

THE NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF TANZANIA



**CANDIDATES' ITEM RESPONSE ANALYSIS
REPORT FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY
EDUCATION EXAMINATION (CSEE) 2019**

026 CHINESE LANGUAGE

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FOREWORD

The National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) is pleased to issue this Candidates' Item Response Analysis (CIRA) report of the Form Four National Examination (CSEE) for 2019 in the Chinese Language subject. The examination provides an evaluation of the product of candidates' learning the Chinese Language in Tanzania for four years at ordinary secondary level.

The analysis presented in this report is intended to contribute towards the understanding of possible reasons behind the candidates' performance in Chinese Language subject. The report highlights the factors that made the candidates to either perform well or poorly in the questions. The factors which made most of the candidates perform well are their ability to answer the questions according to the requirements as well as their competence in the Chinese Language. However, those who performed poorly failed to comprehend the requirement of the questions and lacked knowledge on the Chinese Language. These candidates also failed to apply the principles and rules related to the use of the Chinese Language.

The feedback provided will enable the education administrators, school managers, teachers, students and education stakeholders to take appropriate measures in order to improve candidates' performance in future examinations administered by the Council.

Finally, the council would like to thank the examinations officers, statisticians, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) experts, teachers and all those who participated fully in preparing and analyzing the data used in this report.



Dr. Charles E. Msonde
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report analyses the performance of the candidates who sat for the Form Four National Examination (CSEE) in the Chinese Language subject in November, 2019. The analysis indicates strengths and weaknesses of the candidates when answering the questions. The focus of the analysis was on questions which were performed well, those with an average performance and those with poor performance.

The analysis of the candidates' performance in individual questions is presented by indicating the percentage of those who attempted the question and those who scored various marks. The focus is on the percentages of students with high marks, average marks and low marks. Extracts of responses from candidates' scripts have been presented to show how the candidates answered questions in relation to each item's requirement.

Three categories of performance have been established in the analysis of the candidates' performance in each topic. The performance from 65 to 100 percent is categorized as *good*, from 30 to 64 percent as *average*, and from 0 to 29 percent as *weak*. Three basic colors have been used to represent the candidates' performance: *green* indicates a good performance; *yellow* shows an average performance while *red* denotes a weak performance. The candidates' performance in each topic is summarized in the Appendix A.

The Chinese Language Examination for CSEE 2019 tested the candidates' competences in *Comprehension, patterns and vocabulary, Grammar patterns, Language Use* and *Composition*. The Chinese Language paper had five sections A, B, C, D and E, with a total of 13 compulsory questions. Section A had 2 questions and each question carried 10 marks, thereby making a total of 20 marks. Section B comprised of 3 questions: questions 3, 4 and 5. Questions 3 and 4 carried 5 marks each and question 5 carried 10 marks thus making a total of 20 marks. Section C had 3 questions, question 6 and 7 carried 5 marks each, and question 8 carried 10 marks, making a total of 20 marks. Section D had 3 questions, questions 9 and 10 carried 5 marks each, and question 11 carried 10 marks, making a total of 20 marks. Section E had 2 questions; each question carried 10 marks, thus making a total of 20 marks. All the questions were set in accordance with the 2015 Chinese Language syllabus for pilot.

A total of 150 candidates registered for Form Four National Examination 2019, of whom 06 were absent. The total of 144 candidates passed the examination and this indicates that none of the candidates failed the examination. The performance of candidates in each grade is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Candidates' Pass Grades in CSEE 2019.

Year	Sat	GRADES					
		A	B	C	D	F	Total
2019	144	40	33	55	16	0	144
% of Candidates	100%	27.8%	22.9%	38.2%	11.1%	0	100%

Table 1: shows the candidates' pass grades and percentage.

2.0 ANALYSIS OF THE CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE IN EACH QUESTION

2.1 Section A: Comprehension

There were two questions in this section, which were questions 1 and 2. Each question was worth 10 marks, thus making a total of 20 marks. The candidates were required to read the passage and answer the questions using the information obtained from the passage. This section tested the candidates' ability to read and comprehend the passage.

