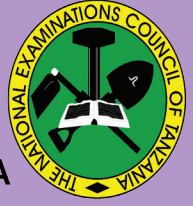




THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF TANZANIA



**CANDIDATES' ITEM RESPONSE ANALYSIS
REPORT ON THE ADVANCED CERTIFICATE OF
SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION
(ACSEE) 2023**

CHINESE LANGUAGE



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**CANDIDATES' ITEM RESPONSE ANALYSIS REPORT
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EDUCATION EXAMINATION (ACSEE) 2023**

126 CHINESE LANGUAGE

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FOREWORD

The Candidates' Item Response Analysis (CIRA) report is based on the Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (ACSEE) for the Chinese Language subject done in May 2023. The National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) is pleased to issue this report in order to provide feedback to all education stakeholders on the candidates' performance in the subject.

The report analyses the factors behind the candidates' performance. Good performance was contributed by the candidates' ability to answer questions according to the instructions given as well as their competence in the tested topics in the Chinese Language. Furthermore, the report identifies the weaknesses of the candidates in answering the examination questions. These included failure to understand the questions, having insufficient knowledge of the Chinese Language grammatical rules, writing Chinese characters and lack of enough vocabulary.

The feedback provided in this report is expected to enable education administrators, school managers, teachers, students and other education stakeholders to take appropriate measures in order to improve the prospective candidates' performance in the future Chinese Language examinations administered by the Council.

Finally, the Council would like to acknowledge examiners and all who contributed in the preparation of this report.



Dr Said A. Mohamed
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 126 Chinese Language report is based on the candidates' performance in the Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (ACSEE) which was conducted in May, 2023. The questions were set in accordance with the 2021 syllabus and the 2022 examination format.

The Chinese Language examination had two papers, namely 126/1 Chinese Language 1 and 126/2 Chinese Language 2. The 126/1 Chinese Language Paper 1 was divided into two sections, A and B. Section A comprised 6 short answer questions. Each carried 10 marks, making a total of 60 marks. Section B comprised three (3) essay writing questions. Candidates were required to answer two (2) questions. Each question weighed 20 marks thus, making a total of 40 marks. The whole examination weighed 100 marks.

The report analyses the candidates' performance on each question. It shows what the candidates were required to do, the general performance and the reasons for their performance. Sample extracts of the candidates' responses are in place in order to show how the candidates answered the questions according to instructions for each question.

The candidates' performance is categorized into three groups; good, average and weak. In this report the performance is regarded to be good if the scores of the candidates ranged from 60 to 100 marks; for the scores ranging from 35 to 59 marks is regarded as average and the scores ranging from 0 to 34 marks is considered to be weak. Additionally, three colours are used to represent the candidates' performance, namely green which denotes good performance, yellow which represents average performance and red which shows weak performance. The candidates' performance in each topic is summarized in the Appendix.

Analysis of the candidates' response shows that a total of 19 (100%) candidates sat for the examination. The general performance of the candidates in this subject was good, as 66.56 per cent passed the examination in 2023. The candidates had different grades, namely B - 2 candidates, C - 3 candidates, D - 9 candidates, E - 2 candidates, S - 1 candidate and F - 2 candidates. However, there was no candidate who had grade A.

2.0 ANALYSIS OF THE CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE ON EACH QUESTION FOR 126/1 CHINESE LANGUAGE 1

This part provides the analysis of the candidates' performance on the Chinese Language Paper 1. The analysis is based on number of the candidates who attempted each question and their percentages.

2.1 SECTION A: Short Answer Questions

This section comprised 6 questions. The candidates were required to answer all the question. Each question weighed 10 marks making a total of 60 marks.

2.1.1 Question 1: Completing the Sentences by Using Measure Words

The question comprised ten items in which the candidates were required to complete the sentences by using the given measure words. The question was set from a topic . The question tested the candidates' ability to start, intervene and close a discussion using appropriate vocabulary and structures. The question read as follows:

一. 选出合适的量词完成句子。

量词：个，块，本，斤，件，杯，一点儿，辆，条，门，张

例如：我爸爸有一个朋友，他是坦桑尼亚人，他是工程师。

1. 你觉得这_____裤子怎么样？
2. 星期五我们有二_____课。
3. 丈夫替我买了一_____新的车，很好看。
4. 我_____钱都没带，所以不能买什么东西。
5. 妈妈最喜欢的饮料是绿茶，她每天喝两_____绿茶。
6. 今天的西瓜比昨天便宜一_____三元。
7. 哥哥给弟弟买了三_____真不错衬衫的生日礼物！
8. 这_____照片是谁的？
9. 过新年要一万_____钱买衣服。
10. 这_____书不是我的，是姐姐的。

The total of 19 (100%) candidates attempted the question. Among them 14 (73.68%) scored 6.0 to 10 marks which was good performance, 2 (10.53%) scored 4.0 to 5.5 marks which was average performance and 3 (15.79%) scored 0 to 3.0 marks which was weak performance. The general performance in this question was good, since 16 (84.21%) candidates scored 3.5 to 10 marks. Figure 1 is an illustration of the candidates' performance on Question 1.

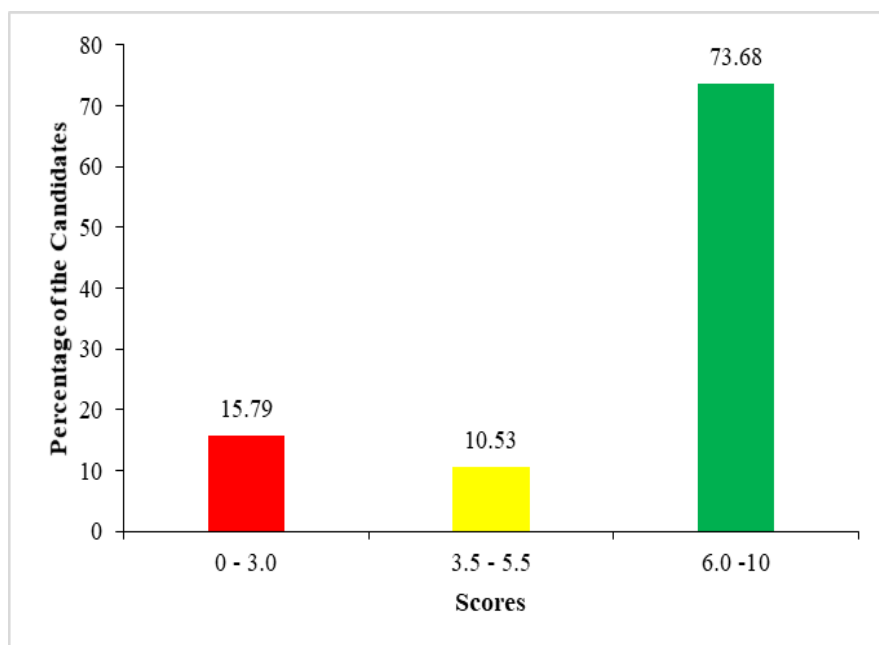


Figure 1: *The Candidates' Performance on Question 1*

The candidates with good performance on this question were 14 (73.68%). These candidates had sufficient knowledge of nouns, measure words and their usage. The candidates identified the nouns given in the sentences and chose the correct measure words from the given alternatives. For example, the candidates who gave the correct answer in item 1 chose the correct measure word 条 as they knew that it is used for long or narrow objects like river, road and trousers.

In item 2, the candidates who scored full marks chose 门 which is a measure word used for subjects/course. These candidates knew that

the word 课 (lesson/subject/course) goes together with a measure word 门 related to a lesson or subject, as they wrote 门课 (a lesson).

Further analysis shows that the candidates who gave a correct response in item 3 had sufficient knowledge of the measure word used in vehicles like cars, motorcycles and bicycles, since they chose 辆. Thus, they wrote the correct answer 辆新的车 (a new car).

In item 4, the candidates who wrote the correct answer knew that the measure word 一点儿 (a little bit/ a little amount of) is used to express amount of something that someone has. They also knew that it can be expressed in a positive or negative way. These candidates realized that once expressed in a negative way, the negation particle 没 must also be used, making a structure of (一点儿+ noun + 都/也+没+verb) to express that the action described by the verb has not taken place even a little bit. Thus, they wrote the correct answer which was 我一点儿钱都没带 (I have not brought even a little money).

The candidates who got full marks in item 5 had sufficient knowledge of the uses of the measure word 杯 (a cup/a glass). It is used in drinks that can be put into a cup or glass. Therefore, they identified the relationship between a noun 绿茶 (green tea) and measure word 杯 (a cup/a glass) as they wrote the correct answer 两杯绿茶 (two cups of green tea).

In item 6, the candidates who got this item right had sufficient knowledge on the uses of the measure word 斤. They knew that it is a unit of weight for materials/goods in solid forms, such as fruits and cereals which is equivalent to 1/2kg, normally preceded by a number/amount. These candidates noted that in the given sentence there was a fruit 西瓜 (watermelon), which is usually measured by the unit of weight. Hence, they wrote the correct answer 一斤三元 (3 RMB per 1/2kg).

The candidates who wrote the correct answer in item 7 knew that the measure word 件 is used for clothes like T-shirts and shirts. They also knew that the noun 衬衫 (T-shirts) had to be accompanied by the measure word 件, hence they wrote the correct answer 三件真不错衬衫 (Three nice shirts).

In item 8, the candidates who scored full marks realized that the measure word 张 is used for objects with a flat surface, like tables and papers/photo or pictures. The sentence in this item had a noun 照片 (photo/picture). These candidates managed to write the correct answer 张照片 (a photo/ a picture).

In item 9, the candidates who performed well on this item had sufficient knowledge of the measure word 块 which is used for currency/money and is preceded by a number. The sentence in this item comprised the word *money* and *number*, thus the candidates managed to chose the correct answer 一万块钱 (ten thousand).

In item 10, the candidates who scored full marks had sufficient knowledge on the measure word 本 that is used for bound papers such as books, pamphlets, magazine, etc. Therefore, the candidates associated the noun 书 (book) with the measure word 本; thus, they wrote the correct answer 本书 (a book). Extract 1.1 shows an example of a candidate's correct response.

一		
1.	你觉得这条裤子怎么样?	
2.	星期五我们有二门课。	
3.	丈夫替我买了一辆新的车,很好看。	
4.	我一点儿钱都没带,所以不能买什么东西。	
5.	妈妈最喜欢的饮料是绿茶,她每天喝两杯 ^每 绿茶。	
6.	今天的西瓜比昨天便宜一斤三元。	
7.	舅舅给弟弟买了三件真不错衬衫的生日礼物。	
8.	这张照片是谁的?	
9.	过新年一万块钱买衣服。	
10.	这本书不是我的,是姐姐的。	

Extract 1.1: A Sample of Correct Candidate's Responses to Question 1

Extract 1.1 shows a response by the candidate who filled the blanks with correct measure words.

Further analysis indicates that 2 (10.53%) candidates had average performance, as they scored 3.5 to 5.5 marks. These candidates had partial knowledge of the uses of Chinese measure words. They managed to choose the correct measure words in some items and failed in others. This performance was affected by having insufficient knowledge of some Chinese nouns with their measure words, thus, they randomly chose the items which led to wrong answers. One of them chose correct answers in items 1, 3, 5, 8 and 10 but failed in items 2, 4, 6, 7 and 9. For instance, in item 2, one candidate chose 块 a measure word unit for money instead of the

measure word 条 which is used for long or narrow objects like river, road and trousers. This shows that this candidate chose the answer by guessing because he/she did not know the noun and its measure word.

In Item 4, one candidate chose 斤 a unit of weight instead of 门 a measure word for subject/course. This shows that this candidate was not familiar with the noun 课 and its measure word.

Lastly, in item 6, a candidate chose 门 and scored 0, because he/she did not understand that the noun 西瓜 (watermelon) is measured by 斤 a unit of weight. This implies that the candidates had partial knowledge of measure words which led them to guess the answer by choosing the answer that was not related to the item. Extract 1.2 is a sample of responses from a candidate who had average performance.

1	条	
2	门	
3	车辆	
4	件	
5	本	
6	张	
7	斤	
8	本	
9	块	
10	一点儿	

Extract 1.2: A Sample of Responses from a Candidate with Average Performance on Question 1

Extract 1.2 shows responses by a candidate who gave the correct measure words to items 1, 2, 3, 5 and 9 but failed in items 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10.

Moreover, analysis shows that 3 (17.79%) candidates performed weakly on this question. They scored 0 to 3 marks. This performance was affected by insufficient knowledge of the nouns and their measure words. They randomly chose the given measure words and wrote incorrect answers. For example, in item 1, the candidates who got the question wrong opted for 件 which is a measure word used for clothes like T-shirts, jackets and shirts. This response shows that the candidates failed to differentiate the measure word 件 from the measure word 条 that is used for trousers.

In item 2, the candidates failed this item because they did not know that the noun 课 (lesson) is preceded by the measure word 门/节. The candidates chose 条 that is used for noun with narrow and long things/object. This proves that they had not mastered well the uses of measure words. Further analysis shows that in item 3, the candidates who got the question wrong had insufficient knowledge on measure word for vehicles. They randomly chose measure words, hence wrote incorrect answers.

In item 4, the candidates who scored 0 did not know that the measure words 一点儿 (a little bit/a little amount of) and 块 (unit of money) are both measure words, which can be used in expressing amount of money but differ in uses. They did not realize that the measure 块 used in expressing a specific amount of money and 一点儿 are used to express amount of anything including money. However, 一点儿 can be used together with 没 to express negation of having money while 块 cannot. Therefore, in this item the correct answer was 我一点儿钱都没带 (I do not have even a little money).

The candidates who got the question wrong in item 5 had insufficient knowledge of the uses of the measure word 杯 (a cup/glass). They failed to identify the relationship between the noun 绿

茶 (green tea) and the correct measure word 杯 (a cup/glass). Instead, one of the candidates chose 辆, the measure word that is used for vehicles; which did not relate to the noun 绿茶 (green tea).

In item 6, the candidates who scored zero had insufficient knowledge of the measure word 斤 (a unit of weight measurement for materials/goods that are in solid forms like fruits and cereals that is equivalent to 1/2kg). Some candidates were confused about the measure word 块 used for value of money because there was an adjective 便宜 (cheaper) in the sentence which is related to money.

In item 7, the candidates who scored zero had insufficient knowledge of the measure word. They did not know that it is used for all clothes like T-shirts and shirts. Instead, one of the candidates chose 条, the measure word used for trousers. He/she did not know that all clothes can use the measure word 件 but not all clothes can use the measure word 条.

In item 8, the candidates who scored zero did not know that the correct measure word was 张, the measure word that is used for nouns with a flat surface form, like tables and paper. Instead, some of them chose 本, the measure word used for bound objects/things, other chose 块 which is used for money. All these responses were chosen randomly. This shows that the candidates did not sufficiently master well the nouns and their measure words.

In item 9, the candidates who got this item wrong did not know that the measure word 块 is used for money and should be preceded by a number. One of the candidates chose 一点儿, which was wrong because the candidates failed to differentiate the use of 块 (money value measure word) and 一点儿 (amount measure word).

In item 10, the candidates who scored 0 had insufficient knowledge of the measure word 本 that is used for bound papers such as books, pamphlets and magazines. They failed to relate the noun 书 (book)

which is used in sentence and the correct measure word 本. Therefore, chose randomly the alternatives. Extract 1.3 is an example of the candidate's weak response to Question 1.

-	1. 杯	
	2. 条	
	3. 门	
	4. 块	
	5. 车辆	
	6. 斤	
	7. 张	
	8. 一点儿	
	9. 本	
	10. 件	

Extract 1.3: A Sample of Incorrect Responses to Question 1

Extract 1.3 shows responses by a candidate who filled all the blanks with incorrect measure words.

2.1.2 Question 2: Choosing Correct Words to Complete Sentences

In this question, the candidates were given 10 items each with two words in brackets. They were required to choose a suitable word to complete each of the given sentences. The question was set from the topic *Interrogative Pronouns*. It tested the candidates' ability to express conditions and consequent results using conditional complex. The questions were as follows:

二. 按照下面已给出的例, 选择合适的词完成句子。

例如: 老师, 我来中国留学两年了, 但是我的汉语水平提高得一点儿也不快啊! (也/还)

1. 其实做水果饭很简单, 先把米饭做好, _____ 再把一块新鲜的水果放进去, 水果反就做好了。(以后/然后)
2. 我想快点儿把照片发给大家, _____ 朋友们也高兴高兴。(叫/使)
3. 除了看新闻, 人们_____ 可以在网上看电影、买东西。(还/多)
4. 前边的车越开越慢, 要停_____ 来了。(上/下)
5. 你在忙什么呢? 刚才打你的手机你_____ 不接。(也/还)
6. _____ 他爸爸学小鸟叫, 他_____ 可以安静下来。(只有...才/只要...就)
7. 你汉字写得不错, 除了这个句子意思有些不清楚外, 其他_____ 没有什么问题。(都/也)
8. 老师走进教室_____。(来/走)
9. 看来_____ 爱, _____ 能让人有变化。(只有...才/只要...就)
10. 考试_____ 我很紧张!(让/叫)

The total of 19 (100%) candidates attempted the question, Among them 12 (73.68%) scored 6.0 to 10 marks which was good performance, 6 (21.05%) scored 3.5 to 5.5 marks which was average performance and 1 (5.26%) scored 0 to 3.0 marks which was weak performance. The general performance in this question was good, since 17 (89.47%) candidates scored 3.5 to 10 marks allocated to the question. Figure 2 is an illustration of the performance on Question 2.

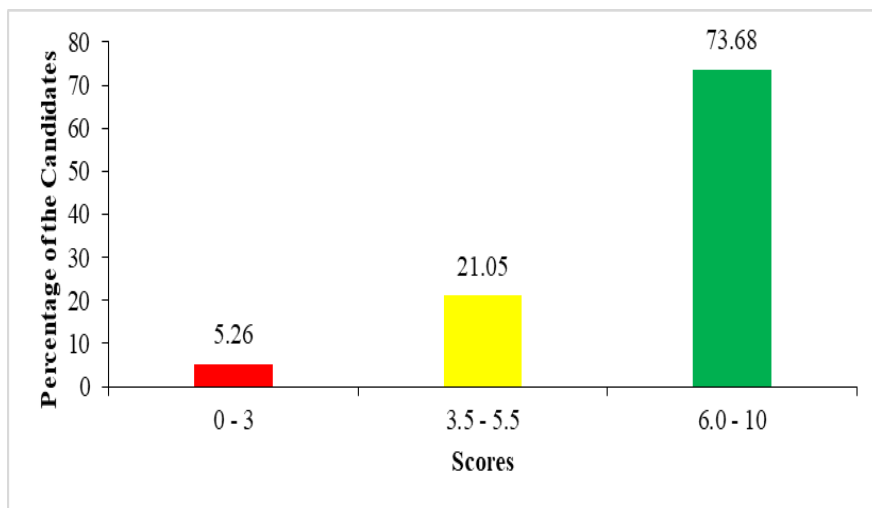


Figure 2: *The Candidates' Performance on Question 2*

Data analysis indicates that 15 (73.68%) candidates performed well on this question as they scored 6.0 to 10 marks. These candidates understood the question. They also had sufficient knowledge of the Chinese vocabulary and structure patterns. For example, in item 1, the candidates who scored full marks knew the uses of the conjunction 然后 (then). They knew that it is used when explaining or mentioning events in series. They also knew that 以后 (after) was not the correct answer because it is used when explaining accomplishment of one event after another but it does not consider the series.

