Cambridge IGCSE™

MANDARIN CHINESE	0547/41
Paper 4 Writing	May/June 2025
MARK SCHEME	
Maximum Mark: 45	

Published

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the May/June 2025 series for most Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International A and AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

This document consists of **18** printed pages.

PUBLISHED

Generic Marking Principles

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptions for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:

Rules must be applied consistently, e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

Annotations guidance for centres

Examiners use a system of annotations as a shorthand for communicating their marking decisions to one another. Examiners are trained during the standardisation process on how and when to use annotations. The purpose of annotations is to inform the standardisation and monitoring processes and guide the supervising examiners when they are checking the work of examiners within their team. The meaning of annotations and how they are used is specific to each component and is understood by all examiners who mark the component.

We publish annotations in our mark schemes to help centres understand the annotations they may see on copies of scripts. Note that there may not be a direct correlation between the number of annotations on a script and the mark awarded. Similarly, the use of an annotation may not be an indication of the quality of the response.

The annotations listed below were available to examiners marking this component in this series.

Annotations

Annotation	Meaning
?	Unclear
^	Omission mark
BOD	Benefit of the doubt
✖	Incorrect point
L	Good language
∿	Dynamic, Horizontal Wavy line that can be expanded
HA	Harmless addition
IR	Irrelevant
Highlighter	Highlighting areas of text
NBOD	No benefit of doubt given

Annotation	Meaning
Off-page comment	Allows comments to be entered at the bottom of the RM marking window and then displayed when the associated question item is navigated to.
SEEN	Indicates that the point has been noted, but no credit has been given.
✔	Correct point
✔ 1	Correct awarding one mark
✔ 2	Correct awarding two marks
✔ 3	Correct awarding three marks
✔ 4	Correct awarding four marks
✔ 5	Correct awarding five marks
﹛	Dynamic, Vertical Wavy line that can be expanded

Additional guidance

- **Crossing out:**

(a)	If a candidate changes his/her mind over an answer and crosses out an attempt, award a mark if the final attempt is correct.
(b)	If a candidate crosses out an answer <u>to a whole question</u> but makes no second attempt at it, mark the crossed out work.

- **For Questions 2 and 3, if the candidate has written an answer in the space provided for that purpose, you should ignore anything written anywhere else, unless:**

(a)	there is an indication from the candidate that other material should be considered.
(b)	the candidate has continued their answer outside the space provided.
(c)	there is no answer in the space provided.

- **Annotation used in the Mark Scheme:**

(a)	tc = 'tout court' and means that on its own the material is not sufficient to score the mark.

- **No response and '0' marks**

(a)	**Award NR (No Response):** If there is nothing written at all in the answer space or If there is only a comment which does not in any way relate to the question being asked (e.g. 'can't do' or 'don't know') or If there is only a mark which isn't an attempt at the question (e.g. a dash, a question mark).
(b)	**Award 0:** If there is any attempt that earns no credit. This could, for example, include the candidate copying all or some of the question, or any working that does not earn any marks, whether crossed out or not.

- **Optional questions:**

  Mark all questions attempted by the candidate. Where the candidate attempts more than one of the alternatives in **Question 3**, the marking system will take the best mark.

- **Using mark schemes with grade descriptors:**

  Start at the bottom of the mark scheme and work upwards through the descriptors when awarding marks.

  The marker should look at the work and then make a judgement about which level statement is the 'best fit'. In practice, work does not always match one level statement precisely so a judgement may need to be made between two or more level statements.

  Once a 'best-fit' level statement has been identified, use the following guidance to decide on a specific mark:

  - If the candidate's work convincingly meets the level statement, award the highest mark.
  - If the candidate's work adequately meets the level statement, award the most appropriate mark in the middle of the range (where middle marks are available).
  - If the candidate's work just meets the level statement, award the lowest mark.

Detailed mark scheme

Question	Answer	Marks
1	Candidates are required to complete 5 gaps in Chinese. Read all of the items that the candidate has listed and award marks as follows: • **Award 1 mark for each correct item.** • On **Question 1**, award marks for items wherever the candidate has written them provided the candidate has made clear which part of the form they refer to. • Mark for communication. Tolerate inaccuracies, provided the message is clear. Ignore any measure word, possessive adjective, etc. Ignore any verbs. • If a character is inaccurate, start by referring to the table below. Refer to the questions below if no decision on the character you have encountered is recorded there. • If you read aloud what the candidate has written, does it sound like the correct answer and would a native speaker of the target language understand it? • Does what the candidate has written look like the correct answer, e.g. one stroke missing but no other word created? Would a native speaker of the target language understand it? • Reject inaccurate characters which suggest a word with a quite different meaning. • All answers must fulfil the communicative purpose described in the rubric.	5