2.1.1 Question 1: Multiple Choices

In this question, the candidates were instructed to read the passage and use the information from the passage to choose the correct answers. The responses were supposed to be chosen from alternatives A, B, C and D. The candidates were provided with a passage from the topic of Travel and Custom. The passage was about introducing her friend and the places she visited. The question tested the candidates' ability to comprehend the information in the passage. The passage and its questions were as follows:

一. 阅读短文, 回答问题。根据短文, 选择正确答案。

Gěi dà jiā jièshào yí xià, zhè shì wǒ de hǎo péngyou, tā xìng chén, jiào Xiǎofán, jīnnián shí qī suì, bǐ wǒ xiǎo yí suì, hái shì gè xiǎo mèimei. Tā zài Yīngguó chūshēng, liù suì yǐ qián yìzhí zhù zài Yīngguó, liù suì yǐhòu hé fùmǔ lái dào le Zhōngguó, xiànzài jiā zài Guǎngzhōu, suǒyǐ tā de yīngyǔ hé Hànyǔ dōu shuō dé hěn hǎo. Xiǎofán xǐhuan yùndòng, wǎngqiú dǎ dé hěn hǎo. Yě xǐhuan yīnyuè, gē chàng dé hǎo dé bù déliǎo. Tā hái xǐhuan lǚxíng, qù guò hěn duō dìfāng, qù Běijīng cānguān guò Gùgōng hé Chángchéng. Qù Lúndūncānguānguò Dàyingbówùguǎn, hái qù guò Tǎnsāngniyà de Sāilúngàidì guójiā gōngyuán. Wǒ hěn gāoxìng yǒu tā zhè ge péngyou. 塞伦盖蒂国家公园。我很高兴有她这个朋友。

Lirú: Chén Xiǎofán xìng shénme?

例如: 陈小凡姓什么?

Dá'àn

答案: A

Chén Xiǎo Fán Xiǎofán

A 陈 B 小 C 凡 D 小凡

Wǒ bǐ Chén Xiǎofán _____.

1. 我比陈 小凡 _____。

xiǎo yí suì xiǎo liǎng suì dà yí suì dà liǎng suì

A 小一岁 B 小两岁 C 大一岁 D 大两岁

Liù suì yǐqián Xiǎofán jiā zài nǎr?

2. 六岁以前小凡家在哪儿?

Yīngguó Zhōngguó Guǎngzhōu Běijīng

A 英国 B 中国 C 广州 D 北京

Xiǎofán chú le zhōngwén, hái huì shuō shénme?

3. 小凡除了中文, 还会说什么?

Rìwén Sīwǎxīlǐyǔ Fǎwén Yīngwén

A 日文 B 斯瓦西里语 C 法文 D 英文

Xiǎofán de àihào yǒu yùndòng, yīnyuè, hái yǒu shénme?

4. 小凡的爱好有运动、音乐, 还有什么?

Wǎngqiú Chàngē Lǚxíng Lánqiú

A 网球 B 唱歌 C 旅行 D 篮球

Xiǎofán qù Lúndūn cānguān guò nǎ ge dìfāng?

5. 小凡去伦敦参观过哪个地方?

Gùgōng Chángchéng Dàyingbówùguǎn Sāilúngàidìgōngyuán

A 故宫 B 长城 C 大英博物馆 D 塞伦盖蒂公园

The question was attempted by 144 (100%) candidates, of which 83 (57.6%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks, out of these 33 (22.9%) candidates scored 10 marks, which is a good performance. Furthermore, 57 (38.9%) candidates scored from 4 to 6 marks, which is an average performance and only 5 (3.5%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, which is a weak performance. The analysis shows further that, 1 (0.7%) candidate scored 0. The candidates' general performance in this question was good because 125 (96.8%) candidates scored from 6 to 10 marks. Figure 1 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 1.