In item 2, the candidate who got this item right knew the meaning and uses of the verb 使 (to make/to cause) that someone can make someone/friends happy. They managed to write the correct answer 我想快点儿把照片发给大家，使朋友们也高兴高兴 (I want to send the photos to everyone as soon as possible in order to make them happy). These candidates also noted that the two words had the same meaning (cause/make) but with different uses, where 使 (make/cause) is used in written form and 叫 (cause/make) is used in oral communication.

In item 3, the candidates who scored full marks knew that the word 还 (also) is used with the structure 除了...还... (Besides..., also...). In addition, they knew that the word 多 (many) was not suitable because it is used before an adjective of asking about the degree of something.

In item 4, the candidates who scored full marks had sufficient knowledge of the Chinese complements of direction (V+上/下+来). They understood that in this structure the word 停下来 (stopping down) is used to express that the motion is becoming slower (stopping down). They wrote the correct answer 前边的车越开越慢, 要停下来了 (The front car the more it goes the slower it gets, it is about to stop). They also knew that 停下来 this structure does not exist; Thus, the verb 停 (stop) cannot be used with 上来.

In item 5, the candidates were aware that 也 (also) is a conjunction that is used for emphasis, often used before a negative expression. They also knew that 还 (also) has the same meaning as 也 but is not used for emphasis before a negative expression. Thus, they wrote the correct answer 你在忙什么呢? 刚才打你打电话你也不接 (what makes you so busy? I just called you now, but you did not pick up).

In item 7, the candidates who got this item right had sufficient knowledge of the use of the Chinese structure 除了 ..., 都 ... (All other except for ...). This expression indicates that everything in the first clause is in the same condition except for the second clause. They were aware that an adverb 都 (all) goes together with a word 除了 (except). They also knew that 也 (also) was not the correct answer because the structure 除了..., 也... is only used to indicate that not only the first clause has some particular condition, but also the second clause has the same conditions. That means that the first and second clause have the same conditions.

In item 8, the candidates realized that the word 来 (come toward) goes with the structure (S + V + place name + 来/去) as a complement of direction. The V + 来 indicates that the action is done towards the speaker and the V + 去 shows that the action is done far away from the speaker. The correct answer was 来 (come toward). Therefore, they could not use 走 (go) in this structure because it cannot be place after a name since the main verb had already been used.

In item 9, the candidates who scored full marks had sufficient knowledge of the structure 只有 (only if) + essential condition + 才 (then) (能) + desired outcome. They knew that structure means

only if the required condition is completed, the desired outcome will be fulfilled. Hence, they wrote the correct answer 看来只有爱，才能让人有变化 (It seems only love, can change people).

In item 10, the candidate who got this item right were knowledgeable about the use of the verb 让 (to make/cause), which is placed after a noun and used before the subject. They also knew that in this context 让 (make/cause) was suitable because it is used in both spoken and written language. They were aware that 叫 (to make/cause) also has the same meaning as 让 but is only used in spoken form. Thus, they wrote the correct answer 考试让我很紧张! (Exam makes me so nervous!). Extract 2.1 provides a sample of candidate's correct response to question 2.

1.	其实做水果饭很简单先把米饭做好,然后把一块新鲜水果放进去,水果饭就做好了。
2.	我想快点儿把照片发给大家使朋友们也高兴高兴。
3.	除了看新闻,人们还可以在网上看电影,买东西。
4.	前边的车越开越慢,要停下来了。
5.	你在忙什么呢?刚才打你的手机你还不接。
6.	只要他爸爸学小自由,他才可以安静下来。
2.	你汉字写得不错,除了这个句子意思有些不清楚外,其他都没什么问题。
8.	老师走进教室来。
9.	看来只有爱才能让人有变化。
10.	考试让我很紧张!。

Extract 2.1: A Sample of Correct Responses to Question 2

Extract 2.1 shows responses by a candidate who wrote correct answers in all the items of the question.

Furthermore, the data analysis reveals that 6 (21.05%) candidates attained average performance as they scored 3.5 to 5.5 marks. Their performance was affected by their partial knowledge of Chinese grammar. They were knowledgeable about some given structures but had insufficient knowledge of others. These candidates

answered correctly some items and failed to respond correctly to other items. For example, in item 1, the candidates who scored 0 did not know that the conjunction 然后 (then) is used to express the event in series and goes together with 先 (first). They also knew that 以后 (after) is used to indicate the next event and can only take place after finishing the previous event.

In item 4, the candidates who failed had insufficient knowledge of the Chinese complements of direction (V+上/下+来). They did not know the differences in use between V +下来 and V +上. They wrote the incorrect answer which read 前边的车越开越慢, 要停上来了 (The front car the more it goes the slower it gets, it is about to stop). They also did not realize that 停上来 does not exist. Therefore, the verb 停 (stop) cannot be used with 上来.

In item 9, there were candidates who scored 0. This was due to their insufficient knowledge of the Chinese structure patterns 只有 (only if) + essential condition + 才 (能) + desired outcome, which means only if the required condition is completed, then the desired outcome will be fulfilled. They chose the structure 只要.....就, which was not correct because the use of noun 爱 (love) without a subject indicates that only one option was given to achieve a desired outcome. Thus, the correct answer was (只有...才.....). Extract 2.2 is a sample of a candidate's response with average performance to Question 2.

二	1) 以后。	
	2) 使。	
	3) 还。	
	4)	
	5) 还。	
	6) 只有 --- 才。	
	7)	
	8) 来。	
	9) 只要 --- 就。	
	10) 让。	

Extract 2.2: A Sample of Responses from a Candidate with an Average Performance to Question 2

Extract 2.2 shows a response of the candidate who wrote correct responses in items 2, 3, 6, 8 and 10 but failed in items 1, 4, 5, 7 and 9.

Furthermore, analysis shows that 1 (5.26%) candidate had weak performance on this question as he/she scored 3 marks. This candidate had inadequate knowledge of Chinese grammar and vocabulary. He/she did not understand the meaning of the given words, hence failed to choose the correct words that resulted in scoring 3 marks. For example, in item 2, this candidate failed because he/she did not know how to use the verbs 使 and 叫 which have the same meaning (cause/make). He/she did not know that 使 is used in written form while 加 is used in oral form. This led him/her to score 0.

In item 3, the candidate who scored 0 did not know how to use the word 还 (also) in the structure 除了...还... (Besides..., also...). He/she also did not know that the word 多 (many) was not the correct answer because it is used before an adjective asking about the degree of something.

In item 5, this candidate got this item wrong because he/she failed to differentiate the uses of the conjunction 也 (also) and 还 (also).

The conjunction 也 (also) is used to emphasize and 还 (also) mostly goes with 是 (is) to make the word 还是 (also/still). According to the sentence, the correct answer was 也 because there was a negation particle 不 (not). Extract 2.3 provides a sample of candidate's incorrect response to Question 2.

二	1. 然后	
	2. 便	
	3. 明	
	4. 上	
	5. 还	
	6. 只有	
	7. 者	
	8. 是	
	9. 只要... 就	
	10. 才	

Extract 2.3: A Sample of Incorrect Responses to Question 2

Extract 2.3 shows the responses by a candidate who wrote correct responses in items 1, 4 and 10 but gave incorrect responses in the rest of items.

2.1.3 Question 3: Re-arranging the Jumbled Words into Correct Sentences

In this question, the candidates were given 5 items with jumbled words. They were required to re-arrange them into meaningful sentences. The question was set from the topic *Inquiring Suggestion*. The question tested the candidates' ability to express quantity. The question read as follows:

三. 重新排列词成正确的句字。

例如：①京剧②着③我④茶⑤看⑥喝

③⑥②④⑤①

1. ①知识②学③很多④学校⑤让我⑥到了
2. ①会②变胖③你放心④一定⑤她⑥不
3. ①公司②来③地铁④正坐⑤王经理⑥他的
4. ①从②可以③这④小丽⑤出来⑥条路上
5. ①一样②环境③这④地方的⑤方便⑥两个

The data indicates that 19 (100%) candidates attempted the question, out of whom 6 (31.58%) scored 6.0 to 10 marks which was good performance, 3 (15.79%) scored 3.5 to 5.5 marks which was average performance and 10 (52.63%) scored 0 to 3.0 marks which was weak performance. The general performance in this question was average, since 9 (47.37%) candidates scored 3.5 to 10 marks. Figure 3 illustrates this performance.

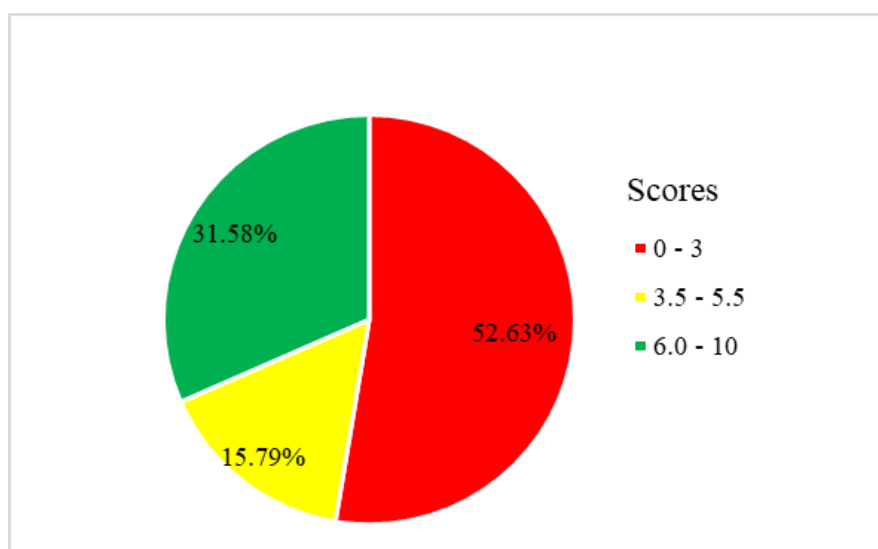


Figure 3: The Candidates' Performance on Question 3

The data analysis reveals that 3 (15.79%) candidates had average performance as they scored from 3.5 to 5.5 marks due to partial

knowledge of the Chinese grammar. The candidates answered correctly some of the items and failed in others. Some candidates performed well in items 2 and 4 while they failed in items 1, 3 and 5. For example, the candidates who scored 0 in item 1 had insufficient knowledge of the Chinese structure. As a result, they re-arranged the jumbled words incorrectly because they did not know the position of each given word in the sentence. One of them wrote ②③④⑤①⑥ 学很多学校让我知识到了 (Learn a lot school let me knowledge get). This candidate failed to identify the subject and object from the given words and did not know the meaning of some words, hence they failed to re-arrange the words correctly.

In item 3, the candidate who scored 0 had insufficient knowledge of the use of the structure (N + 坐 + (N) means of transport + 出来+ place). They also did not know the place of the nouns given, as one of them wrote ⑥③④②⑤① 他的地铁正在出来王经理公司 (His subway train is coming to Manager Wang's office) which was wrong.

In item 5, the candidate who got 0 this item had insufficient knowledge of using the word 一样 (same) to make comparison in structure (A 和 B 一样 + adj). Thus, they wrote incorrect answers. One candidate wrote ③④②⑥⑤① 这地方的环境两个方便一样 (This place's environment two convenient the same). Extract 3.1 is a sample of the candidate's responses to Question 3.

三	1.	⑥	④	⑤	②	③	①
	2.	③	⑤	④	⑥	①	②
	3.	⑤	④	③	②	⑥	①
	4.	③	⑥	②	③	④	⑤
	5.	③	⑥	④	①	②	⑤

Extract 3.1: A Sample of Responses to Question 3 by a Candidate with an Average Performance

Extract 3.1 shows the responses by a candidate who re-arranged the words correctly in items 2 and 3 but failed in items 1, 4 and 5.

Analysis shows that 6 (31.58%) candidates performed well in this question as they scored from 6.0 to 10 marks. These candidates had sufficient knowledge of Chinese language structure. Hence, they managed to re-arrange the jumbled words correctly. For example, in item 1, the candidate who scored full marks had sufficient knowledge of the structure N + 让 + N + V + O. In this structure, the candidate realised that the verb 让 (to make/cause/let) denotes the doer of an action. Thus, they wrote the correct answer ④⑤②⑥ ③① 学校让我学到了很多知识 (The school has helped me to get a lot of knowledge).

In item 2, the candidates who got this item right were knowledgeable about the fact that the adverb 一定 (certainly) is used after the subject before negation or affirmative verb to show certainly that something happened or not. They also knew that 变胖 (gain weight) was the main verb and 会 (can) was an auxiliary verb which had to be negated with 不 (not). Thus, they managed to write the correct answer ③⑤⑥①② 你放心她一定不会变胖 (Do not worry; certainly she will not gain weight).

In item 3, the candidates who scored full marks had sufficient knowledge of using the word 坐 in the structure (N + 坐 + (N) means of transport + 去/来 + place). These candidates identified the jumbled words and their correct positions in the sentence. Hence, they wrote correct answer ⑤④③②⑥① 王经理正坐地铁来他的公司 (Manager Wang is taking the subway to go to his office).

In item 4, the candidates who scored full marks had sufficient knowledge about the structure (V + 出来 to come through), which is the compound complement of direction. They also knew the preposition 从 (from) had to be placed after 可以 (can) and followed by the noun 这条路 (this road). Thus, they wrote the

correct answer ④②①③⑥⑤ 小丽可以从这条路出来 (Xiao Li will come passing through this road).

In item 5, the candidates who got this item right had sufficient knowledge of the structure (A 和 B 一样 (the same) to make comparative sentences. They also knew that 一样 (the same) had to be placed before an adjective 方便 (convenient). Therefore, they were able to re-arrange the sentence correctly as they wrote the correct answer ③⑥④②①⑤ 这两个地方的环境一样方便 (The environment in these two places is equally good). Extract 3.2 is a sample of a candidate's correct responses to Question 3.

三. 1.	④⑤②⑥③①.
2.	③⑤④⑥①②.
3.	⑤④③②⑥①.
4.	④②①③⑥⑤.
5.	③⑥④②①⑤.

Extract 3.2: A Sample of Correct Responses to Question 3

Extract 3.2 shows responses of a candidate who re-arranged the words into meaningful sentences in all the items.

Furthermore, analysis shows that 10 (52.63%) candidate had weak performance as they scored from 0 to 3 marks. These candidates had insufficient knowledge of the Chinese sentence structure. They also failed to understand the meaning of the given words, hence they failed to re-arrange the sentences.

In item 2, the candidates who scored 0 had insufficient knowledge of the uses of adverb 一定 (certainly) and its position in the sentence. These candidates could not identify the main verb and the auxiliary verb. In addition, they did not know the place of a negation 不 (not). Thus, they had to re-arrange incorrectly the words in the sentence. For example, one of the candidates wrote ⑤①⑥②④③ 她会不变胖一定你放心 (She not can gain weight certainly).

Moreover, the analysis indicates that in item 3, the candidates who scored 0 had insufficient knowledge of the structure (N + 坐 + (N) means of transport + 出来+ place). Most of the candidates did not understand the meaning of the words and their correct position in the sentence. They re-arranged randomly the words, which resulted in writing an ungrammatical sentence. For instance, one of the candidates wrote ⑤④⑥③②① 经理正在他的地铁来公司 (Manager now his subway come to office).

The analysis shows that the candidates who scored 0 in item 4, had inadequate knowledge of the structure of compound complements of direction (verb + 出来 to pass through/to come out/appear). These candidates picked the jumbled words and re-arranged them randomly. As a result, their sentences were incorrect. For example, one of them wrote ③⑥④②⑤① 这条路小丽可以出来从 (This road Xiao Li can come passing through from). Extract 3.3 is a sample responses by a candidate who had weak performance on Question 3.

三	1	②③④⑤⑥①	
	2	⑤①⑥②④③	
	3	⑤②③⑥⑤③	
	4	③④③⑥②⑤	
	5	③⑥②①④⑤④	

Extract 3.3: A Sample of Incorrect Responses to Question 3

Extract 3.3 shows responses by a candidate who re-arranged all the items incorrectly.

2.1.4 Question 4: Re-writing Sentences by Using the Given Words

The candidates were given five items with grammatical patterns in the brackets. They were required to re-write the sentences using those patterns. The question was set from the topic *Introducing people*. It tested the candidates' ability to express oneself clearly. The question was read as follows:

四. 使用所给的语法点为重新写正确的句子。

例如： 这是今天早上的报纸。（是不是）
这是不是今天早上的报纸？

1. 我早上想去外面看电影，你想去吗？（... 不想...）
2. 今年的中秋节是7月5号。（... 不是...）
3. 我要五个面包一瓶水。（... 和...）
4. 哥哥和我是大学生。（... 都 ...）
5. 我妈妈 每天早上到晚上很忙。（... 从 ...）

Data indicates that 19 (100%) candidates attempted the question, out of whom 16 (84.21%) scored 6.0 to 10 marks, which was good performance, 1 (5.26 %) scored 3.5 to 5.5 marks, which was average performance and 2 (10.53%) scored 0 to 3.0 marks which was weak performance. The general performance in this question was good, since 17 (89.47%) candidates scored 3.5 to 10 marks. The candidates' performance on this question is as summarised in Figure 4 below.