Question	Answer	Marks
1	你是Sophia Taylor。你想在中国旅行时租房子。请用**中文**填写下面的表格。 You are Sophia Taylor. You would like to rent a house when travelling in China. Please fill in the following form in **Chinese**:	

	ACCEPT	Guidance/Reject
Gap 1 (1 mark)	Any appropriate city, e.g. 北京、上海、西安	Refuse vocabulary which cannot be considered as a Chinese city, e.g. 伦敦、内罗毕.
Gaps 2 and 3 (1 mark each)	Any appropriate furniture, e.g. 床、桌子、椅子	Refuse vocabulary which cannot be considered as a furniture, e.g. 汽车、花、书、杯子、少发、衣具、美丽、大餐厅.
Gap 4 (1 mark)	Any appropriate facility, e.g. 运动中心、公园、火车站	Refuse vocabulary which cannot be considered as a facility, e.g. 做饭、图书官、公yuan.
Gap 5 (1 mark)	Any appropriate length of time, e.g. 三天、两个星期、四个月	Refuse vocabulary which cannot be considered as a length of time, e.g. 八点、四月、五.

Question	Answer	Marks
2	写一写你最喜欢的电脑游戏。 Write about your favourite computer game. Say: ● 你和谁一起玩这个电脑游戏； ● 你在哪里玩这个游戏； ● 每次玩长时间； ● 你为什么喜欢这个游戏； ● 你打算什么时候再玩这个游戏。 用中文写80–100个字。 Write 80–100 characters in **Chinese.** Read the whole answer and award a mark out of 12 using the table below.	**12**

Marks	Descriptor	Guidance
10–12	• Completes all tasks in the required level of detail. • Provides consistently relevant information and opinions. • Meaning is clear and communication is achieved, although there may be some linguistic inaccuracies. • Uses straightforward vocabulary and structures. • (Links words and phrases using a range of simple connectors.)	Examples of linguistic inaccuracies: word order, time frames, characters Examples of linking words and phrases: *and*, *or*, *but*, *because*, *then*
7–9	• Completes most tasks in the required level of detail. • Provides mostly relevant information and opinions. • Meaning is mostly clear and communication is generally achieved, despite linguistic inaccuracies. • Uses limited vocabulary and structures with some repetition. • (Some attempt to link words and phrases using a range of simple connectors.)	3-4 tasks
4–6	• Completes some tasks with some of the required detail. • Provides some relevant information. • Meaning is sometimes clear and some communication is achieved, despite linguistic inaccuracies. • Uses basic vocabulary and structures with frequent repetition. • (Some attempt to link words or phrases using a limited range of simple connectors repetitively (e.g. *and*, *or*).)	2-3 tasks
1–3	• Attempts task(s), with little or none of the required detail. • May provide information; is almost always irrelevant. • Meaning is unclear and communication is rarely achieved. • Uses isolated words/phrases appropriate to the task. • (Little attempt to link words or phrases.)	1-2 tasks
0	• No creditable content.	

Numbered ticks will be added to the list of annotations to help with task completion.

If a candidate has completed most tasks rather than all, but the 10–12 descriptors are the best fit in other respects, then the answer can, in theory, access the lower end of the 10–12 band.

On the contrary, if they complete all tasks without submitting much detail, they will drop to the 7–9 band.

<u>Very short answers</u>
If a response is under 40 characters long, a maximum of 6 marks can be awarded.
If a response is between 40–75 characters long, a maximum of 11 marks can be awarded.

<u>Pinyin</u>
Occasional use of pinyin will not affect marking for communication, but for essays written predominantly in pinyin (i.e. more pinyin than characters) this must be taken into account for marks.

Question	Answer	Marks
	从题目3(a)和3(b)中选择**一个**，用**中文**写150个字左右。 Answer **Question 3(a)** or **Question 3(b)**. Write about 150 characters in **Chinese.**	
3(a)	（a）**打工** 你最近开始打工了。写一封信给你的爷爷，信里说说： - 你一个星期工作几天； - 你是怎么找到这个工作的； - 你上次上班时做了哪些事； - 你觉得工作中什么没意思； - 你将来想和什么样的人一起工作。	**28**
3(b)	（b）**学美术** 《中学生杂志》要了解一下学生对学美术的看法。给这家杂志写一篇文章，说说： - 你从什么时候开始学美术； - 你上次在美术课上做了什么； - 电脑对学习美术有什么帮助； - 为什么中学生都应该学美术； - 你下次想去什么样的美术馆参观。 Read the whole answer, award a mark from each of the three tables below and add up the total. Marks are available for: - task completion (maximum 10 marks) - range (maximum 10 marks) - accuracy (maximum 8 marks).	**28**