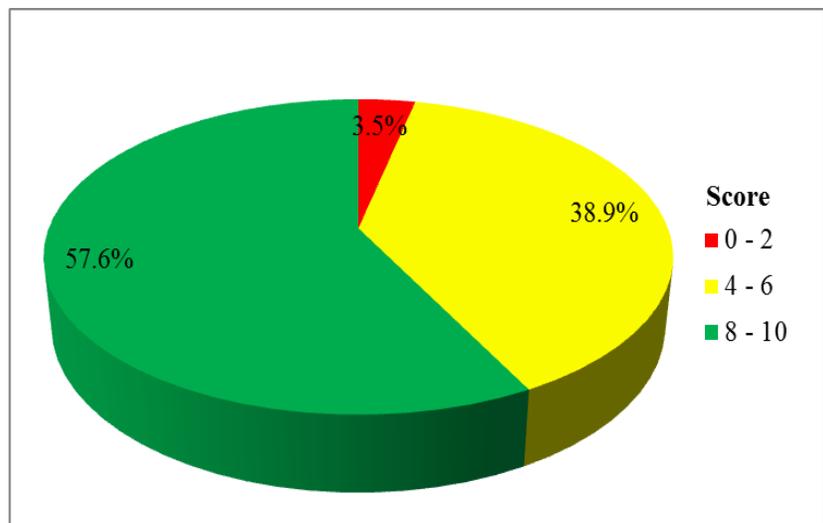


Figure 1: *The Percentage of Candidates' Performance in Question 1.*

The analysis of candidates' performance indicates that, 83 (57.6%) candidates performed well the question. Those candidates managed to read the passage and understood the requirement of the questions. This implies that they had adequate knowledge on Chinese vocabulary and this enabled them to comprehend the whole passage. For example, in item 1, the candidates were asked to fill in the blanks, 我比陈小凡 (____), (I'm (____) than Chen Xiǎofàn). In this item, the candidates chose the correct answer which was C 大一岁 (one year older), due to the fact that they mastered well the sentence structure: (..... 比.....) (....than.....), as in the passage the

sentence was 比我小一岁 (one year old young than me). They also mastered the Chinese Language sentence structure $S_1 + 比 + S_2 + Adj$. Extract 1.1 is a sample of a candidates' good response in question 1.

		1	2	3	4	5
		C	A	D	C	C

Extract 1.1 is a sample of a good response.

In Extract 1.1, a candidate was able to write the correct answer in all items.

Furthermore, the analysis shows that 57 (38.9%) candidates scored from 4 to 6 marks. Most of candidates were not able to answer items 1 and 4. For example, the candidates who failed to answer item 1 had partial knowledge on the Chinese grammar. The question was 我比陈小凡..... (I'm...Than Chen Xiaofan). According to the first sentence of the passage, it was indicated that 她比我小一岁。 (She is one year younger than me). The correct answer was 大一岁 (one year older). The candidates wrote 小一岁 (one year younger) because they failed to differentiate the two words 小 and 大. For instance, in item 4, some of the candidates did not know the meaning of the word 还 (also) and this hindered them from getting the correct information from the passage. Extract 1.2 is a sample of averagely performed response in question 1.

—	1	2	3	4	5
	A	A	D	A	C

Extract 1.2 is a sample of averagely performed response.

In Extract 1.2, a candidate was able to choose the correct answer in items 2, 3 and 5 but failed in items 1 and 4.

Further analysis shows that, 5 (3.5%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, which is a weak performance. These candidates failed to provide correct answers due to the lack of

understanding of the passage. For example, some of them left parts of the questions unanswered while others responded to the question by guessing. Additionally, there were candidates who copied the sentences from the passage and wrote them as answers. In item 1, candidates understood that they were supposed to compare the age, but they failed to choose the correct answer because they did not master well the sentence structure of $S_1 + \text{比} + S_2 + \text{Adj}$. This was attributed to the lack of competence in the Chinese Language which hindered them from identifying the correct answers. Extract 1.3 is a sample of a candidates' poor response in question 1.

1.	Wǒ bǐ chén xiǎofán xiǎo yí suì 我 比 陈 小 凡 小 一 岁
2.	Lìu suì yǐ qián xiǎofán jiā zài nǎr? 六 岁 以 前 小 凡 家 在 哪 儿? = B zhōngguó = Lìu suì yǐ qián yì zhí zhù zài yīngguó 中 国 六 岁 以 前 一 直 住 在 英 国
3.	xiǎofán chū le zhōngwén, hái huì shuō shén me? 小 凡 除 了 中 文, 还 会 说 什 么? = C Fǎ wén 法 文
4.	xiǎofán de ài hào yǒu shén me, yīn yuè hái yǒu shén me? 小 凡 的 爱 好 有 什 么, 音 乐, 还 有 什 么? = A wǎng qiú 网 球
5.	xiǎofán qù lú nán cānguān guò nǎ ge dì fāng? 小 凡 去 伦 敦 参 观 过 哪 个 地 方? = B cháng chéng 长 城

Extract 1.3 is a sample of candidates' poor response.