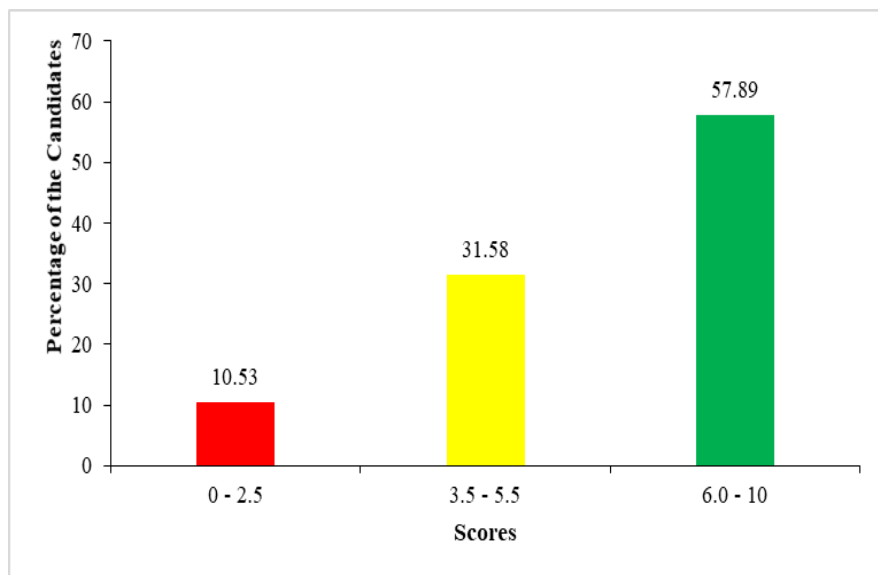


Figure 4: *The Candidates' Performance on Question 4*

The candidates' response analysis shows that 16 (84.21%) candidates had good performance as they scored from 6.0 to 10 marks. These candidates had sufficient knowledge of the Chinese language grammar. They understood the meaning of the given grammatical words and managed to use them to re-write the sentences. For instance, in item 1, the candidates were required to use ...不想... (do not want). They were aware that the word 不想 could be used either to negate the statement or the question. They wrote the correct answers, as one of them rewrote the sentence 我早上不想去外面看电影，你想去吗？ (I do not want to go out to watch movie in the morning, do you want to go?). Others re-wrote 我早上想去外面看电影，你不想去吗？ (I want to go to watch movie in the morning, **don't** you want to go?).

In item 2, the candidates were required to use the word ...不是... (is not). The candidates who scored full marks knew that they had to write the negative form of the sentence. They further knew that the negation ...不是... (is not) had to replace the main verb 是 (is). They were able to a change statement into a negative sentence. Therefore, one candidate re-wrote 今年的中秋节不是 7 月 5 号 (The Spring festival of this year is not on 5th of July).

In item 3, the candidates were required to use ...和... (and), to rewrite the sentence. The candidates who got this item right understood that the conjunction 和 is used to connect two objects/subjects/verbs or adjectives. Thus, they wrote the correct answer 我要五个面包和一瓶水 (I want five loaves of bread **and** one bottle of water).

Furthermore, in item 4, the candidates were required to use an adverb...都... (both/all) to rewrite the sentence. These candidates knew that an adverb ...都... (both/all) is used to show that two things/people have similar characteristics. They re-wrote 哥哥和我都是大学生 (My brother and I are both university students).

Finally, in item 5, the candidates were required to use the preposition ...从... (from). The candidate who scored full marks in this item had sufficient knowledge of the structure ...从..., 到..... (...from...to...). This structure serves as a link between a certain time/place and another. Finally, they wrote the correct answer 我妈妈每天从早上到晚上很忙 (My mother every day is very busy **from** morning to evening). Extract 4.1 is a sample of good responses to Question 4.

四. 1. 我早上想外面看电影, 你不想去吗?	
2. 今年的中秋节不是7月5号?	
3. 我要五个面包和一瓶水。	
4. 哥哥和我都是大学生。	
5. 我妈妈每天从早上到晚上很忙。	

Extract 4.1: A Sample of Correct Responses to Question 4

Extract 4.1 shows responses of a candidate who re-wrote correctly the sentences by using the given Chinese grammatical patterns.

Further analysis indicates that there was 1 (5.26 %) candidate who had average performance on this question and his/her marks were 4. This candidate managed to rewrite some items correctly and failed others. He/she rewrote correctly items 1 and 2 and failed in items 3, 4 and 5. That average performance was affected by the candidate's partial knowledge of how to use the given words. For example, in item 4, the candidate who scored 0 replaced 是 (is) with 都 (all) and rewrote 哥哥和我是都大学生 (My brother and I both university students).

In item 5, the candidate failed to place ... 从... in the right position. He/she rewrote 我从妈妈每天早上到晚上很忙 (I from mother every morning to evening is very busy). This indicate that this candidate did not know the use of this word. Extract 4.2 is a sample of responses by a candidate with average performance on Question 4.

四		
	01. 你早上不想去外面看电影?	
	02. 今年的中秋节不是7月5号。	
	03. 我要五个面包一瓶水。	
	04. 哥和我是都大学生。	
	05. 我从妈妈每天早上到晚上很忙。	

Extract 4.2: A Sample of Responses to Question 4 from a Candidate with an Average Performance

Extract 4.2 shows responses by a candidate who re-wrote correctly the sentences in items 1 and 2 but failed in items 3, 4 and 5.

Furthermore, analysis shows that 2 (10.53%) candidates scored 0 to 3 marks which was weak performance. These candidates had insufficient knowledge of the Chinese language structure, grammar and vocabulary. They answered most of the questions by guessing. They wrote a correct answer in item 1, but failed in other items. For example, in item 2, one candidate wrote 今年不是的中秋节是7月5号 (This year is not spring festival is 5th of July). In this sentence, the candidates did not only fail to know the Chinese sentence structure, but also was not able to use the negative verb 不是 (isn't). They could not realize that the verb cannot be followed by possessive particle 的. The other candidate wrote 今年不是中秋节是7月5号 (This year is not spring festival is 5th of July). This candidate also did not know where to place the negation 不是 (isn't) in the same statement.

In item 3, the candidates failed to use the conjunction 和 (and) to re-write the sentences. For instance, one candidate re-wrote 我要和五个面包一瓶水。 (I want and five loaves of bread one bottle of water). This indicates that the candidate did not know the place of 和 (and) in the sentence.

In item 4, one candidate wrote 哥哥和我是大都学生哥哥和我都大学生。 In this sentence the candidate did not know the appropriate place of 都. He/she did not realize that it cannot be placed between 大 and 学 because these two characters are one word 大学 (University). They cannot be separated. This indicates that this candidate did not understand the meaning of the given words.

In item 5, the candidates failed to insert the preposition 从 (from) at the right place. Hence, they failed to rewrite a correct sentence. One candidate wrote 我妈妈每天早上从晚上很忙 (My mother every day early in the morning from night is very busy). In this sentence, the candidate replaced 到 (to) with 从 (from). This indicates that the candidate did not understand the use of prepositions 到 (to) and 从 (from). He/she omitted the preposition 到 (to) in the sentence. Extract 4.3 is illustrative.

四	1. 我早上想去外面看电影,你不想去吗?	
	2. 今年不是的中秋节是7月5号。	
	3. 我要和五个面包一瓶汽水。	
	4. 哥哥和我是大都不学生。	
	5. 我妈妈从每天早上到晚上很忙。	

Extract 4.3: A Sample of Incorrect Responses to Question 4

Extract 4.3 illustrates responses by a candidate who wrote correct response in item 1 but incorrect responses in other items.

2.1.5 Question 5: Choosing Correct Answers and Filling in the Blanks

In this question, the candidates were given five items in form of mini dialogues. They were also given seven alternatives (逛街 (shopping) 看病 (to see a doctor) 节目 (program) 毕业 (to graduate) 出去 (to go out) 手机 (phone) 下雨 (to rain) to choose and fill in the blanks to provide meaningful sentences. The question was set from the topic *Compound Complement of Direction*. It tested the candidates' ability to use complements of direction to indicate direction of the action. The question read as follows:

五. 选出正确答案填空。

词: 逛街, 看病, 节目, 毕业, 出去, 手机, 下雨

例如 A: 怎么突然(下雨)了?

B: 没事儿有一把伞

1. A: 昨天和你一起去_____的人是谁?

B: 我跟朋友一起去, 他是新来的学生。

2. A: 你是怎么学习中文的?

B: 我是通过电视学的, 在我们国家有一个电视_____教外国人中文。

3. A: 你今天怎么又不舒服?

B: 我不知道怎么了, 我下班后得去_____一下。

4. A: 我一直给你打电话你不接。

B: 不好意思我把_____忘在家里了。

5. A: 明天能不能来我家复习吗?

B: 不好意思我明天想跟妈妈_____看电影。

Analysis shows that 19 (100%) candidates attempted the question. Among them, 13 (68.42%) scored 6.0 to 10 marks, which was good performance. Furthermore, 3 (15.79%) scored 3.5 to 5.5 marks, which was average performance and 3 (15.79%) scored 0 to 3.0 marks, which was weak performance. The general performance on this question was good, since 16 (84.21%) candidates scored 3.5 to 10 marks out of 10 marks allotted to the question. Figure 5 is an illustration of this performance.

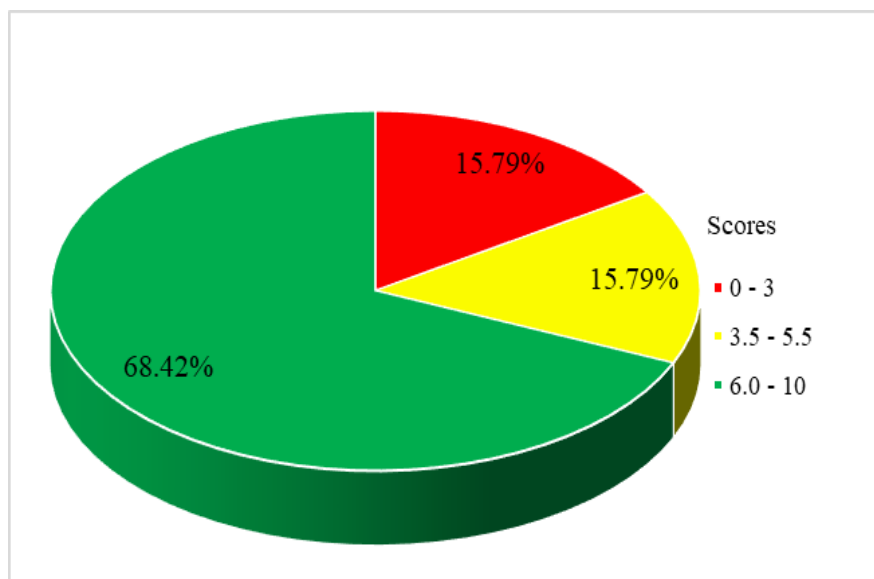


Figure 5: *The Candidates' Performance on Question 5*

Analysis of the candidates' responses shows that 13 (68.42%) candidates who scored from 6.0 to 10 marks had good performance. These candidates understood the meaning of the sentences and the given alternatives and were able to choose the correct answer. For example, in item 1, the candidates who scored full marks were familiar with the structure of the conjunction 和/跟 (and/with) which is used to connect nouns subjects (A 和/跟 B + 一起 + verb). They also knew that only the verb 逛街 (strolling/walk) was the correct answer: 昨天和你一起去逛街的人是谁? (With who did you go for a walk yesterday?)

In item 2, the candidates were required to be familiar with the vocabulary related to watching TV programs. The candidates who scored full marks in this item understood the question and they knew that the vocabulary 电视 (Television) goes with the word 节目 (Program). Thus, they wrote the correct answer 我是通过电视学的, 在我们国家有一个电视节目教外国人中文 (I learned through television, in our country there are television program that teach foreign Chinese language).

In item 3, the candidates who scored full marks were able to express themselves in the hospital context. This helped them to identify the

correct alternative which was 看病 (to see a doctor). Further analysis shows that these candidates were able to express their emotions toward illness as they understood the word 不舒服 (not to feel well) in the sentence.

In item 4, the candidates with full marks were aware of the structure of 把字句 (把 sentences) which is (S + 把 + O + V). Due to the statement of part A, the candidates understood that part B had to be responded to by explaining the reason for not responding to the phone call. They also understood the meaning of the verb 忘 (forget) which needed to be accompanied by a noun related to a phone call. Thus, they wrote the correct answer 手机 (cell phone), as one candidate wrote: 不好意思我把手机忘在家里了 (I am sorry, I Forget my phone at home).

In item 5, the candidates scored full marks because they understood the question and the alternatives given. They also knew that the words 看电影 (to watch movie) comes from structure V + VN. According to the given sentence the correct answer was 出去 (go out). Therefore, they wrote the correct answer 不好意思我明天想跟妈妈出去看电影 (I am sorry tomorrow I will accompany my mother go out to watch TV). Extract 5.1 provides a sample of correct responses to Question 5.

五	1. 逛街	
	2. 节目	
	3. 看病	
	4. 手机	
	5. 出去	

Extract 5.1: A Sample of Correct Responses to Question 5

Extract 5.1 shows the responses by a candidate who wrote correct answers in all the items.

Further analysis indicates that 3 (15.79%) candidates who had average performance in this question scored from 3.5 to 5.5 marks. They had partial knowledge of the given alternatives. They chose correctly some alternatives and failed to do so in others. They wrote correct answers in items 4 and 5 while failing in items 1, 2 and 3. For example, in item 1, the candidates who scored 0 did not master the structure (A 和/跟 B + 一起 + verb) and they did not understand the context of the speakers. Therefore, one of them chose 毕业 (graduate) which was wrong.

In item 2, the candidates who got this item wrong did not understand the context of the dialogue, for example, one candidate chose 逛街 (go for a walk). This word has no relation with the process of learning Chinese. This indicates that the candidate did not understand the meaning of the words used in the dialogue.

Lastly, in item 3, the candidates who scored 0 had insufficient knowledge on how to express themselves in the hospital context. For example, one candidate chose 逛街 (go for a walk) and another one chose 手机 (cell phone). These responses show that these candidates did not understand the dialogue and thus, they failed to choose the correct answer. Extract 5.2 provides a sample of responses by a candidate with average performance on Question 5.

五	01. 逛街。	04. 出去。	
	02. 手机。	05. 节目。	
	03. 看病。		

Extract 5.2: A Sample of Responses from a Candidate with an Average Performance to Question 5

Extract 5.2 shows responses of a candidate who wrote correct answers in items 1 and 3 but failed to do so in items 2, 4 and 5.

Furthermore, the analysis shows that 3 (15.79%) candidates had weak performance, as they scored from 0 to 3 marks. These candidates had inadequate knowledge of Chinese structure as well as the vocabulary. They understood neither the dialogues nor the vocabulary. Hence, they chose the alternatives by guessing. For instance, in item 2, the candidates did not realize that the blank space needed to be filled in with a noun. The suitable noun was 电视 (Television). Some candidates chose a noun 手机 (phone) which was wrong. This indicates that these candidates had insufficient knowledge of the Chinese vocabulary and did not know how to use them.

In item 4, the candidates who scored 0 did not understand the structure of 把字句 (把 sentences) which is (S + 把 + O + V). They did not notice that the correct answer had to be a noun. Among the nouns given, the suitable one was 手机 (phone). Instead, one of the candidates chose the verb 逛街 (stroll/go for a walk and another one chose 下雨 (to rain). These responses show that the candidates lacked vocabulary. Extract 5.3 is illustrative.

五	1. 节目	
	2. 毕业	
	3. 看酒	
	4. 逛王佳丁	
	5. 手机	

Extract 5.3: A Sample of Incorrect Responses to Question 5

Extract 5.3 shows responses by a candidate who wrote incorrect responses in all items.

2.1.6 Question 6: Re-writing Sentences by Choosing the Given Language Structures

In this question, the candidates were given 5 items with the blanks to be filled in with the given structures. They were required to choose the correct answers and re-write sentences. The question was set from the topic *Introducing People*. It tested the candidates' ability to express themselves clearly. The question was as follows:

六. 根据下面所给出语言点选择合适的填空, 把句子再写一边。

语言点: 如果...就, 为什么, 难得, 比, 又...又, 考好

例如: 她_____聪明_____热情。

她又聪明又热情。

1. 考试马上就要开始, 你不努力学习你觉得能_____吗?
2. 昨天_____今天有点儿冷。
3. 昨天的课比今天的课_____多。
4. 我今天没时间, _____明天有时间的话我们_____谈一谈这件事情。
5. 阿莎也自己不知道_____昨天晚上睡不睡觉。

The question was attempted by 19 (100%) candidates, out of whom 6 (31.58%) scored 6.0 to 10 marks which, was rated good performance, 11 (57.89%) scored 3.5 to 5.5 marks, which was rated average performance and 2 (10.53%) scored 0 to 3.0 marks, which was rated weak performance. The general performance on this question was good, since 17 (89.47%) candidates scored from 3.5 to 10 out of the 10 marks allocated to the question. Figure 6 illustrates this performance.

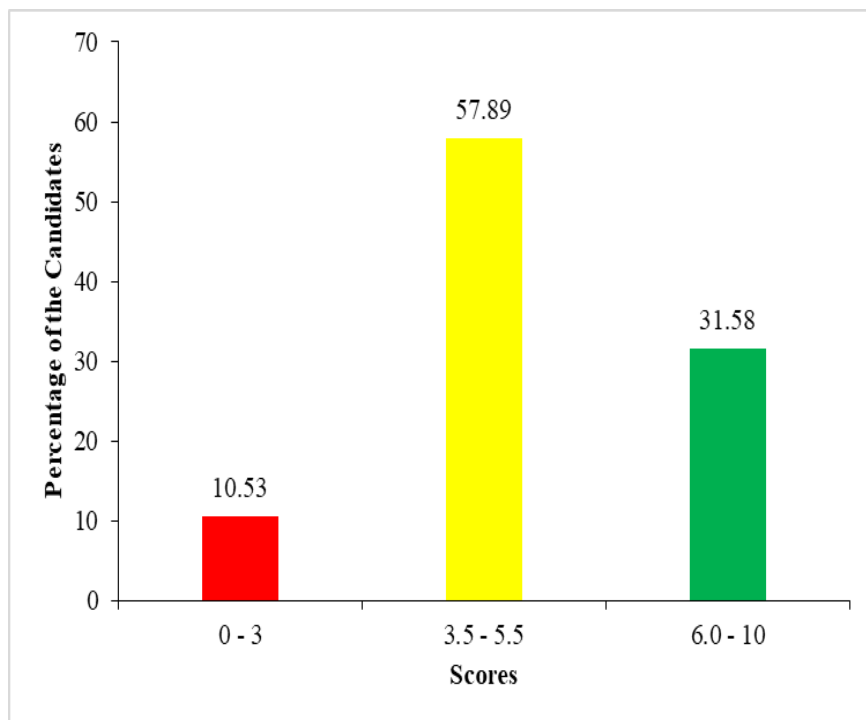


Figure 6: *The Candidates' Performance on Question 6*

Further analysis shows that 6 (31.58%) candidates scored from 6.0 to 10 marks. They had good performance as they understood the meaning of the sentences and the given alternatives. They were able to identify the correct answers. They also re-wrote the sentences correctly. For example, in item 1, the candidates who scored full marks knew the sentence structure S + 不/没 + V + S + Adv. + Adj. They also realized that in this sentence the verb was missing. They identified the correct verb which was 考好 (get good result).

In item 2, the candidates understood the use of 比字句 (comparative sentences). They knew that the structure of the sentence was A + 比 + B + Adj, the comparative particle was missing. Thus, they chose the correct answer 比 (than). They further knew that the comparison was between the weather of 今天 (Today) and that of 昨天 (yesterday).

In item 3, the candidates who got the question right had sufficient knowledge of the structure 比字句 (comparative sentences), which

is A + 比 + B + Adj. These candidates noticed that in the sentence the blank space had to be filled with an adjective. Thus, they identified the suitable one 难得 (the difficult).

