



National
Qualifications
2026

2026 Cantonese

Reading

Higher

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

These marking instructions have been prepared by examination teams for use by Qualifications Scotland appointed markers when marking external course assessments.

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General marking principles for Higher Cantonese Reading

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

- (a) Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.
- (b) If a candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.
- (c) Award a mark for each answer. Marks are not transferable between questions and the answers for each question must come from the item.
- (d) Marks are available as follows:
 - (i) The first set of questions (worth 18 marks in total) asks candidates to provide answers based on comprehension of information from the text. There are generally 1-3 marks available for each question.
 - (ii) The penultimate question is the overall purpose question, and candidates must identify the overall purpose of the text and draw meaning from their overall understanding of the text. There is a maximum of 2 marks available for reference to the text and detailed comment. Pegged mark descriptors (2/1/0) and associated commentary are available, along with further guidance, in the detailed marking instructions.
 - (iii) The last question is the translation. For this question, candidates must translate the underlined section of the text. The section for translation is divided into five sense units. For each sense unit, award 2, 1 or 0 marks: 2 marks for a full translation, 1 for partial translation, and 0 for an unsuccessful attempt.
 - a. Award marks according to the accuracy and relevance of the candidate's answers. Award marks where the answer is accurate but expressed in their own words.

Marking instructions for each question

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
					Do not accept:
1	(a)		- learning - working	2	
	(b)		- learning can help you to find a job you like - many people need to work over 30 years - a satisfying job makes life happier Any 2 from 3	2	
2.	(a)		didn't know about job hunting/interviewing	1	
	(b)		- she thought that good grades can get her a good job - a university degree would guarantee a good job - there are many job opportunities in every big city Any 2 from 3	2	
3.	(a)		her parents have a high income/family's financial situation is good	1	
	(b)		- high study pressure - have no time - they want to enjoy university life Any 1 from 3	1	

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
					Do not accept:
4.	(a)		she did not know what work she could do	1	
	(b)		- she had no interview experience - she had no work experience - there were more university graduates - it was more competitive Any 3 from 4	3	
5.	(a)		- get a summer job - volunteer - do different work	3	
	(b)		- you can make more friends at work - learn to deal with different people - improve the ability to work as a team/collaborative skills Any 2 from 3	2	

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
6.			• Assertion only = 0 mark • Assertion + example = 1 mark • Assertion + justification + supporting examples = 2 marks Assertion: The writer doesn't think that education prepares young people sufficiently for entering the job market. Justification: • the article uses the examples of Li Li and her friends to show that they were clueless about looking for work when they graduated. • the article encourages students to work And any relevant examples from the text.	2	Award 2 marks where the candidate provides a clear answer, with justification that shows an accurate reading of the text. Award 1 mark where the candidate provides an answer which may contain some degree of misreading, but which offers evidence of some justification. Award 0 marks where the candidate simply provides information to be found in the text by simply re-stating answers to previous questions

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
7.			Translate into English: 很多大學生喜 – 媽媽可以照顧他們。 (lines 16–18)	10	The translation into English is allocated 10 marks. The text for translation is divided into a number of sense units. Each sense unit is worth 2 marks. Award marks according to the quality and accuracy of the translation into English. Award a mark for each sense unit, as follows 2 marks - good The candidate understands and conveys essential information and relevant details, clearly and accurately, with appropriate use of English. 1 mark - satisfactory The candidate understands and conveys essential information clearly and comprehensibly, although some of the details may be translated in an imprecise or inaccurate manner. They convey the key message in spite of inaccuracies and weaknesses in the use of English. 0 marks - unsatisfactory The candidate fails to demonstrate sufficient understanding of the essential idea.

Text	Good - 2	Satisfactory - 1	Unsatisfactory - 0
Unit 1 很多大學生喜歡在暑假玩遊戲，	Many university students like gaming during summer holidays.		
Unit 2 他們不想去打工，	They don't want to (go to) work/take on a part-time job,		
Unit 3 賺零花錢。	or/and earn pocket money.		
Unit 4 還有些大學生會在假期的時候回家，	Also, some university students would return/go home during holidays		
Unit 5 因為爸爸媽媽可以照顧他們。	because their parents can look after them.		

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]