In Extract 1.3, a candidate wrote incorrect answers in all items.

2.1.2 Question 2: Answering Questions with Chinese Characters from the Passage Provided

In this question, the candidates were required to read the passage and answer the questions provided. They were supposed to answer the questions with Chinese characters (Hanzi). The passage was from the topics of Family and Entertainment. It was about an author, his father, his mother and his grandmother. The passage was also about the fathers', mothers' and grandmothers' hobbies. This question tested the candidates' mastery of reading for comprehension skills in the Chinese Language. The passage and its questions were as follows:

二. 阅读短文，用汉字回答问题。

Zuótiān, bāba zài wǎngshàng dìng le liǎngzhāng jīngjù piào, yīnwèi tā fēicháng xǐhuan jīngjù。
昨天，爸爸在网上订了两张京剧票，因为他非常喜欢京剧。

Wǒ gēn bāba yíyàng xǐhuan jīngjù, juéde jīngjù yǒu yìsì jí le。 Wǒmen dāsuan jīnwǎn qù kàn
我跟爸爸一样喜欢京剧，觉得京剧有意思极了。我们打算今晚去看

jīngjù biǎoyǎn。 Kěshì jùyuàn lí xuéxiào hěn jìn, lí wǒ jiā hěn yuǎn, cóng wǒ jiā dào jùyuàn zuò
京剧表演。可是剧院离学校很近，离我家很远，从我家到剧院坐

chē yào yíge xiǎoshí。 Wǒ de māma bù xǐhuan jīngjù, tā xǐhuan shūfǎ hé tàijǐquán。 Māma měitiān
车要一个小时。我的妈妈不喜欢京剧，她喜欢书法和太极拳。妈妈每天

dōu qù xuéxiào xuéxí shūfǎ。 Nǎinai hé māma yíyàng yě shífēn xǐhuan dǎ tàijǐquán, tàijǐquán hěn
都去学校学习书法。奶奶和妈妈一样也十分喜欢打太极拳，太极拳很

róngyì, xīngqītiān tāmen chángcháng yìqǐ qù hú biān dǎ tàijǐquán。
容易，星期天她们常常一起去湖边打太极拳。

Lìrú: Wèn: Bāba shénme shí hou dìng de piào?
例如：问：爸爸什么时候订的票？

Dá: Bāba zuótiān dìng de piào。

答：爸爸昨天订的票。

Bāba zài nǎr dìng de piào?
1. 爸爸在哪儿订的票？

_____。

Māma bù xǐhuan shénme?
4. 妈妈不喜欢什么？

_____。

Jùyuàn dào tā jiā zuò chē yào duō cháng shíjiān?
2. 剧院到他家坐车要多长时间？

_____。

Māma hé nǎinai qù nǎr dǎ tàijǐquán?
5. 妈妈和奶奶去哪儿打太极拳？

_____。

Māma qù xuéxiào zuò shénme?
3. 妈妈去学校做什么？

_____。

The question was attempted by 144 (100%) out of these 125 (86.8%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks. The analysis shows that 79 (54.8%) candidates out of 125 candidates scored 10 marks, which is a good performance. Moreover, 18 (12.5) candidates scored from 3 to 6 marks, which is an average performance and 1 (0.7%) candidate scored 0 mark, which is a poor performance. The candidates' general performance in this question was good because the percentage of the candidates who scored from 3 to 10 marks was 99.3%. Figure 2 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 2.