In item 4, the candidates who scored full marks were aware about the structure 如果.....就 (If then). They realized that this was a conditional sentence where one action had to take place and then cause the other action to happen. Therefore, one of them wrote 我今天没时间, 如果明天有时间的话我们就谈一谈这件事 (I don't have time today, if tomorrow we have time, then we will discuss this matter).

In term 5, the candidates who scored full marks knew that the given sentence missed the word reason 为什么 (why). This led them to write the correct answer 阿莎也自己不知道为什么昨天晚上睡不着觉 (Asha even herself does not know why she did not sleep last night). Extract 6.1 is a sample of a response from a candidate who performed well on this question.

六. 1. 考试马上就要开始, 你不努力学习你觉得能考好吗?
2. 昨天比今天有点儿冷。
3. 昨天的课比今天的课难得多。
4. 我今天没时间, 如果明天有时间的话我们就谈一谈这件事情。
5. 阿莎也自己不知道为什么昨天晚上睡不着觉。

Extract 6.1: A Sample of Correct Responses to Question 6

Extract 6.1 indicates a response by a candidate who chose correct answers in all the items.

Furthermore, analysis shows that 11 (57.89%) candidates performed averagely on this questions as they scored from 3.5 to 5.5 marks. They had partial knowledge of the uses of the given alternatives. They also did not understand the meaning of some sentences given. This led them to perform averagely. They chose correctly the alternatives to some items and chose incorrectly to others. Most of them wrote correct answers in items 2 and 5 while failing in items 1, 3 and 4. Extract 6.2 illustrates such performance.

六		
1.	考试马上就要开始,你不努力学习你觉得能 难得吗?。	
2.	昨天比今天有点儿冷。	
3.	昨天的课比今天的课为什么多。	
4.	我今天没时间,如果明天有时间话我们就 谈一谈这件事情。	
5.	阿莎也自己不知道考好,昨天晚上睡不 觉觉。	

Extract 6.2: A Sample of a Response to Question 6 from a Candidate with an Average Performance

Extract 6.2 expresses a response by a candidate who wrote correct answer in items 2 and 4 but wrote incorrect answers in items 1, 3 and 5.

Furthermore, 2 (10.53%) candidates scored from 0 to 3 marks, which was weak performance. They had insufficient knowledge of the Chinese structures. They did not understand the question. Instead of rewriting sentences using the chosen structures, some of them copied the given structures. Others rewrote the sentences but chose the alternatives randomly. That resulted in giving wrong answers. For instance, in item 1, the candidates did not know the

structure S + 不/没 + V + S + Adv + Adj. Hence, they wrote incorrect answers. For example, one of them wrote 为什么 (why).

In item 2, the candidates who scored 0 had not mastered the comparative sentences (比字句). They also failed to note that in the given sentence the blank space had to be filled in with an adjective. Instead, they picked any alternatives and wrote them as answers. For example, one candidate chose comparative particle 比 (than) instead of 难得 (the difficult).

Moreover, the candidates who answered item 3 wrongly did not understand that the sentence was a comparative one. The candidates did not realize that the answer had to be an adjective. Thus, one candidate wrote 如果.....就 (If then) instead of 难得 (the difficult). Extract 6.3 is a sample of responses by a candidate who had weak performance on this question.

六	1) 考试马上就要开始,你不努力学习你觉得为什么呀?
	2) 昨天难得今天有点儿冷。
	3) 昨天的课比今天的课考好多。
	4) 我今天没时间,如果明天有时间的话我们谈一谈这件事情。
	5) 阿莎也自己不知道比昨天晚上睡不觉觉。

Extract 6.3: A Sample of Incorrect Responses to Question 6

Extract 6.3 indicates a response from a candidate who wrote incorrect answers in all items.

2.2 SECTION B: Essay Writing

2.2.1 Question 7: Completing Sentences Using the Given Words

In this question, the candidates were given ten vocabulary items in which they were required to compose sentences. The question was constructed from the topic *Education*. The question tested the candidates' ability to extract ideas or information and knowledge from their life experience. The question read as follows:

七. 用下面字写完成的句子。

例如：流利

他说的中文很流利。

1. 无论
2. 来得及
3. 准确
4. 文章
5. 著名
6. 阅读
7. 看法
8. 对于
9. 规定
10. 保护

The question was attempted by 17 (89.47%) candidates, out of whom 7 (41.18%) scored 7.0 to 11.5 marks, which was average performance and 10 (58.82%) scored 0 to 6.5 marks, which was weak performance. There was no candidate with good performance. The general performance on this question was average, since 7 (41.18%) candidates scored 0 to 6.5 marks. Figure 7 is an illustration of this performance.

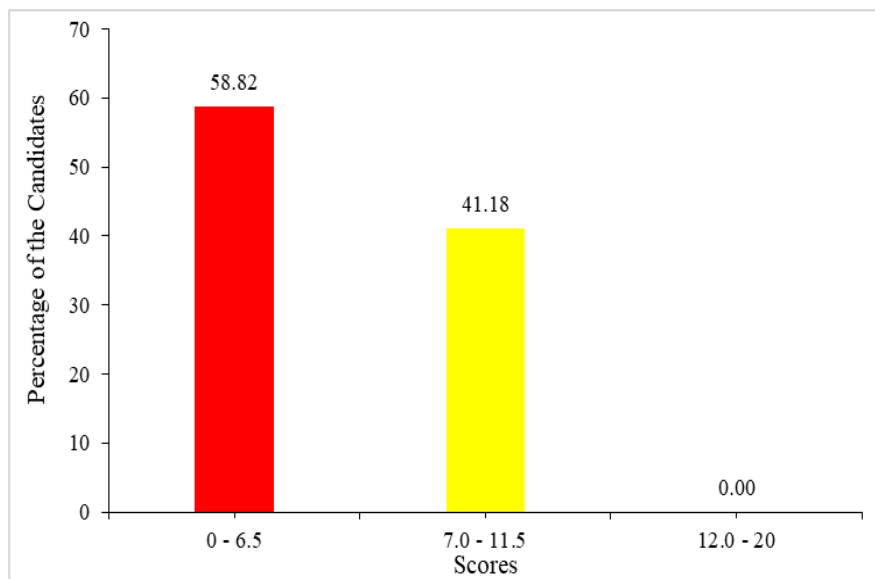


Figure 7: *The Candidates' Performance on Question 7*

Analysis shows that 7 (41.18%) candidates scored from 7.0 to 11.5 marks, which was average performance. These candidates demonstrated partial knowledge of the Chinese language vocabulary and how to use it. They used some of the given words correctly to construct meaningful sentences but failed to do so for other words. They also failed to observe the Chinese sentence structure rules and the proper use of punctuation marks. Most of them attempted correctly items 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8, and failed in item 5, 7, 9 and 10. For example, in item 1, the candidates who got this item right mastered the use of the conjunction 无论...都/也... (no matter what/how..., then...). Therefore, one candidate wrote 无论汉语有什么困难, 我都努力学习 (No matter how difficult Chinese might be, I should study hard).

In item 2, the candidates who got this item right knew how to use the word 来得及 (still have time) to construct a proper Chinese sentence. Most of the candidates understood the position of this word in a sentence. One candidate wrote 你开车这么快, 慢一点儿, 会议九点半开始, 现在是六点半; 我们八点半已经到公司, 时间来来得及 (You are driving too fast, slow down a bit, the

meeting starts at 9:30 o'clock, now it is 6:30 o'clock; we will be at the company by 8:30 o'clock, we still have time).

In item 3, the candidates who got this item right recognised the character of the word 准确 (accurate/precise/standard). They managed to compose sentences correctly. As one of them wrote 你说准确的汉语 (You speak standard Chinese).

In item 6, some candidates who scored full marks used properly the vocabulary 阅读 (to read). They were familiar with this word and one of them wrote 她阅读汉语课文很好 (She is good at reading Chinese texts).

In item 7, the candidates who scored full marks composed sentences correctly. They understood the meaning of the noun 看法 (opinion/suggestion) and one of them wrote 根据她的看法她有好办法 (According to her opinion/suggestion, she has a good idea).

Further analysis indicates that candidates who scored full marks in item 8 recognised the word 对于 (due to/with regard to) as a preposition. These candidates composed sentences correctly. One of the candidates wrote 对于那个事情，你们都去看汉语老师 (With regard to this matter, you all need to see the Chinese teacher).

Furthermore, in item 9, the candidates understood the meaning of a noun 规定 (rules) and managed to create sentences. One of them wrote 学生们应该遵守考试的规定 (Students should abide by the examination rules).

In item 10, the candidates had sufficient knowledge of the uses of the word 保护 (protect/protection) and that it can be used as a noun or as a verb. Thus, they wrote correct sentences as one of them wrote 保护环境很重要 (It is important to protect the environment). Extract 7.1 is a sample of responses by a candidate with average response to Question 7.

七	1. 无论汉语有什么困难,我都努力学习。
	2. 你开车这么快,小曼一点也没会议九点半开始 现在是六点半,八点半已经到了公司,时间来不及
	3. 妈妈您放心,准时到家,然后一起去 超市。
	4. ^他 很爱吃,到饭管与马上要文单选择 很好吃中国菜。
	5. 他很喜欢 5. 从小他很喜欢京剧,王现在已经做一个著名 的京剧家。
	6. 你的汉字书写得不错,阅读理解也很好 除了这个汉字说得不清楚外,其他都没什么 问题是
	7. 看来你的看法不错,但我介意要自己在做事 这样的事。
	8. 对于在生活中,有很困难。
	9. 根据考试的规定,携带通讯设备进考场。
	10. 在生活中,每个人要保护环境。

Extract 7.1: A Sample of a Response to Question 7 from a Candidates' with an Average Performance

Extract 7.1 shows the responses of a candidate who wrote correct sentences in items 1, 3, 6 and 9 but failed in the rest of the items by either wrong use of the given word or providing a wrong sentence structure.

Analysis shows that 10 (58.82%) candidates had weak performance as they scored 0 to 6.5 marks. These candidates had insufficient vocabulary. They did not understand the meaning of the given words which led them to perform weakly. Some candidates wrote incomprehensible sentences and others wrote sentences with grammatical errors. A few of them wrote sentences with wrong structures. For example, in item 1, some candidates composed sentences without knowing that the word 无论 (no matter what/how) goes together with the structure (无论...都 / 也... (no matter what/how..., then...)). Therefore, they wrote incorrect answers. One

of them wrote 无论什么意思? (What is the meaning of no matter what?).

In item 8, the candidates were not familiar with the vocabulary 对于 (with regard to...). They had insufficient knowledge of how to use it. One candidate wrote, 对于她的活让我做这个事情, which was incomprehensible.

In item 9, the noun 规定 (rules) was not familiar to most of the candidates as they wrote ungrammatical sentences. For example, one of the candidate wrote 你规定什么? (You rules what). This shows that the candidate thought that the word 规定 was a verb, which was wrong. Another candidate wrote 那个规定很难做 (It is difficult to do that rule).

In item 10, some candidates who answered this item wrongly responded by writing 我保护这个汉语试 (I am protecting this Chinese test). This candidate knew the meaning of the given word 保护 (to protect) but failed to use it correctly in the sentence. Thus, they wrote meaningless sentences. Extract 7.2 provides a sample of incorrect responses to Question 7.

7	1) 无论是什么意思?	
	2) 他用正准确的东西!	
	2) 他有来得及两个天	
	3) 他用正作确的东西.	
	4) 你看文单了	
	5) 你叫什么著名?	
	6) 你要闹了要这个本	
	7) 你用是什么看法?	
	8) 他没知识对于	
	9) 你规定什?	
	10) 我保护这个	

Extract 7.3: A Sample of Incorrect Responses to Question 7

Extract 7.3 shows responses by a candidate who gave incorrect responses in all the items.

2.2.2 Question 8: Correcting Incorrect Sentences and Writing Correct Ones

The candidates were given 10 sentences that were grammatically incorrect and they were required to write the correct sentences. The question was constructed from the topic *Education*. The question tested the candidates' ability to extract ideas or information and knowledge from their life experiences. The question was as follows:

八. 下面句子有误, 请你改正与正确句子。

例如: 我以前没有来过这。

我以前没有来过这儿。

1. 小王让我在这等他。
2. 这个商店没有那个商店这么大。
3. 明天晚上你去那吗?
4. 坦桑尼亚有几个学生?
5. 你是从哪地方来的?
6. 星期天我吃早饭就去看朋友。
7. 我昨天一天没看他。
8. 她打篮打球越来越好。
9. 考试时间还没到, 大家来了很早。
10. 他的汉语不说得很好。

Analysis of the candidates' responses indicates that a total of 7 (36.84%) candidates attempted the question. Out of them, 7 (100%) scored 0 to 6.5 marks. There were no candidates with good and average performance. The general performance in this question was weak, as 7 (100%) candidates scored 0 to 6.5 marks. Figure 8 is an illustration of this performance.

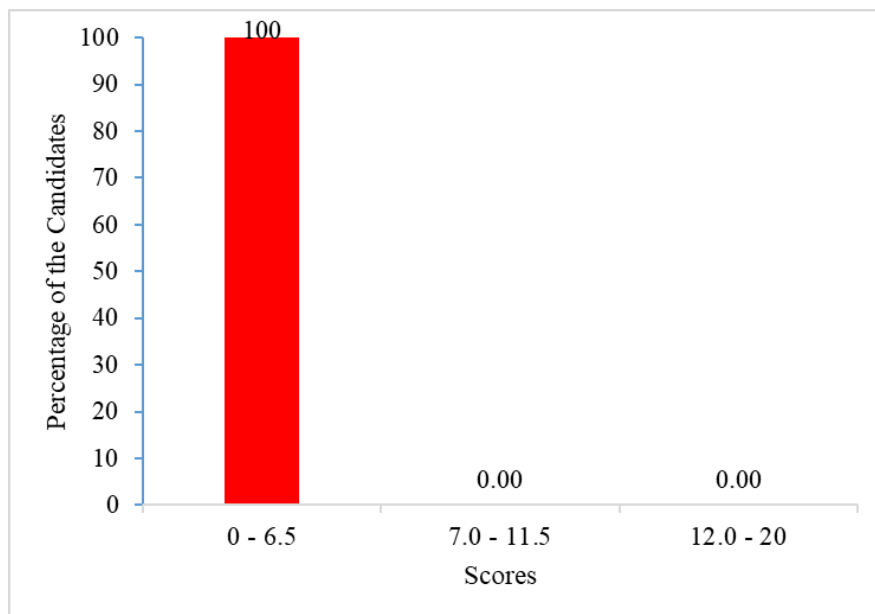


Figure 8: *The Candidates' Performance on Question 8*

Analysis shows that 7 (100%) candidates had weak performance as they scored from 0 to 6.5 marks. These candidates had insufficient knowledge of rules and principles of Chinese sentence structure. They formed correct sentences in some items for the words which they were familiar to and failed to do so in others. They also failed to identify the errors. Most of them failed to correct the sentences by copying the same incorrect sentences. For example, in item 1, the candidates were required to correct the sentence 小王让我在这等他 (Xiao Wang asked me to wait for him this). The word 这 (this) was supposed to be 这儿 (here). It was wrongly used in the sentence. Thus, the correct answer was 小王让我在这儿等他 (Xiao Wang asked me to wait for him here). Instead, one of the candidates re-wrote the sentence.

In item 2, the incorrect sentence was 这个商店没有那个商店这么大 (This shop is not like that shop this big). The candidates who failed to correct this sentence did not understand the demonstrative pronoun 这个 (this one) which goes with 这么 (such like (this)) and 那个 (that one) goes with 那么 (such /like that)). The incorrect sentence made 那个 (that one) go with 这么 (such like (that)).

Therefore, the correct sentence structure was 这个商店没有那个商店那么大 (This shop is not as big as that shop) but one candidate wrote an incorrect sentence that read 这个商店没有那个商店那大 (This shop is not as big that shop).

In item 3, the incorrect sentence was 明天晚上你去哪吗? (Which are you going tomorrow evening?). The candidates who wrote the incorrect answer, did not know that the interrogative pronoun 哪 (which) in this sentence had to be followed by 儿 to change it from 哪 (which) to 哪儿 (where). Thus, in this case the interrogative pronoun 哪 (which) had to be replaced by the interrogative pronoun 那儿 (there) or 哪儿 (where). Therefore, the correct sentence was 你明天晚上去哪儿? (Where will you go tomorrow evening?), but one candidate wrote 你明天去哪儿? (Where will you go tomorrow?) He/she omitted the words 晚上 (evening), which was wrong.

In item 4, the incorrect sentence structure was 坦桑尼亚大学有几个学生? (How many students are there in Tanzania?). The incorrectness was caused by a question particle 几 (how many) which is used for asking quantity less than ten. These candidates did not notice that. They wrote incorrect responses. One of them wrote 坦桑尼亚有学生? (Tanzania has students?) instead of the correct answer 坦桑尼亚有多少个学生? (How many students does Tanzania have?) Where as 多少 (how many) is used to ask a quantity more than ten.

In item 5, the incorrect sentence was 你是从哪地方来的? This was wrong because it missed the measure word 个 which had to be placed before a place name 地方 (place). Therefore, the correct form was 你是从哪个地方来的? (Which place are you coming from?). These candidates wrote incorrect sentences as one of them wrote 你是从哪儿地方来的? (Where place are you coming from?).

In item 6, the candidates scored 0 because they did not know the structure of the verb complement of result. Some of them wrote 星期天我吃早饭就去看朋友 (On Sunday, I taking breakfast, I will just pay visit my friend). The verb complements of result 完 (to finish) was supposed to come after the main verb 吃 (to eat) to give more information about the action of eating. The action of taking breakfast had to finish first and immediately be followed by the action of paying a visit to a friend. Therefore, the correct answer was 星期天我吃完早饭就去看朋友 (On Sunday, soon after finishing taking breakfast, I will pay a visit to my friend).

In item 7, most of the candidates who got it wrong failed to comprehend the complement of result structure and the uses of the adverb 都 (all). The incorrect form provided in the question was 我昨天一天没看他 (I did not see him for a day). This sentence missed important particles to give a clear meaning. Majority of the candidates wrote incorrect answers or repeated the sentence and wrote 我昨天一天没看他. This sentence missed the verb 见 (to see) which acts as a complement of results which had to go together with the verb 看 (to watch) and the adverb 都. Therefore, the correct sentence was 我昨天一天都没看见他 (I did not see him all day yesterday).

In item 8, the incorrect sentence was 她打蓝打球越来越好 (She plays basketball better as time goes by). Most of the candidates who wrote incorrect responses had insufficient knowledge of the structure 得, which is used as a complement of possibility and is placed after a verb to indicate effects, degree or possibility. Therefore, 打得 (the way played) comes before 越来越 which shows the improvement of the action 打. The correct answer was 她打篮球打得越来越好 (She plays basketball better and better as time goes by).

