chinese culture in the process of globalisation include:
 - The Chinese language is difficult to learn.
 - The emphasis on English is causing the decline in the Chinese language standard.
 - Lifestyle: Western festivals are more attractive to young people.
 - Eating preference: people like to eat fast food, eg McDonald's.
 - Culture is becoming very commercialised.
 - People are becoming more materialistic.
 - Loss of morals.

- Whether Chinese culture effectively deals with these challenges is explored in Wang Meng's speech:
 - Chinese characters are suitable for use in computers. The function of the language can't be replaced by other languages. The language is a tool of unity.
 - Chinese culture exposes its strength, its flexibility. It can absorb aspects of other cultures and make them its own. For example, Coke and ballet are all modified in Chinese daily life.

Students are expected to comment personally on Wang Meng's speech on the statement.

Part B

Question 5

Sample answer:

The candidates are expected to comment on these points raised in the text:

- The proposal of the sculpture does not embody the positive values in Chinese culture. It is full of materialism.
- The eight ingots and gold paint on the main body of the sculpture stress materialistic pursuits, rather than real happiness in human life.
- Wealth does not equal real happiness. Chinese culture emphasises real happiness based on relationships with other people and nature etc.
- The aim of the 'Chinese Culture Centre' is to display positive values of Chinese culture and people, such as, dedication, contribution, emphasis on family life etc.
- Chinese people do not only follow material aims and selfish pursuits. Chinese culture values compassion toward others and society, as well as making a contribution to the world.