Task completion

Marks	Descriptor
9–10	- Completes all tasks. - Gives detailed information, opinions/reactions and explanations. - The writing is focused and wholly relevant.
7–8	- Completes most tasks. - Gives straightforward information, opinions/reactions and explanations. - The writing is mostly relevant. 3-4 tasks
5–6	- Completes some tasks. - Gives some information, opinions and simple explanations. - The writing is more relevant than irrelevant. 2-3 tasks
3–4	- Attempts some tasks with some success. - Gives basic information and opinions. - The writing is occasionally relevant. 1-2 tasks
1–2	- Attempts task(s) with little or no success. - Gives some information and is almost always irrelevant. 0-1 task
0	No creditable response.

<u>Task completion</u>

Numbered ticks will be added to the list of annotations to help award marks for Task completion.

A response can only be considered complete if all elements of all part-questions are attempted reasonably successfully.

If a task is *What did you think about the movie?* and the candidate answers *The movie was interesting* (and nothing else), then they do **<u>not</u>** meet the criteria *Gives detailed information, opinions/reactions and explanations*.

If a candidate has completed most tasks rather than all, but the 9–10 descriptors are the best fit in other respects, then the answer can, in theory, access the lower end of the 9–10 band.

If a candidate completes all tasks without submitting much detail, they will drop to the 7-8 band.

Range

Marks	Descriptor
9–10	• Uses extended, well-linked sentences frequently. • Uses a wide range of simple and complex structures listed in the syllabus to produce sentences of varying length. • Uses a wide range of vocabulary appropriate to the task(s).
7–8	• Uses some extended sentences, mostly well linked. • Uses a range of structures listed in the syllabus, including some complex structures, to produce sentences of varying length. • Uses a range of vocabulary appropriate to the task(s) with occasional repetition.
5–6	• Uses some extended sentences, with some evidence of linkage. • Uses simple structures and attempts to use some complex structures listed in the syllabus. • Uses mostly straightforward vocabulary appropriate to the task(s) with some repetition.
3–4	• Uses simple structures and makes no attempt at using the complex structures listed in the syllabus. • Relies on repeated use of a small range of straightforward vocabulary.
1–2	• Uses isolated phrases and makes some attempt at basic structures. • Relies on repetition of a small range of basic vocabulary.
0	• No creditable response.

Accuracy

How to deal with short essays

If the candidate has written less than half the suggested number of characters (75 or less), a maximum of 5 for Range and 4 for Accuracy
An essay of 75–100 characters can be awarded a maximum of 7 for Range and 6 for Accuracy.

For a letter, the addressee and ending greeting are not included in the word count.

Pinyin
The volume of pinyin in the answer should be considered when awarding the Accuracy mark. If pinyin is used extensively, it is no longer genuinely a piece of Chinese writing.
Occasional use of pinyin will not affect marking for Accuracy, but for essays written predominantly in pinyin (i.e. more pinyin than characters) this must be taken into account in the Accuracy mark.

Note on using mark schemes with Grade descriptors
It is important that you award marks positively. In order to ensure that you reward achievement rather than penalise failure or omissions, you should start at the bottom of the mark scheme and work upwards through the descriptors when awarding marks.

You should adopt a 'best fit' approach. You must select the set of descriptors provided in the mark scheme that most closely describes the quality of the work being marked. As you work upwards through the mark scheme, you will eventually arrive at a set of descriptors that fits the candidate's performance. When you reach this point, you should always then check the descriptors in the band above to confirm whether or not there is just enough evidence to award a mark in the higher band.

For example, when marking Question 3 you may find that a candidate uses a variety of relevant vocabulary but has varied success with more complex structures. In such cases, you will need to award a mark that takes into account both the strengths and weaknesses of the piece of work.

To select the most appropriate mark within each set of descriptors, use the following guidance:

- If most of the descriptors fit the piece (and after you have considered the band above), award the top mark in the band.
- If there is just enough evidence (and you had perhaps been considering the band below), award the lowest mark in the band.

<u>Irrelevance</u>

- Sections of material unrelated to any of the bullet points will be disregarded.
- If the whole answer to **Question 3** is irrelevant (e.g. contains no evidence of being related to the bullet points set), award 0 for *Task completion*, *Range* and *Accuracy*.

- If **Question 3** is attempted but communication is not achieved (i.e. the candidate misunderstood the question), award a maximum of 8 for *Range* and a best fit for *Task completion* and *Accuracy.*