In item 9, the incorrect form provided in the question paper is 考试时间还没到, 大家来了很早 (It is not test time yet, everyone came very early). Most of candidates who wrote incorrect answer in this

item, had limited knowledge of the use of the particle 了 which is not accurate according to the mood of the sentence. Instead, this particle 了 was to be replaced by the complement 得 which is used to show the mood of action 来 (to come). Therefore, the correct answer was 考试时间还没到, 大家来得很早 (It's not test time yet, everyone is coming early).

In item 10, the incorrect form in the question was 他的汉语不说得很好 (His Chinese does not speak very well) the candidates failed to comprehend the placement of Chinese complement of possibility 得 in the negative form. This complement 得 is placed after the verb 说 (to say/ to speak), expressing the way the action of speaking is done. Moreover, the word 不 (not) should be placed after the particle 得 followed by the adjective phrase 很好 (very good). Therefore, the best arrangement according to the Chinese sentence structure in this item was 他的汉语说得不很好 (He does not speak Chinese very well). Extract 8.2 is a sample of the candidate's incorrect responses to Question 8.

八		
1.	小王让我在这儿等他。	
2.	这个商店这么大没有那个商店。	
3.	明天晚上你去那儿？	
4.	坦桑尼亚大学有几个学生？	
5.	你是从来哪地方的？	
6.	星期天我早吃饭就去看朋友。	
7.	我昨天没一天看他。	
8.	她打篮球打得越来越好。	
9.	考试时间还没到,大家来得很早。	
10.	他的汉语说得很好。	

Extract 8.2: A Sample of Incorrect Responses to question 8

Extract 8.2 shows responses by a candidate who failed to correct the sentences in all items.

2.2.3 Question 9: Reading the Passage and Answering Questions Using Chinese Characters

The candidates were given a passage to read and they were required to answer the subsequent questions by using Chinese characters. The passage was about 米克中国的生活 (Mike's life in China). The question was set from the topic *Introducing People*. The question tested the candidate's ability to express oneself clearly. The question was as follows:

九. 根据已给出的例子请读下面短文后用汉字回答问题。

传说在很久以前有一个叫米克，他从纽约去中国留学。米克在中国学习中文，在中国的时候，他一直在留学生宿舍住。上课很方便。

可是两个人住一个房间，他觉得不舒服，也不方便。他决定出去租房，但是去哪儿去找合适的房子呢？他的朋友玛丽陪他一起去看房。有一天玛丽跟他一起去看了几套房子，都不太满足。有的房子不错，但是离大学太远，没有公共汽车也没有超市；他们还去附近学太找房子，但是房子太贵。他们都找了一套，还是没有找到合适的房子，他最后决定在宿舍住。

已经半年，米克不会说中文，他每天去市场买东西的时候喜欢说：“这个”多少钱，买苹果和西瓜的时候也说：“我要这个”他决定努力学习，现在米克的中文进步了，买东西的时候，知道怎么问。他用正确的词跟售货员告诉他便宜。他常常买东西的时候问售货员说：香蕉怎么卖？“售货员请便宜点儿”芒果和葡萄多少钱一斤。售货员和他的朋友都是他的老师。中国有句话说：万事开头难现在米克对中文很感兴趣。

问题：

问：米克在哪儿学习汉语？

答：在中国。

1. 根据短文写合适的题目，写3到6词。
2. 米克是哪个国家的？
3. 为什么米克不喜欢住在宿舍？
4. 为什么米克没租附近大学的房子？
5. 如果你上大学你想住宿舍还是外面租房？每答案要解释为什么？
6. 为什么米克朋友和售货员都是米克的老师？
7. 根据短文方便和便宜词语的意思 是什么？
8. 你觉得在短文中“万事开头难”是什么意思？

Analysis indicates that 14 (84.21%) candidates attempted the question. Among them 1 (7.14%) scored 12 to 20 marks, which was good performance. Apart from that, 3 (21.43%) scored 7.0 to 11.5 marks, which was average performance and 10 (71.43%) scored 0 to 6.5 marks, which was weak performance. The general performance in this question was average, since 4 (28.57%) candidates scored 7.0 to 20 out of 20 allotted marks. Figure 9 illustrates this performance.

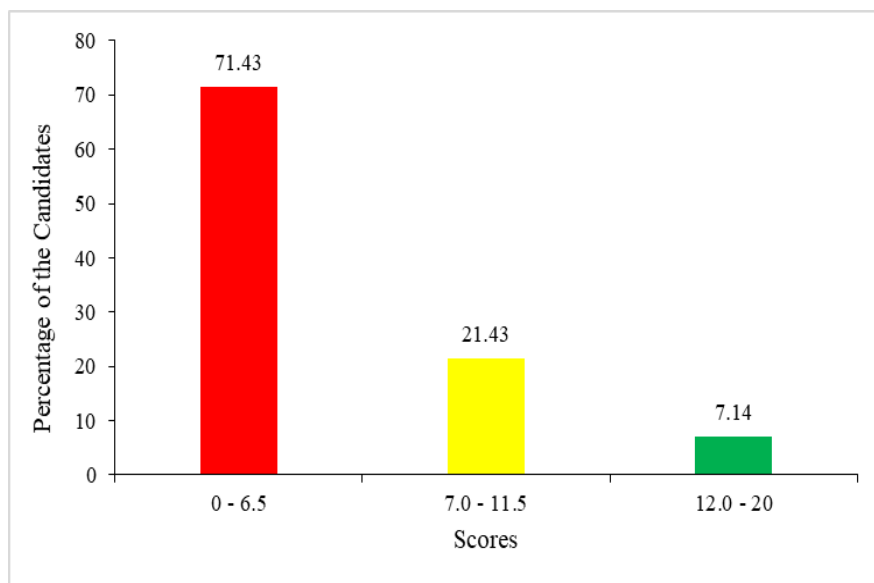


Figure 9: *The Candidates' Performance on Question 9*

Analysis of the candidates' responses shows that 1 (6.25%) candidate had good performance as he/she scored from 12 to 20 marks. This candidate had sufficient knowledge of reading for comprehension. He/she understood the passage and managed to find the correct information and answered the subsequent questions correctly. He/she could not score full marks because he failed to get the correct answer in some items. For example, in item 1, the candidates were required to read the passage and give the title of the passage. The correct answer was to be from 3 to 6 words in Chinese characters. This candidate scored full marks in item 1 because he/she wrote the title of the passage correctly 米克在中国学中文 (Mike is in China learning Chinese).

In item 2, the candidates were required to state the nationality of 米克 (Mike). The candidate who performed well in the item understood the passage and the questions. as it was stated in the passage that 米克 (Mike) is from 纽约 (New York) which is a city in America. Therefore, the candidate knew that New York is in America, hence, he/she gave the correct answer which was 米克是美国人 (Mike is American)

In item 3, the candidates were required to give the reasons why 米克 (Mike) did not like to stay in the hostel. The candidate who scored full marks comprehended the passage and answered 因为他不舒服两个人住一个房间 (He was not comfortable two people to live in a single room).

In item 4, the question required the candidates to give the reason why 米克 (Mike) did not rent a house near the university. This candidate identified the correct answer 因为附近大学的房子太贵 (Because the house near the University is too expensive) because he/she had sufficient vocabulary which helped him/her to understand and identify the correct information in the passage.

In item 5, the question required the candidates to state whether he or she would live in the university hostel or rent a house out of the university, once he or she got a chance to go to university. The candidate who wrote the correct answer understood the question and wrote the correct answer 我要住外面租房子因为我喜欢住自己 (I want to live outside because I like to live alone). He/she managed to give the correct answer because he/she understood the passage and the question.

In item 6, the question required the candidates to state why Mike's friend and the shopkeeper are both his teachers. The candidate with full marks wrote the correct answer 因为在买懂事的时候他们也帮助他学说中文 (Because they also help him to speak Chinese when buying things). This correct answer was due to the fact that the candidate had sufficient vocabulary.

In item 7, the question required the candidates to give the meaning of 方便 (convenient) and 便宜 (cheap) as they were used in the passage. A candidate who got this item right understood the question. He/she also understood the meaning of the words used in the passage. He/she wrote the correct 方便的意思是说话的人觉得做事情的时候很舒服 (Convenient means the feeling of

comfortability that somebody has when he/she is doing something).
便宜就是说不贵的意思 (Cheap means not expensive).

In item 8, the question required the candidates to give the meaning of 万事开头难 (The first step is always a difficult one) as used in the passage. The candidate who scored full marks had sufficient knowledge of the idioms. He/she wrote the correct answer 做什么事情第一次常常成很难但是又做这个事情成容易因为越做越简单 (The first time of doing something it is very difficult, but when you keep doing it often it becomes easy, because the more you do the more it becomes simple). Extract 9.1 is a sample of a correct response to question 9.

九	
01.	米克在中国学习中文，
02.	米克从纽约来。
03.	他不喜欢住宿舍因为他觉得不舒服，也不方便在课上。
04.	因为附近大学的房子太贵。
05.	如果我上大学，我想住宿舍因为它真安全也对我舒服。
06.	米克朋友和售货员都是米克的老师因为他们帮助他学中文。
07.	便宜词语意思是“他说

Extract 9.1: A Sample of Correct Responses to Question 9

Extract 9.1 shows a response by a candidate who gave correct answers to items 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 but failed in items 2, 7 and 8.

Further analysis reveals that 5 (31.25%) candidates performed averagely, as they scored 7.0 to 11.5 marks. These candidates scored full marks in some items and failed in others. That indicates that they had partial knowledge of reading for comprehension. They understood some questions. Yet, they did not understand others. Thus, it all resulted to average performance.

Further analysis indicates that 10 (62.5%) candidates scored from 0 to 6.5 marks which was weak performance. They had insufficient knowledge of reading for comprehension. They lacked vocabulary, which hindered them from understanding the passage. For example, some candidates copied the words from the passage and wrote them as answers, which were completely unrelated to the question. Yet others left some questions unanswered.

In item 1, the candidates who scored 0 gave the title of the passage which had more than 6 words contrary to the requirement of the question. One of them wrote 米克在中国学习中文，他从纽约去国留学 (Mike is in China learning Chinese language, he is from New York), which was wrong.

In item 2, the candidates failed to understand the Mike's nationality. They wrote the city 纽约 (New York), where he comes from instead of writing his nationality 美国人 (American). They could not realize that 纽约 (New York) is a city in America and not a country.

In item 3, the candidates who scored 0 failed to give the reasons why 米克 (Mike) did not like to stay in the dormitory. They either had wrong information from the text, poor writing skills or they wrote ungrammatical sentences. For example, one candidate wrote 他不喜欢住宿舍一直在留学生宿舍住，上课很方便 (He doesn't like living in the hostel always stays in hostel, it is very convenient to attend lectures).

In item 4, the candidate who got this item wrong failed to provide correct information because they did not understand the vocabulary used in the passage. For example, instead of writing 因为附近大学

的房子太贵 (The houses near the University was very expensive) he/she wrote 大学的房子太贵 (University's houses are very expensive), one candidate omitted the word 附近 (near).

In item 5, the candidates scored 0 because they misunderstood the question. Instead of writing the choice “if they get a chance to go to the university”, they wrote the Mike’s choice which was wrong. For example, one of them wrote 他在宿舍住 (He stay in the hostel). In addition, the candidates who scored 0 in items 6, 7 and 8 did not understand the passage and the accompanying questions. They copied sentences from the passage and they wrote as answers. Extract 9.2 provides a sample of responses by a candidate with an average performance on Question 9.

九	1) 米克在中国学习中文, 他从纽约去国留学。
	2) 米克是从纽约。
	3) 米克不喜欢住在宿舍一直在留学生宿舍住, 上课很方便。
	4) (他, 们) - 米克还去附近学太找房子, 但是房子太贵。
	5) 他最后决定在宿舍住。
	6) 万事开头难现在米克对中文很感兴趣。
	7)
	8) “万事开头难”的意思是万还是第一时间在 做东西是很又难。 比如: 学汉语很有意思但是在开始很难写汉字 也使句字。

Extract 9.2: A Sample of Incorrect Responses to Question 9

Extract 9.2 shows responses from a candidate who wrote incorrect answers in all items.

3.0 ANALYSIS OF THE CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE ON EACH QUESTION FOR 126/2 CHINESE LANGUAGE 2

This part comprises two sections; A and B. It examines the candidates' performance on each question in the 126/2 Chinese Language 2 examination. The analysis includes the number of candidates who attempted each question and their percentages.

3.1 SECTION A: Short Answer Questions

This section comprised 6 questions. The candidates were required to answer all the question. Each question weighed 10 marks making a total of 60 marks.

3.1.1 Question 1: Choosing Correct Answers to Fill in the Blanks

In this question, the candidates were given a passage with blanks. The candidates were required to choose the correct answers from the words listed. The question was set from a topic *Entities*. The question tested candidates' ability to comprehend written texts. The question was read as follows:

一. 选择正确答案填空。

词：散步，生活，希望，工作，帮助，健康，太极拳，巧克力，清楚，
工资，简单

例如：(1) 清楚

什么是幸福？没有人能说 (1) _____ 因为 每个人对幸福 有
不同的感觉，有的认为 (2) _____ 高，能赚钱就幸福，有的人认为，
心情好也是一种幸福，身体 (3) _____ 是更大幸福；有人能够，
(4) _____ 别人就感到幸福。

对小孩子来说幸福是一件东西，比如一块橡皮，一块糖，好吃菜，一
块 (5) _____ 得到了就很幸福；他们把幸福就看去这么
(6) _____。对年轻人来说找到一份自己喜欢的 (7) _____。

对老人来说老人身体健康，天气不错 时出去 (8) _____，打
(9) _____，才是幸福。(10) _____ 每人都能幸福的
(11) _____。

This question was attempted by 19 (100%) candidates. Among them 14 (73.68%) scored 6.0 to 10 marks, which was good performance, 2 (10.53%) scored 3.5 to 5.5 marks, which was average performance and 3 (15.79%) scored from 0 to 3.0 marks, which was weak performance. The general performance in this question was good, since 16 (84.21%) candidates scored 3.5 to 10 marks. The candidates' performance on the question is summarized in Figure 11 below.

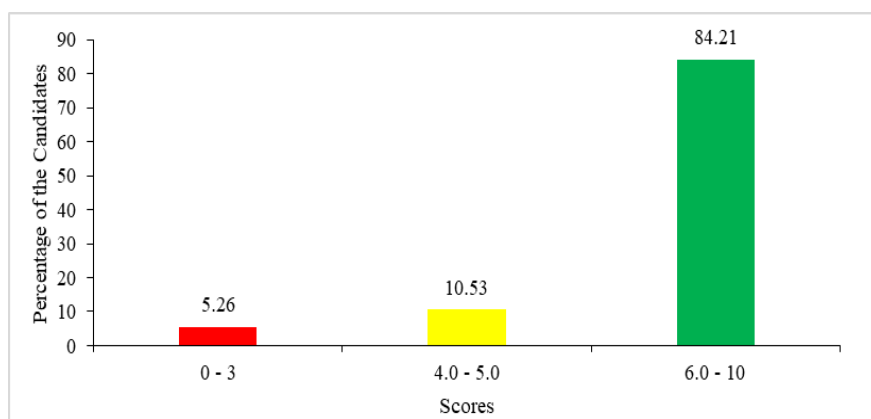


Figure 11: *The Candidates' Performance on Question 1*

Analysis shows that 14 (73.68%) candidates scored from 6.0 to 10 marks that was good performance on the question. These candidates understood the passage and the meaning of the given words. They also had sufficient knowledge of the structures, grammatical patterns and different types of words used in the passage. For example, in item 2, the candidates knew that the blanks had to be filled in with a noun. They identified the correct noun which was 工资 (salary). They noted that the word 高 (high) is an adjective and is usually placed after a noun. It explains the level of that noun is high.

In item 3, the candidates who scored full marks understood that the noun 身体 (body) is normally described by the adjective 健康 (health). This knowledge helped the candidates to identify the correct answer. They also wrote the answer correct which was 帮助 (help) in item 4. These candidates realized that according to the statement there was a noun 别人 (others). Thus, they noted that the verb *help* was needed to fill in the blank.

In item 5, the candidates who scored full marks knew that the blank space had to be filled in with a noun because there was a measure word 块 (a measure word for a thing that can be sliced into smaller pieces). The noun which was suitable was 巧克力 (chocolate) which has the characteristics of having pieces.

In item 6, the candidates who got it right understood that the blank had to be filled in with an adjective, because there was an adverb 这么 (such) which emphasizes the adjective 简单 (simple). Thus, they wrote the correct answer.

In item 7, the candidates who scored full marks realized that the noun 工作 (job) had to fill in the blank. This was due to the fact that in the sentence there was a measure word 份 (a measure word used for job). In item 8, the candidates who got this item right understood that the word 散步 (a walk) goes together with verb 出去 (go out). Thus, they wrote the correct answer.

In item 9, the candidates who scored full marks knew that the verb 打 is used to show the action that involves the use of hands. They identified the noun *sport* which involves hands. Thus, they chose the correct answer 太极拳 (Tai qi/Chinese martial art).

In item 10, the candidates who scored full marks were able to comprehend the logical flow of the information from the beginning of the text and they knew the message obtained from the content and the suitable word used was 希望 (hopefully).

In item 11, the candidates understood the use of the possessive particle 的 which is used to show that the object is under the influence of or owned by or caused by something. In this item the correct answer was 生活 (life). These candidates noticed that the word 幸福的 (happily) should be followed by the noun that acts as influenced by the word 幸福 (happy....) to make 幸福的生活 (happy life). Extract 11.1 illustrates.

1	清楚。	
2	工资。	
3	健康。	
4	帮助。	
5	巧克力。	
6	简单。	
7	工作。	
8	散步。	
9	太极拳。	
10	希望。	
11	生活。	

Extract 11.1: A Sample of Correct Responses to Question 1

Extract 11.1 shows responses by the candidate who wrote correct answers in all items.

Further analysis shows that 2 (10.53%) candidates had average performance having scored from 3.5 to 5.5 marks. These candidates had partial knowledge of the words given. They had the ability to use correctly some words but failed to use others. They also had insufficient knowledge of the Chinese structure. These candidates were able to answer correctly items 3, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 11 while failing in items 2, 6, 8 and 9.

Further, analysis shows that 3 (15.79%) candidates scored from 0 to 3.0 marks. These candidates lacked vocabulary knowledge which hindered them from understanding the passage. It also shows that they did not know the meaning of the words given. They also did not understand the sentence structures which led them to choose the given words randomly and write them as answers. For example, in item 2, the candidates who scored 0 did not understand that the sentence was talking about the level 高 (high) of 工资 (salary). One of the candidates wrote 生活 (life). This shows that the candidate did not understand the statement. These candidates chose the words by

guessing hence they had weak performance on all items. Extract 11.2 is a sample of incorrect responses to question 1.

