



**2011 Languages: Chinese First Language GA 3: Examination**

**Oral component**

**GENERAL COMMENT**

Approximately 1660 students participated in the 2011 Chinese First Language oral examination. Some completed the examination from overseas via telephone. A large variety of new topics and resources were selected by students.

The majority of students demonstrated an excellent understanding of the requirements and good preparation for this examination, and there was a noticeable improvement in the way students used their cue cards this year. However, a small number of students came to the examination without adequate preparation. Some presentations were not prepared according to the requirements of the study design, some lacked any evidence of the resources used and some were in an informative style. A few students appeared to make up their speech on the spot.

There was evidence of the use of inappropriate resources this year. The texts selected for a student's Detailed Study must be drawn from the field of Literature and the Arts. These can be novels, films, poems, songs, etc. Articles from newspapers, magazines or the Internet and news shows from television are all inappropriate. Foreign literature is also an inappropriate resource for this examination.

Once again, students' lateness was an issue; greater attention needs to be given to punctuality. Students are reminded to arrive at the examination venue 30 minutes before their scheduled time. They should bring an official photo ID (such as a passport or a student card) and not wear school uniform. Students should not give their own name or the name of their school during the oral examination.

**SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

**Section 1 – Presentation**

The key to a successful performance in this section of the examination is thorough preparation. Students should have well-developed ideas and opinions which are presented clearly and logically. A thorough understanding of the topic and texts will also help to achieve an excellent performance.

The majority of students presented their speech fluently and confidently within the four-minute Presentation as required by the study design. The topic selection was again very broad. Many new and interesting topics were heard and were supported by a large variety of resources.

Problems were found in the following areas: unfamiliarity with the content of the speech, talking too fast, presentation too short, resources not reflective of the topic and inappropriate use of texts.

Students are advised to familiarise themselves with the assessment criteria when preparing for this examination.

Following are some good topics heard in the oral examination this year.

- 成功需要标新立异 new ideas are the key to success
- 赢在主动求变 change is the key to success
- 欲速则不达 haste makes waste
- 科技是改善农村现状的根本途径 technology is the way to improve the conditions of China's rural areas
- 人应学会感恩 people should learn to be grateful
- 让每一次跌倒都成为人生的转折点 failure is the turning point for one's life
- 人生需要旅行 seeing is believing
- 人应该学会知足 people should not to be content with their lot
- 玩物立志 having an interest helps to establish one's will to make progress
- 反省是生活的指南针 self-examination is the compass of life
- 外貌至上不可取 people should not be judged by their appearance
- 中国虎爸虎妈式教育有利于青少年成长 tiger mother and wolf father's Chinese education method help the teenagers to grow to maturity

# 2011 Assessment Report



## Section 2 – Discussion

There was noticeable improvement in this section this year; however, there was still some discrepancy between students' performance in Section 1 – Presentation and Section 2 – Discussion.

In the Discussion, assessors focus on examining students' understanding of their Detailed Study topic and the resources used, and on assessing students' ability to clarify, defend and elaborate on ideas and opinions.

Common mistakes made by students included: repeating the information used in the presentation, unfamiliarity with the texts selected, using irrelevant information, an inability to maintain their stance and a lack of evidence to support their opinions.

In order to achieve an excellent performance, students should expect the discussion to range beyond the issue selected to other, related areas.

The Presentation and Discussion sections are of equal weighting in this examination, and it is important to be thoroughly prepared for both sections.