一	(1) 清楚.	
	(2) 希望	
	(3) 敬生	
	(4) 健康	
	(5) 生活	
	(6) 简单	
	(7) 帮助	
	(8) 工作	
	(9) 太阳	
	(10) 工资	
	(11) 巧克力	

Extract 11.2: A Sample of incorrect Responses to Question 1

Extract 11.2 shows responses by a candidate who chose incorrect answers in all items.

3.1.2 Question 2: Matching Items

In this question, the candidates were given two columns whereby column A consisted of five statement items and column B consisted of 8 responses. The candidates were required to match the statement in column A with the correct response in column B. This question was set from topic *Entities*. The question tested the candidate's ability to comprehend written texts. The question read as follows:

二. 根据下列 B 栏中和 A 栏对应正确答案进行匹配。

例如：这台电脑是今年最流行的。（C）

1. 我们买衣服的时候应该考虑很多事情包括价格等等。	A 他们觉得购物很方便。
2. 我从去年在这公司工作。	B 她常常压力很大。
3. 我家人都喜欢在网上买东西。	C 是啊，我今年买的。
4. 她的工作太麻烦了。	D 质量要注意。
5. 花园里有很多种自行车。	E 昨天的购物买有打折。
	F 现在已经一年了。
	G 那辆黄色的是我的
	H 我也要参加。

This question was attempted by 19 (100%) candidates, among them 14 (73.68%) scored 6.0 to 10 marks, which was good performance. Furthermore, 3 (15.79%) scored 3.5 to 5.5 marks, which indicated of average performance and 2 (10.53%) scored 0 to 3.0 marks, which was weak performance. The general performance in this question was good, as 17 (89.47%) candidates scored 3.5 marks to 10 marks. Figure 12 is an illustration of this performance.

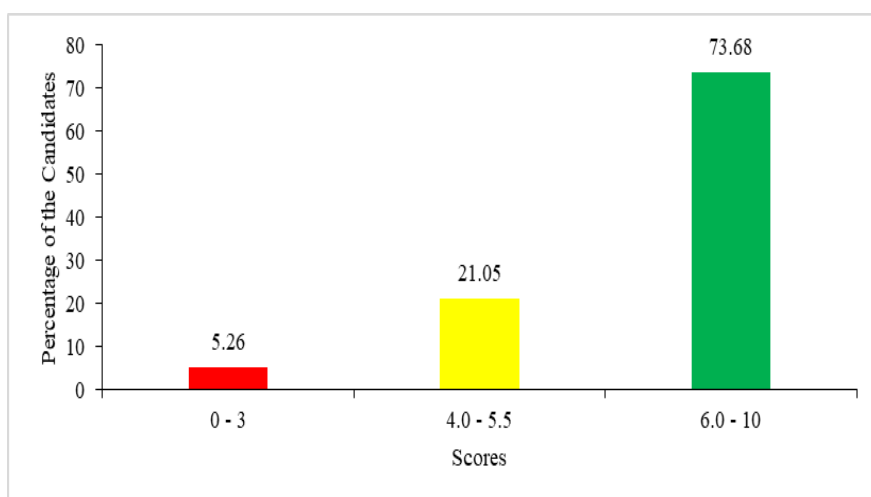


Figure 2: *The Candidates' Performance on Question 12*

Analysis shows that 14 (73.68%) candidates scored from 6.0 to 10 marks, which indicated good performance. The candidates were able to identify the correct statement from column B because they had sufficient knowledge of the Chinese language sentence

structure. They knew that the statements given in column A had a continuation of information with the statements in column B. Thus, they managed to match them correctly. For example, in item 1, the given statement was 我们买衣服的时候应该考虑很多事情包括价格等等 (When we buy clothes, we should consider many things like price and so on). The candidates noted that the word 买衣服 (buy clothes), 价格 (price) goes with the word 质量 (quality) in column B. Therefore, they wrote the correct answer which was (D) 质量要注意 (Pay attention on quality).

In item 2, the candidates who scored full marks knew the meaning of the statement 我从去年在这公司工作 (I started to work in this company last year) which was about time 去年 (last year). The candidates noticed that until then the total time would be one year, therefore, they chose F, 现在已经一年了 (Now it is already one year).

In item 3, the candidates who scored full marks understood the statement 我家人都喜欢在网上买东西 (All of my family like to buy things on the internet). The candidates understood that the words 家人 (family), 网上 (on internet) and 买东西 (buy things) were related to shopping. They also noted that the pronoun 他们 (they) which replaced the noun 家人 and 购物 (shopping) corresponded to 网上买东西 (buying things on the internet/online shopping). This helped them to identify the correct answer A 他们觉得购物很方便 (They think doing shopping is very convenient).

In item 4, the statement given was 她的工作太麻烦了 (Her job is very troublesome). The candidates who scored full marks in this item knew that the statement was about being troublesome of 她的工作 (she/her job). They related the word 太麻烦 (very troublesome) with the word 压力 (pressure) in column B. They managed to write the correct answer 她常常压力很大 (She always has pressure).

In item 5, the candidates were given the statement 花园里有很多种自行车 (There are many kinds of bicycles in the garden). The candidates who scored full marks knew that the word 自行车 (a

bicycle) corresponded to the word 那辆黄色的 (that with the yellow colour) because there was the measure word 辆 that is used for bicycle. Thus, they managed to write the correct answer G 那辆黄色的是我的 (That with the yellow colour is mine). Extract 12.1 is a sample of correct responses to Question 1.

1	D.	
2	F	
3	A	
4	B.	
5	G	

Extract 12.1: A Sample of Correct Responses to Question 2

Extract 12.1 shows responses by a candidate who wrote correct answers in all items.

Further analysis shows that 3 (15.79%) candidates scored from 3.5 to 5.5 marks, which was average performance. These candidates matched some items correctly but failed to do so in others. This performance was due to the fact that they had partial knowledge of the Chinese sentence structure. As a result, they also failed to understand some vocabulary items. They managed to give correct answers in items 1 and 2 but failed to do so in items 3, 4 and 5.

Furthermore, the analysis shows that 2 (10.53%) candidates scored from 0 to 3.0 marks which was weak performance. These candidates failed because they had insufficient knowledge of the Chinese language sentence structure. They also lacked vocabulary which hindered them from understanding the statements given. As a result they answered the questions incorrectly by guessing. For example, in item 1 candidates chose H 我也要参加 (I also want to participate) to match with sentence 我们买衣服的时候我们应该考虑

很多事情包括价格 (When we buy clothes we need to consider a lot of things such as price, etc). These two sentences do not match and do not relate in the context given.

In item 5, one candidate chose D. 质量要注意 (Also need to pay attention on quality) to match with the sentence 花园里有很多种自行车 (There are many kinds of bicycles in the garden) which was wrong. These candidates did not know that the sentence 质量要注意 (Also need to pay attention on quality) relates to shopping while the statement in the item was talking about the garden. This proves that they lacked vocabulary knowledge. Extract 12.2 is a sample of average response to question 2 by a candidate who performed the question averagely.

二	1. G	
	2. F	
	3. A	
	4. H	
	5. E	

Extract 12.3: A Sample of Incorrect Responses to Question 2

Extract 12.3 shows responses by a candidate who matched the items incorrectly.

3.1.3 Question 3: Re-arranging the Jumbled Sentences

In this question, the candidates were given five items, each of which was a short paragraph composed of three jumbled sentences. The candidates were required to re-arrange the sentences to make a meaningful paragraph by writing the letters of the given sentences. The question was set from the topic *Health*. The question tested the candidates' ability to communicate in conversations about how to keep physical health and express oneself logically on the value of success. The question read as follows:

三. 根据已经给出的例子, 排列词成逻辑的短文。

例如: A 所以就打车来。

B 我每天走路上下电影院。

C 可是今天起晚了。 BCA。

1. A 它是我们国家的首都。

B 因为那时候天气特别好, 不刮风。

C 多多马人最喜欢的季节是秋节。_____。

2. A 为了你和你的家人, 别再抽烟。

B 抽烟不仅对自己的身体没有好处。

C 还会影响周围人的身体健康。_____。

3. A 幸福其实很简单, 有的人觉得有钱才是幸福。

B 我自己觉得下班后和家人吃饭, 看看书才是幸福。

C 但是有钱不一定幸福。_____。

4. A 我爸爸比全家高。

B 有我妈妈, 爸爸和我。

C 我家有三口人。_____。

5. A 虽然失败能带来一些烦恼。

B 但是失败也有好处。

C 因为从失败中能发现自己的缺点。_____。

This question was attempted by 19 (100%) candidates. Among them, 12 (63.16%) scored 6.0 to 10 marks, 4 (21.05%) scored 3.5 to 5.5 marks, and 3 (15.79%) scored 0 to 3.0 marks. The general performance on this question was good, since 16 (84.21%) candidates scored from 3.5 to 10 marks. Figure 13 provides an illustration of this performance.

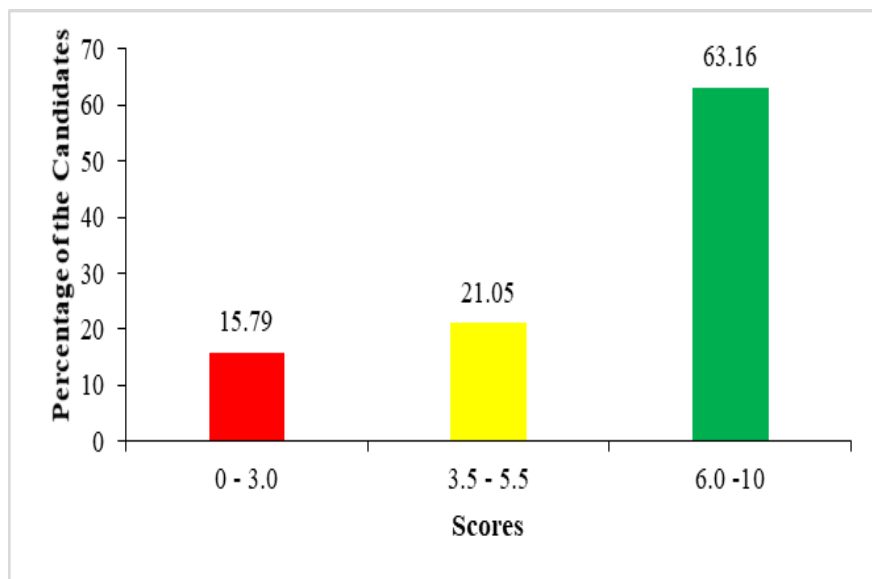


Figure 3: *The Candidates' Performance on Question 13*

Analysis shows that 12 (63.16%) candidates scored from 6.0 to 10 marks, which was good performance. The candidates who scored full marks understood the given sentences and had sufficient knowledge of Chinese vocabulary and structural patterns. They wrote correct responses. For example, in item 1, the candidate who scored full marks had sufficient knowledge of the sentence structures. They wrote the correct answer (CBA) 多多马人最喜欢的季节是秋天 (People from Dodoma like autumn) 因为那时候天气特别好, 不刮风 (because at that time the weather is very good no wind) 它是我们国家的首都 (It is our country's capital city), because they understood the arrangement of information. They also understood well the main vocabulary given such as 季节 (seasons), 天气 (weather), 首都 (capital city) and 多多马 (Dodoma).

In item 2, the candidates who scored full marks, wrote the correct answer (BCA) 抽烟不仅对自己的身体没有好处, 还会影响周围人的身体没有好处, 为了你和你的家人, 别再抽烟 (Smoking is not only having disadvantage on your body, it also can affect the health of the people around you, for the sake of you and your family members do not smoke). These candidates knew the idea of 抽烟 (smoking) with its effects, that it can affect others around the

smoker. They also knew that the last sentence was a piece of advice to stop smoking. Hence they were able to arrange them into a meaningful paragraph.

In item 3, the candidates who scored full marks wrote the correct answer (ACB) 幸福其实很简单, 有的人觉得有钱才是幸福, 但是有钱不一定幸福, 我自己觉得下班后和家人吃饭, 看看书才是幸福 (Happiness in fact is very simple, there are some who think if you have money that is happiness, but having money does not necessarily mean you are happy, to me I think after work being together with your family, eating together, reading books that is happiness). These candidates knew that the idea was happiness, and how the people perceive it. Thus, they observed the arrangement of the sentence and identified all the sentences from the first to the last.

In item 4, the candidates also had sufficient knowledge of introducing family members in the Chinese culture. Thus, they wrote the correct answer (CBA) 我家有三口人, 有我妈妈, 爸爸和我, 我爸爸比全家高 (There are three people in our family, there is father, mother and I. My father is taller than all of us).

In item 5, the candidates who got this item right had sufficient knowledge of structure 虽然...但是... (Although...but...) they knew that a word 虽然 (Although) should be followed by 但是 (but). They also knew the uses of the word 因为 (because) and where it should be used. They wrote the correct answer (ABC) 虽然失败能带来一些发恼, 但是失败也有好处, 因为从失败上中能发现自己的缺点 (Although failing might bring frustration, but failing also has some advantages, because through failure you will learn your own weaknesses). Extract 13.1 is a sample of correct responses to question 3.

1	cba	
2	bca	
3	acb	
4	cba	
5	abc	

Extract 13.1: A candidate's Correct Responses to Question 3

Extract 13.1 shows responses by a candidate who re-arranged the sentences correctly.

Furthermore, the data analysis shows that 4 (21.05%) candidates had average performance as they scored 3.5 to 5.5 marks. They had partial knowledge of the use of conjunctions and structures used to connect ideas. They also had partial knowledge of meaning of some vocabulary items. The candidates managed to answer correctly some items and failed in others. Most of them wrote correct answers in items 2 and 3 while failed in items 1, 4 and 5.

Moreover, analysis shows that 3 (15.79%) candidates had weak performance. Their scores ranged from 0 to 3.0 marks. These candidates had not mastered the structure of the sentences in the Chinese language. They also lacked knowledge of some vocabulary items, which hindered them from understanding the given sentences. As a result, the candidates re-arranged the items wrongly because they failed to connect ideas. They guessed and wrote incorrect answers which resulted to weak performance on the question. Extract 13.3 provides a sample of incorrect responses from a candidate who performed weakly on Question 3.

三	1) ACB	
	2) BAC	
	3) BAC	
	4) CAB	
	5) ACB	

Extract 13.3: A candidate's Incorrect Responses to Question 3

Extract 13.3 shows responses by a candidate who failed to correctly re-arrange all the items.

3.1.4 Question 4: Completing a Dialogue

The question comprised 5 items in which the candidates were required to complete the given dialogue. The question was set from the Topic *Health*. It tested the candidates' ability to communicate in conversations about how to keep physical health. The question read as follows:

四. 用合适的句子填空完成对话。

例如：医院家里远不远？
答案：不太远。

大卫：田方，你这两天怎么没来上课呢？
田方：(1) _____。

大卫：你去了医院吗？
田方：(2) _____。

大卫：那医生说你应该做什么？
田方：(3) _____。

大卫：医生给了你什么药呢？
田方：(4) _____。

大卫：你现在吃了药身体觉得怎么样？
田方：(5) _____。

大卫：医生说你应该吃什么饭？
田方：医生告诉我应该多吃点儿水果，不要吃冰淇淋。

The total of 19 (100%) candidates attempted the question, out of whom 11 (57.89%) scored 6.0 to 10 marks, which was good performance. Apart from that, 6 (31.58%) scored 3.5 to 5.5 marks, which was average performance and 2 (10.53%) scored 0 to 3.0 marks, which was weak performance. The general performance on this question was good, since 14 (89.47%) candidates scored 3.5 to 10 marks. Figure 14 presents this performance.

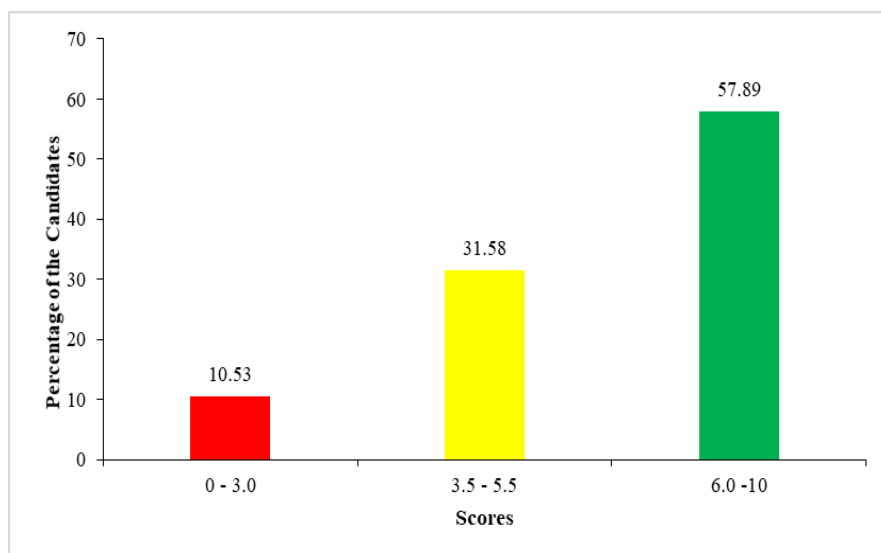


Figure 14: *The Candidates' Performance on Question 4*

Analysis indicates that there were 11 (57.89%) candidates with good performance as they scored from 6.0 to 10 marks. That shows that, these candidates understood the question. They also had sufficient knowledge of the topic *Health*. That means, the candidates had sufficient vocabulary about health, which helped them to understand the question. They filled in the blanks with correct answers and correct characters. They also demonstrated good mastery of the sentence structures because they wrote correct sentences. For example, in item 1, the candidates were required to give reasons why he/she did not attend class for the last two days, 你这两天怎么没来上课 (Why didn't you attend class for these two days?). The candidates who got full marks wrote 我病了 (I was sick), also some of them responded 我觉得不舒服 (I was not feeling good/comfortable). This implies that the candidates understood the requirement of the question.

In item 2, the candidates were asked 你去了医院吗? (Did you go to hospital?). The candidates who got full marks wrote 是啊, 我去了看病 (Yes, I went to see a doctor) others wrote 我去了 (I went). This shows that these candidates had mastered the language of health matters.

In item 3, the candidates were required to give the feedback from hospital, the question was 那医生说你应该做什么? (what did the doctor tell you to do?). They gave the correct answer 医生说我应该多喝水 (The doctor said I should drink enough water). These candidates knew the Chinese culture on what sick people are usually advised by doctors in order to recover from the sickness.

In item 4, the candidates were asked 医生给了你什么药呢 (What medicine did the doctor give you?) the candidates wrote the correct answer 她给了我中药 (He gave me Chinese medicine). This shows that the candidates had sufficient vocabulary.

In item 5, the candidates were required to answer the question 你现在吃了药身体感觉怎么样? (How do you feel now after taking medicine?). These candidates wrote the correct answer 我现在身体很好! (Now I am doing well). This reveals that the candidate knew how to express him/herself on the health/state of the body of a sick person after getting treatment. Extract 14.1 presents a sample of a correct responses to Question 4.

四	1. 我的身体生病了。	
	2. 去了, 我妈妈跟我一起去。	
	3. 医生说我应该立刻做运动。	
	4. 医生给了我三种的药。	
	5. 我现在好一些, 身体很好。	

Extract 14.1: A Sample of Correct Responses to Question 4

Extract 14.1 shows responses by a candidate who answered correctly all the items.

Moreover, 6 (31.58%) candidates had average performance as they scored from 3.5 to 5.5 marks. These candidates had partial knowledge of the topic *Health*. They knew some words but did not know others. They were also able to write some characters in some items but failed in others. Most of them managed to answer correctly items 1 and 2 while they failed in items 3, 4 and 5.

Furthermore, 2 (10.53%) candidates performed the question weakly. Their scores ranged from 0 to 3.0 marks. These candidates lacked the required vocabulary to express themselves. They did not understand the question. One candidate could not write characters correctly, the other could not write both Chinese characters and Chinese grammatical sentences. That led to wrong answers. For example, in item 1, the candidates did not understand the question, as one of them wrote 我的朋友 (my friend) and the other wrote 你这两天来上课 (this two you attended classes) instead of 我觉得不舒服 (I was not feeling good/comfortable).

In item 2, the candidates failed to answer the question. For example, one of the them wrote 受不了, 可能下个天 (Can't take it anymore,

may be next day) and the other one wrote 我不去了医院 (I cannot go to hospital). The candidates wrongly used the negation particle 不 (*no*) instead of using 没 (*did not*).

Furthermore, in item 3, the candidates who scored 0 did not understand the question, and therefore, failed to provide the correct answer. For example, one candidate wrote 医生说他的健康不很好 (The doctor said that his health was not very good).

In item 4, some of the candidates who got this item wrong did not understand the question and others understood it but lacked enough vocabulary to express themselves. For example, one candidate wrote 医生给了我散步 (The doctor gave me go for a walk). This candidate did not know that the word 散步 (a walk) is a verb and not a noun. Another candidate wrote 我要幸福的生活 (I want a peaceful life). This shows that the candidate did not understand the question and responded by giving an answer that is not related to the question.

In item 5, most of the candidates who scored 0 understood the question but failed to respond correctly. One of them used the English language knowledge to answer the question. He/she wrote 我的身体不好看 (My body does not look good) in Chinese culture 好看 (looking good) is not used to express the health situation. It is used only in expressing facial appearance of someone or something. Extract 4.3 is illustrative.

四	1. 我的朋友是病了。	
	2. 好啊。	
	3. 医生说他的健康不很好。	
	4. 医生给他药。	
	5. 现在健康很好好。	

Extract 14.2: A Sample of Incorrect Responses to Question 4

Extract 14.2 shows responses from the candidate who wrote incorrect responses in all items.

3.1.5 Question 5: Reading the Text and Writing its Idioms

In question 5, the candidates were given 5 short texts to read and write an idiom for each. The question was set from the topic *Health*. The question tested candidates' ability to communicate in conversations about how to keep physical health. The question read as follows:

五. 仔细看短文写出相应的成语。

例如：他总是很聪明，热情，高兴，努力。他笑着跟顾客说话。

答案：茶好客常来。

1. 马丽以前每天不想吃不想喝。她常常不舒服，发烧，感冒。几乎每天都有人照顾她。她从去了看病到现在越来越好。

成语：_____。

2. 我爷爷每天差不多给我们故事。他常常告诉我们在生活应该找办法有幸福的生活。你需要读书找知识。

成语：_____。

3. 我是医生。我以前害怕给病人打针。检查病人我感觉不舒服。现在我跟病人很开心，不害怕，相信我自己。

成语：_____。

4. 不能一边骑一边开车、一边坐飞机一边坐船、一边在里边一边在外边，一边去北方一边去南方。

成语：_____。

5. 李小以前不吃海鲜，现在每天都想吃。他以前不想运动，他现在早上和晚上都想做运动。世界上大家要合适生活活动。

成语：_____。

Analysis indicates that 19 (100%) candidates attempted the question. Out of them, no candidate scored 6.0 to 10 marks, 4 (21.05%) scored 3.5 to 5.5 marks and 14 (78.95%) scored 0 to 3.0 marks. The general performance in this question was weak, as 4 (21.05%) candidates scored 3.5 to 10 marks. Figure 15 provides an illustration of the performance on this question.

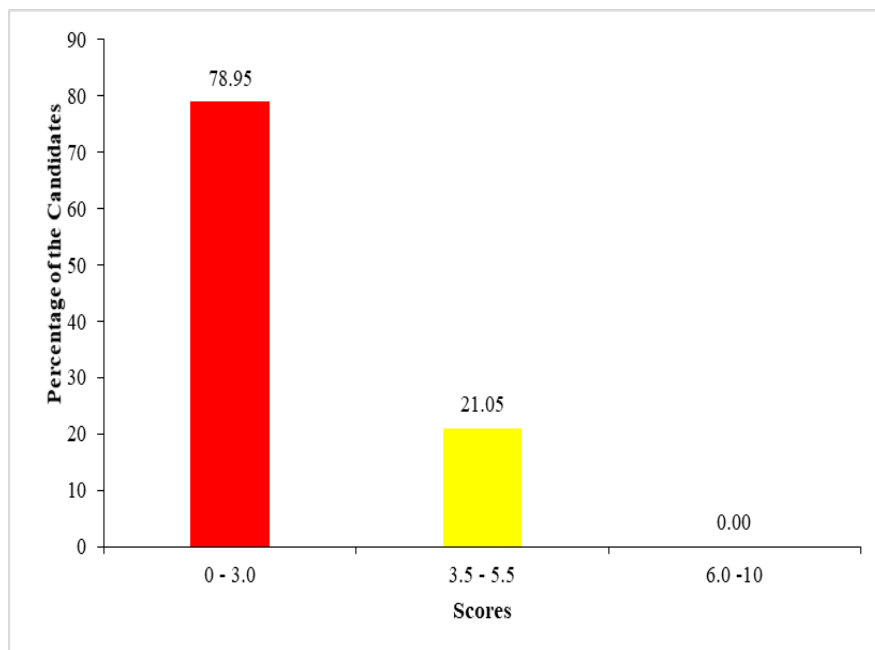


Figure 15: *The Candidates' Performance on Question 5*

Analysis of the candidates' responses shows that 14 (78.95%) candidates scored from 0 to 3.0 marks which was weak performance. This is accounted for by some of the candidates who misunderstood the question. Others did not know idioms.

In item 1, the candidate who scored 0 did not understand the text 玛丽以前每天不想吃不想喝，他常常不舒服，发烧，感冒，几乎每天都有人照顾她。他从去了看病到现在越来越来好 (Mary, before he/she did not want either to eat or to drink. She often felt uncomfortable. She had fever and flu, almost every day she had someone to take care of her. Since she went to see a doctor, she is now doing well). The correct answer was 药到病除 (Once the medicine is used, the disease is cured). They wrote incorrect answers. For example, one of them wrote 茶好很好健康 which is a meaningless sentence.

In item 2, the text was 我爷爷每天差不多给我们故事，他常常告诉我们在生活应该找办法有幸福的生活。你需要读书找知识 (My grandfather every day narrates stories to us. He often tells us

that in life you should find happiness, I have to read to find knowledge.) The correct answer was 站得高看得远 (The higher you stand, the farther you can see). The candidates who scored 0 misinterpreted the question they copied a sentence and wrote it as an answer. One of the candidates wrote 我爷爷每天差不多给我们故事 (My grandfather every day narrates stories to us).

In item 3, the text was 我是医生，我以前害怕给病人打针，检查病人我感觉不舒服，现在我跟病人很开心，不害怕，相信自己。(I am a doctor, before, I used to be afraid of injecting people, I was not feeling comfortable doing checkup for patients, right now I feel happy while I am with patients, I am not afraid, I have self-confidence). The correct answer was 万事开头难 (The first step is always the hardest). Some candidates who scored 0 misunderstood the question. Instead of writing an idiom, they summarized the given text. Others did not know the idioms. One of them wrote 是害怕相信自己 (afraid to trust him/herself).

In item 4, the candidates who got this item wrong had insufficient knowledge of Chinese idioms. They failed to differentiate one idiom from the other. According to the text 不能一边骑一边开车，一边坐飞机 一边坐船，一边在里边一边外边，一边去北方一边南方 (You cannot ride and drive at the same time, you cannot take the flight and take a boat at the same time, you cannot be inside and outside at the same time, you cannot go eastern and go southern at the same time), the correct idiom was 不可同日而语 (incomparable/too different to compare) but one candidate wrote 一事一，二是二 (call a spade a spade) which was wrong.

In item 5, the candidates could not score full marks because they did not have sufficient knowledge of Chinese idioms. The text was 李小以前不吃海鲜，现在每天都想吃。他以前不想运动，他现在早上和晚上都想做运动。世界上大家要合适生活活动。(Before, Li Xiao did not eat seafood. Now he wants to eat it every day. Before, he did not want to do sports. Now he wants to do it every morning and evening. In the world, every person needs best life

activities). The correct answer was 习惯成自然 (Habit builds character) but one candidate wrote 想做运动跑步好世界上大家适生活活动 which is meaningless. Extract 15.1 illustrates this scenario.

五.	01. 万事开头难 tou 很难。	
	02. 药到病除。	
	03. 自然是习惯。	
	04. 一是一，二是二。	
	06. 站得高，看得远。	

Extract 15.1: A Sample of Incorrect Responses to Question 5

Extract 15.1 shows responses from the candidate who failed to write idioms in all items.

Further analysis indicates that 4 (21.05%) candidates had average performance. They scored from 3.5 to 5.5 marks. Some of them wrote correct answer in items 1 and 3. These candidates had partial knowledge of idioms. They knew a few of them. For example, in item 1, the candidate who scored full marks understood the text and managed to write the correct answer 药到病除 (Once the medicine is used, the disease is cured). These candidates realised that the text was about a certain problem that can be solved, once measures are taken. This is revealed by 马丽 (Mary) who went to hospital to see a doctor and she recovered.

In item 3, the candidates were required to know the idiom which says 万事开头难 (The first step is always the hardest). The candidates who scored full marks were familiar with this idiom. They related it to the text which was about a doctor who used to be afraid to attend patients before but later on he got used to it. Thus, they gave correct answers which are illustrated in Extract 15.2.

五	1) 药到病除。	
	2) 贵人多忘事。	
	3) 万事开头难。	
	4) 一十一, = 十二。	
	5) 一步走错步步错。	

Extract 15.2: A Sample of Responses to Question 5 from a Candidate with Average Performance

Extract 15.2 shows responses from a candidate who wrote correct idioms in items 1 and 3 but failed in items 2, 4 and 5.

3.1.6 Question 6: Writing Essays on Various Contemporary Issues

In this question, the candidates were required to answer the given questions in each item. The question comprised 5 items. It was set from the topic *Occupation*. The question tested the candidate's ability to apply communication skills on Job, interview, express oneself clearly about attitudes toward jobs, and express opinions of careers in discourse. The question read as follows:

<p>六. 回答下面的问题。</p> <p>例如：你的爱好是什么？</p> <p>答案：我的爱好是看电影。</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 你下午的面试怎么样？ 2. 你毕业后想在哪儿工作？ 3. 你父母做什么工作？ 4. 你每个周末早上几点起床？ 5. 你为什么学习汉语？
--

The question was attempted by 19 (100%) candidates. Out of whom, 12 (63.16%) scored 6.0 to 10 marks, 5 (26.32%) scored 3.5 to 5.5 marks and 2 (10.53%) scored 0 to 3.0 marks. The general performance on this question was good, since 17 (89.47) candidates

scored from 3.5 to 10 marks. Figure 16 is an illustration of this performance.

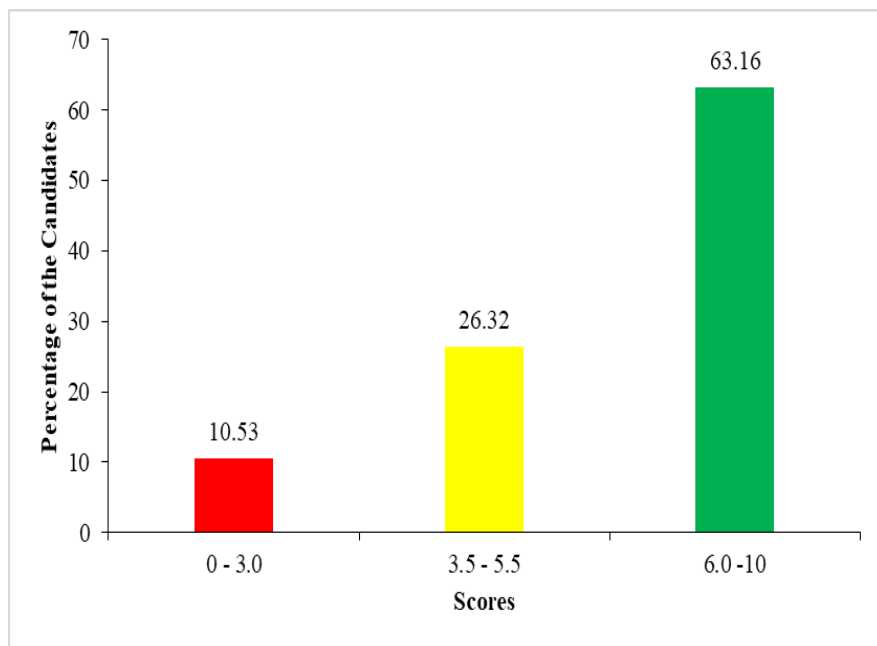


Figure 16: The Candidates' Performance on Question 6

Analysis shows that 12 (63.16%) candidates had good performance as they scored from 6.0 to 10 marks. These candidates had sufficient knowledge of vocabulary and sentence structure. They understood the questions asked and were able to respond. For example, in item 1, the candidates who got this item right were knowledgeable about the uses of the word 面试 (interview) and interrogative particle 怎么样 (how was it). Thus, they gave the correct answers. One of them wrote 我下午的面试是很好 (My afternoon Interview was good).

In item 2, the candidate who scored full marks realized that the question 你毕业后想在哪儿工作? (Where do you want to work after graduating?) required their personal information. They responded by naming the place where they want to go to work after graduating. One of the candidates wrote 我毕业后想在多多马工作 (I want to work in Dodoma after graduating).

In item 3, the candidate who got this item right understood the question which required them to name the professions of their parents. These candidates wrote correct answers. One of them wrote 我的爸爸是老师和我的妈妈在房管工作 (My Father is a teacher and my mother works at the hotel as a chef).

In item 4, the candidates who scored full marks had sufficient knowledge of Chinese characters and the use of words 周末 (weekend), 起床 (get up) and 早上几点 (at what time in the morning) which required them to give time. Through this knowledge, they were able to answer the question correctly. One of them wrote 我每个周末早上八点起床 (Every weekend I get up at 8 o'clock).

In item 5, the candidates who scored full marks were able to express themselves by giving reasons why they learn Chinese language. These candidates were familiar with the words 为什么 (why), 学习汉语 (learning Chinese). They managed to give correct answers as one of them wrote 我学习汉语因为六年一后要去中国 (I'm learning Chinese language because in six years I want to go to China). Extract 16.1 is a sample of correct responses to Question 6.

六.1. 我下午的面试很好了。	
2. 我毕业后想在医院工作。	
3. 我父母做不一样的工作。我父亲是老师和我母亲医生。	
4. 我每个周末早上七点半起床。	
5. 我学习汉语因为, 我喜欢说汉语和要去留学在中国。	

Extract 16.1: A Sample of Correct Responses to Question 6

Extract 16.1 shows responses by a candidate who responded correctly to all questions.

Further, analysis shows that 5 (26.32%) candidates in this category had average performance. These candidates had partial knowledge

on the topic of occupation. They mastered some vocabulary items to express themselves but lacked others. Most of them wrote correct answers in items 1 and 2. They scored 0 in some items. Some of them failed to write the characters and others copied sentences from other questions and wrote them as answers. For example, in item 3 the candidate wrote 我医生 (I a doctor) instead of writing 我想当医生 (I want to be a doctor).

In item 5, the candidates were unable to answer the question properly probably because they did not understand the meaning and the use of the word 为什么 (why). One of them wrote 我爱你汉语 (I love you Chinese). This implies that the candidate did not understand the question. Extract 16.2 illustrates a sample of correct responses given by a candidate who performed averagely on Question 6.

六	1) 我下午的面试很	
	2) 我毕业后想 学在学	
	3) 我父母做非洲	
	4) 我每个周末早上六点起床	
	5) 我学习汉语因为要去中国	

Extract 16.2: A Sample of Responses to Question 6 by a Candidate with Average Performance

Extract 16.2 shows responses from a candidate who responded correctly in item 4 and 5 but failed in items 1, 2 and 3.

Moreover, 2 (10.53%) candidates had a weak performance as they scored between 0 to 3.0 marks. The weak performance was caused by lack of vocabulary knowledge. The candidates answered questions by guessing. For example, in item 1, one candidate who scored 0, did not understand the question. He/she failed to write the characters and wrote incorrect sentences. Another candidate wrote

好，但是我害怕一点儿了 (good, but I was little bit worried). This candidate expressed the feeling he/she felt during interview instead of stating how the interview was.

In item 2, the candidates who scored 0 failed to tell the place they wanted to go to work. One of the candidates wrote the name of the profession. The other one wrote an incomplete sentence 毕业后想 (after graduating I want). They also scored 0 in item 3, as they failed to name the profession of their parents. Instead, one candidate wrote 她在厨房，爸爸工作 (she is in the kitchen, my father is working).

In item 4, the candidates who scored 0 had insufficient knowledge on Chinese characters especially the use of the words 周末 (weekend), 起床 (get up) and 早上几点 (at what time in the morning). They failed to express themselves in telling at what time they work up every weekend. 早上周末吃饭 (morning weekend eat food).

In item 5, the candidates score 0 because they failed to give the reason why they learn Chinese language. One of the candidates wrote 说中文 (speak Chinese language). This shows that this candidate did not understand the question. Extract 16.2 presents a sample of incorrect responses to Question 6.

六	1. 今天面试是很又幸。	
	2. 好呵我要去工作	
	3. 我想医生	
	4. 周末我想去看电影。	
	5. 我爱你汉语是很意思	

Extract 16.2: A Sample of Incorrect Responses to Question 6

Extract 16.2 shows responses by a candidate who wrote incorrect answers in all items.

3.2 SECTION B: Writing Essays

This section comprised 3 essay questions. The candidates were required to answer two questions. Each question weighed 20 marks thus, making a total of 40 marks.

3.2.1 Question 7: Summarizing the Passage

The candidate were given a passage to summarise it. The question was set from the topic *Entities*. The question tested the candidate's ability to comprehend the written text. The question read as follows:

七. 仔细看下面短文, 写 80 到 100 字的短文总结内容。

送什么礼物

我叫小李妹, 我是中国人, 今年 28 岁。我现在在非洲工作, 我是汽车公司工程师。我们中国人每年得过春节, 今年上班很忙这假期我不能回中国和我家人过春节。

在中国春节的风俗真有意思, 人们一起 吃饺子, 鱼, 橙子, 喝酒, 给孩子红包, 看看表演比如: 舞狮, 舞龙, 龙舟比赛 等等。因为这个节日要花很多钱, 所以我打算发给妈妈几万人民币, 除了钱以外我还想发给她一份特殊的礼物特别是我最近和本地同事拍的照片。

在坦桑尼亚我有一个本地朋友, 她叫安娜, 她下个月要结婚, 所以我准备送给她一个好礼物。但到现在我不知道该送她什么样的礼物才好, 因为我还不知道坦桑尼亚的婚礼习俗所以很难理解什么礼物最合适。

虽然我不会参加她的婚礼可是作为她的好朋友我必须准备一个很特殊的礼物。我的一位同事跟我说要是不知道买给她什么礼物的话最好就送给她钱, 因为她有的钱想买什么就买什么。

A total of 13 (68.42%) candidates attempted the question, out of whom 5 (38.46%) scored 12.0 to 20 marks 2 (15.38%) scored 7.0 to 11.5 marks and 6 (46.15%) scored 0 to 6.5 marks. The general performance on this question was average, since 7 (53.84%) candidates scored from 7.0 to 20 mark. Figure 17 summarises the performance.

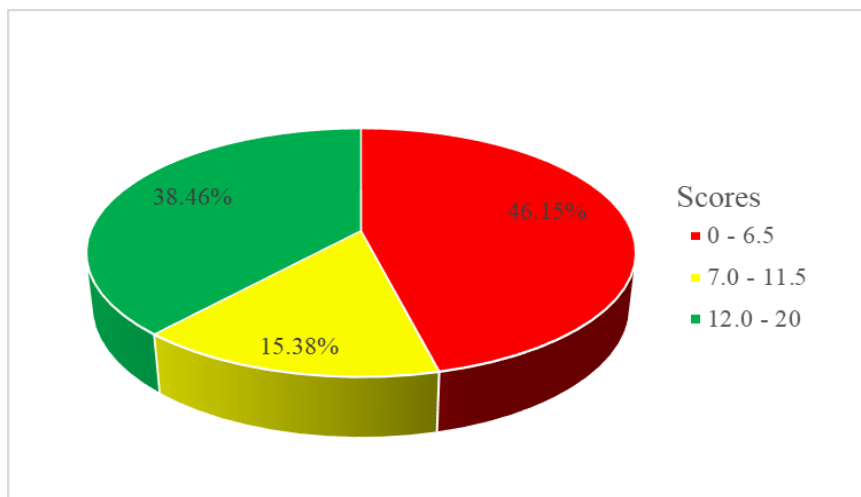


Figure 17: The Candidates' Performance on Question 7

A total of 5 (38.46%) candidates scored between 12.0 to 20 marks. That was an instance of good performance. These candidates had sufficient knowledge on reading for comprehension. They extracted the main information from the passage. These candidates knew the principle summarising and also had the ability to get the main ideas. They summarised the passage but they could not score 20 marks because their summaries had few errors. Extract 17.1 presents a sample of the candidate's good responses to Question 7.

七	我叫小李妹,是中国人,今年28岁。我在非洲,做汽车公司工程师的工作。这上着节我工作很忙,那不会去中国跟我家一起做节日的活动。所以我发给妈妈一些块钱和礼物。
	我有一个朋友,是坦桑尼亚人,下个月要结婚。所以我送她一个好礼物;但不同的国家有不同礼物文化,因此我打算送她礼物钱,她想头什么就头什么。

Extract 17.1: A Candidate's Good Responses to Question 7

Extract 17.1 shows responses by a candidate who summarised the passage, hence achieved good performance. However, he/she could not score full marks because of few grammatical errors that were spotted in his/her response.

Furthermore, analysis shows that, 2 (15.38%) candidates scored from 7.0 to 11.5 marks. These candidates had partial knowledge of sentence structure and vocabulary. They summarised the passage with some errors. Some of the candidates wrote some meaningless sentences and others wrote some of the characters incorrectly. All these led to average performance.

Moreover, analysis reveals that 6 (46.15%) candidates performed weakly, as they scored from 0 to 6.5 marks. They had insufficient vocabulary knowledge. This is revealed in their responses. Some candidates wrote incomprehensible responses, few of them copied the passage while others picked some words in other questions and wrote them as answers. Consequently, they performed weakly on the question. Extract 17.2 is illustrative.

七.	我是学生在 Morogoro 中学学习汉语。 在坦桑尼亚,春节的风俗很有意思, 人们一起吃米饭和面包也鱼和 ugali, 喝牛奶牛奶。 在坦桑尼亚节日要很多钱和很 容易。是很聪明运动, 在坦桑尼亚每个人对幸福有不同 的感觉。 在我的国工日每个人去与,孩子来说 幸福是一件东西例如:好吃菜,喝酒 和踢足球。 在中国我有一个本地朋友,她叫 王丽和小丽,她,下个月是她的生日 所以我准备送给她一个好礼物。 但是到现在我不知道好礼物给她 她 因为我不知道中国国的生日礼物所以 很难理解什么生日礼物是合适她。 我觉得买她很好手机在 Apple 但是她们喜喜欢我的礼物/礼物。 坦桑尼亚有很多真正朋友和 好人。
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Extract 17.2: A Candidate's Incorrect Responses to Question 3

Extract 17.2 shows responses by a candidate who wrote a story instead of summarizing the question asked.

3.2.2 Question 8: Essay Writing

In this question, the candidates were required to write an essay of 80 to 100 words based on the title and the vocabulary items. The title was 明明的城市 (Mingming's city) and vocabulary 发展 (development), 降落 (descend), 交通 (transport), 技术 (technology), 警察 (police), 蛋糕 (cake), 告诉 (tell), 便宜 (cheap), 好看 (beautiful), 超市 (supermarket). This question was set from the topic *Science and Technology*. The question tested the candidates'

ability to use different vocabulary items to write a passage in a specific context. The question read as follows:

八. 根据下面话题和提示词用汉字写一遍 80 到 100 词的短文。
话题: 明明的城市
提示词: 发展, 降落, 交通, 技术, 警察, 蛋糕, 告诉, 便宜, 好看, 超市

A total of 6 (31.6%) candidates attempted the question. Among them, 2 (33.33%) scored 7.0 to 11.5 marks and 4 (66.67%) scored 0 to 6.5 marks. The general performance on this question was weak, since 2 (33.33%) candidates scored 7.0 to 20 marks. Figure 18 is an illustration of this performance.

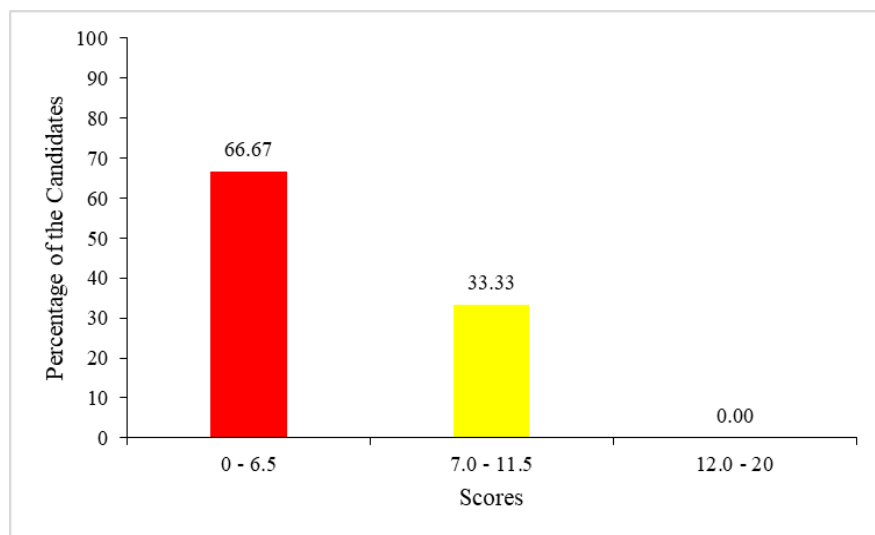


Figure 18: *The Candidates' Performance on Question 4*

Analysis shows that 2 (33.33%) candidates had average performance. They scored from 7.0 to 11.5 marks. These candidates had partial knowledge of the assessed topic. They lacked some vocabulary to express themselves. They wrote some sentences correctly but failed in others. They also failed to write the correct punctuation marks whereby some of them used English language full-stop mark (.) instead of Chinese full-stop mark (。). Yet, others failed to organize their ideas logically. Extract 18.1 illustrates this scenario.

	明明的城市。
八	明明的城市很发展了。很多人来去 买东西的城市。明明的城市在左边警察的 和超市里。明明的城市不仅有便宜的东西 也有真多东西比如,她有蛋糕,自行车也成朋友。 在明明的城市,很多人每天喜欢买她的 东西。她的东西很好,因为她总是高兴吧! 如果你先来他的城市她告诉你“欢迎你 们来”当笑了。他也给你气水。

Extract 18.1: A Sample of Responses to Question 8 from a Candidate with an Average Performance

Extract 18.1 shows responses by a candidate who wrote an essay with a few errors such as wrong characters and incorrect uses of some given vocabulary items.

The candidates' response analysis indicates that there were 4 (66.67%) candidates with weak performance as they scored from 0 to 6.5 marks. The candidates' performance was affected by their insufficient knowledge of the topic assessed. Some candidates wrote incomprehensible essays. Others mixed pinyin with characters while others failed to use the vocabulary items given. A few of them ended up either copying a story from other questions or writing incorrect Chinese characters and ungrammatical sentences which were meaningless. Extract 18.2 exemplifies such performance.

八	明明的城市有好人中国。
	姐姐
	在中国春节的风这是俗有有
	人们一起吃饺子鱼橙子喝酒给孩
	告诉在坦桑尼亚我有一个本地朋
	友她叫安娜下个月要结婚所
	以我准备送给她一个好礼物。
	交通对老人来讲老人身幸福是一
	件东西。
	技术我不会参加她的婚礼
	可是作为她的老朋友我必须准备一个
	很特殊的礼物
	便宜它是我们国家的百都
	多多与人最喜欢的季节是秋节。
	好看幸福其实很简单有的人觉得
	钱才是幸福但是有钱不一定幸福我
	觉得下班后和家人吃饭看看书才是幸福
	超市有我一家有三口人有我妈妈
	爸爸和我我爸爸比全家高
	军糕不能一边骑一边开车
	一边坐飞机一边坐船一边去北
	方一边去南方。

Extract 18.2: A Sample of Incorrect Responses to Question 8

Extract 18.2 shows responses from the candidate who wrote an incorrect answer.

3.2.3 Question 9: Writing a Short Passage

The candidates were given a title 你周末打算做什么? (*What do you plan to do on the week end?*). They were required to write an essay. The question was set from the topic *What to do*. The question tested the candidates' ability to express themselves in the Chinese language about their different plans. The question read as follows:

九. 用所给的话题, 请写一遍 80 到 100 词的短文。

话题: 你周末打算做什么?

Analysis indicates that 19 (100 %) candidates attempted the question. Among them, 8 (42.11 %) scored 12 to 20 marks, 6 (31.58%) scored 7.0 to 11.5 marks and 5 (26.32%) scored 0 to 6.5 marks. The general performance on this question was good, as 14 (73.68%) candidates scored 7.0 to 20 marks. Figure 19 summarizes the performance.

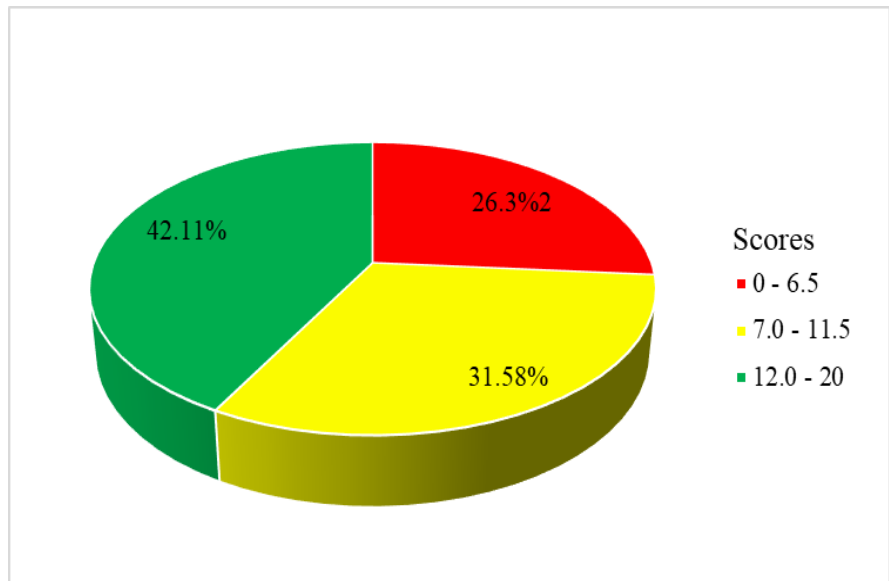


Figure 19: *The Candidates' Performance on Question 19*

The data shows that 8 (47.06%) candidates had good performance as they scored from 12 to 20 marks. These candidates had sufficient knowledge of the Chinese language grammar. They also understood the title, which led them to write correct Chinese sentences and arranged their ideas logically. They wrote good essays as they observed the rules of writing punctuation marks and characters. Extract 19.1 gives a sample of such good responses to Question 9.

九	<p>这个周末我算早起,起床后就去做运动做稍微锻炼。在运动场做锻炼跟我的一个好朋友,她叫小明。在锻炼后一起能回来我们的家,到了家时妈妈已经早饭准备好了。</p>	
	<p>晚上我跟我的朋友一起去京剧院看电影。一边每天晚上自己去京剧看电影因为这是我的爱好。到了十点在京剧看电影后能回来在我们的家里。</p>	

Extract 19.1: A Sample of Good Responses to Question 9

Extract 19.1 shows responses from a candidate who wrote a good essay with few errors.

Further analysis indicates that 5 (29.41%) candidates had average performance. They scored 6.5 to 11.5 marks. These candidates managed to write an essay but some sentences were incomprehensible. Other candidates could not write the Chinese characters correctly. They also wrote some sentences with incorrect structure, as a result, they performed averagely.

Moreover, 4 (23.53%) candidates scored from 0 to 6.5 marks, which was weak performance. The analysis shows that some of the candidates misunderstood the question or did not understand the title of the story. For example, one of the candidates wrote a passage which had a lot of mistakes including poor character writing, illogical meaning and wrong use of punctuation marks. This proves that these candidates had insufficient vocabulary which hindered them from expressing themselves correctly. Consider the following Extract.

九	我的周末打算
	周末是很幸福天天,因为我要 很很多东西我想了.我喜欢周末是片 幸福其实是周末打算.先
	我和朋友想去礼物,所以我 准备送给她也一个好礼物.但到现在 在我不知道给她送她什么样的礼物才好 也我总想去买东西网上质量要注意。
	我和朋友要参加运动云云 现在每天都吃,以前不很胖(Pony)我们 的健康不很好了,还会影响周围人的 身体健康。
	我的朋友最喜欢常常读本书,和她也 想学下午汉语,我不爱听你汉语课 去生日是很太我告诉买衣服斤斤和 买衣服衣服和蛋糕吃与朋友一真真 又参加生日也吃面条与朋友因为 朋友是幸福。
	女郎女马女马是周天我们去 家一直,但到现在在我想去家又 看看是影与女马女马和朋友,她常常 妈妈是很舒服看看我和我的朋友 朋友家一直。
	差不多一直周末我打算去 出,但现在我总想去家。

Extract 19.2: A Sample of Incorrect Responses to Question 9

Extract 19.2 shows responses by a candidate who wrote an incomprehensible essay.

4.0 ANALYSIS OF THE CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE PER TOPIC

The candidates were tested on 11 topics in the Chinese Language Subject. The general performance was good, as candidates had good performance 7 topics. These topics were *Interrogative pronouns* (89.47%), *Occupation* (89.47%), *Speaking Chinese* (84.21%), *Compound complement of direction* (84.21%), *Entities* (75.84%), *What to do* (73.68%), *Introducing People* (69.17%), and *Health* (64.91%). The analysis shows that good performance was attributed to the candidates' ability to understand the questions asked and having sufficient knowledge and skills of the topics tested.

Further analysis shows that there were candidates who had average performance on the topic of *Inquiring Suggestions* (47.37%). These candidates had partial knowledge of the topics. Some of them had insufficient vocabulary to express themselves.

Furthermore, there were candidates who performed weakly in the topic *Science and Technology* (33.33%) and *Education* (20.59%). The analysis shows that weak performance on this topic was contributed by the candidates' insufficient knowledge of vocabulary, sentence structure and Chinese character writing. The performance of the candidates in the topics tested is summarized in the Appendix, where green colour indicates the topics with good performance, yellow colour indicates topics with average performance and red colour indicates topics with weak performance.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The candidates' general performance in the Chinese Language subject in the 2023 ACSEE was good since, 66.56 per cent of the candidates passed. These candidates understood the questions they had been asked. They applied the grammatical rules and principles correctly and wrote correct characters. Further analysis of their responses indicates that there were candidates who had average performance and those whose performance was weak. These candidates had insufficient knowledge of the Chinese Language grammar that hindered them from expressing themselves. They also had insufficient knowledge and skills in the topics tested and character writing.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to improve the prospective future candidates' performance in the Chinese Language subject the following are recommended:

- (a) Teachers should guide students on the correct use of vocabulary, sentence structures and language patterns by organizing a discussion while insisting them to use the newly learnt vocabulary and structures.
- (b) Candidates are supposed to be given more exercises on grammar which will enable them to master the grammar points of view and the sentence structures.
- (c) Teachers should guide the students to read more books/newspapers/passages which are written in Chinese Language in order to increase vocabulary that will enable them to express themselves better.

The Candidates' Performance in Each Topic ACSEE 2023

S/N	Topic	2023		
		Number of Questions	Percentage of Candidates who Scored an Average of 35 Per cent or Above	Remarks
1.	Interrogative pronouns	1	89.47	Good
2.	Occupation	1	89.47	Good
3.	Speaking Chinese	1	84.21	Good
4.	Compound complement of direction	1	84.21	Good
5.	Entities	3	75.84	Good
6.	What to do	1	73.68	Good
7.	Introducing people	3	69.17	Good
8.	Health	3	64.91	Good
9.	Inquiring suggestions	1	47.37	Average
10.	Science and technology	1	33.33	Weak
11.	Education	2	20.59	Weak