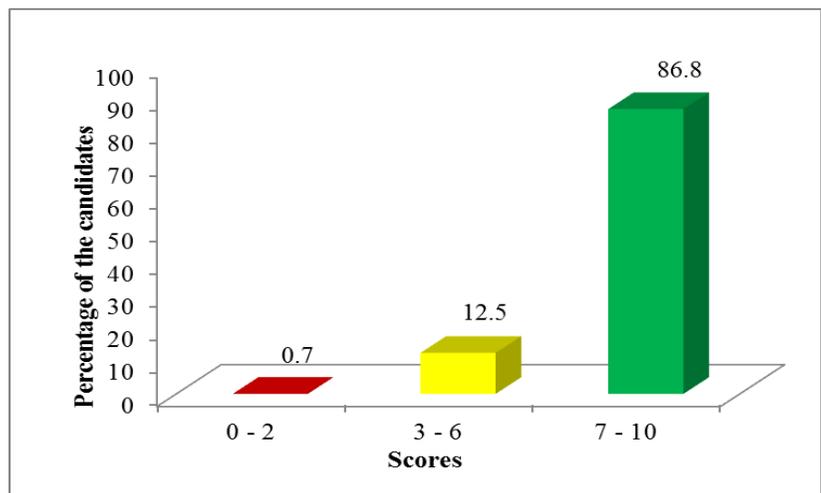


Figure 2: *The Percentage of candidates' Performance in Question 2.*

The analysis shows that 125 (86.8%) candidates who scored from 8 to 10 marks were able to read and understand the passage. This enabled them to complete the five questions with the right information from the passage and to write correctly by using Chinese characters and they also marked pinyin. For example, in item 4 the question asked 妈妈 不喜欢 什么?, the correct answer was 妈妈 不喜欢京剧 (Mother did not like Beijing Opera). This implies that the candidates had sufficient knowledge on reading for comprehension in Chinese Language. Extract 2.1 is a candidates' good response in question 2.

二	1. Bā ba zài wǎngshàng dìng piào 爸爸在网上订票。
	2. Jùyuàn dào tā jiā zuò chē yào yí gè xiǎo shí 剧院到他家坐车要一个小时。
	3. Mā ma qù xuéxiào xuéxí shū fǎ 妈妈去学校学习书法。
	4. Mā ma bù xǐ huan jīng jù 妈妈不喜欢京剧。
	5. Mā ma hé nǎi nai qù hú biān dǎ 妈妈和奶奶去湖边打
	tài jí quán 太极拳。

Extract 2.1 is a sample of a candidates' good response.

In Extract 2.1, a candidate was able to read the given passage and answer the questions using Chinese characters correctly.

Further analysis shows that, 18 (12.5%) candidates who scored from 3 to 6 marks were able to answer some items correctly while failing others. For example, item 2 asked 剧院到他家坐车要多长时间? (How long does it take to take a bus from the theatre to his home?). According to the passage 从我家坐车要一个小时 (It takes one hour to take a bus from my home to the theatre). The candidates understood neither the requirement of the question nor the meaning of the word 多长时间 (how long), and this made them to supply wrong answers.

In item 5, the question was 妈妈和奶奶去哪儿打太极拳? (Where do mother and grandmother go to play Taiji?). According to the passage, the statement was 她们常常一起去湖边打太极拳 (They often go to the lakeside to play Taiji

together), but the correct answer was 湖边 (lakeside). Some candidates did not know the meaning of the words in the sentence as they ended up guessing and copying a sentences contained words which have Chinese characters that are related to the characters which meaning mother (妈妈) or grandmother (奶奶). Moreover, some of the candidates failed to write the correct Chinese characters. This led them to have average scores. Extract 2.2 is sample of candidates' average response in question 2.

2.	1) Bā ba zài wǎng shàng dìng de piào 爸爸在网 上订的票
	2) Jù yuàn dào lí xué xiào hěn jìn 剧院到离学 校很近
	3) Mā ma qù xué xiào hú biān dǎ tài jí quán 妈妈去学 校湖边打太极拳
	4) Mā ma bù xǐ huan jīng jù 妈妈不喜 欢京剧
	5) Mā ma hé nǎi nai qù hú biān dǎ tài jí quán 妈妈和奶 奶去湖边打太极拳

Extract 2.2 is a sample of candidates' average response.

In Extract 2.2, a candidate was able to write correct answers in items 1, 4 and 5 but failed in items 2 and 3.

The analysis of the candidates' performance indicates that 1 (0.7%) candidate scored 0 mark, which is a poor performance. This candidate did not understand the passage; hence, he/she failed to complete the five questions with the right information from the passage. This implies that, the candidate had insufficient comprehension skills in the Chinese Language. Extract 2.3 is a candidates' poor response in question 2.

1.	C	
2	D	
3	A	
4	C	
5	C	

Extract 2.3 is a sample of candidates' poor response.

In Extract 2.3, a candidate misunderstood the question and wrote letters instead of answering the questions by writing Chinese characters.

2.2 Section B: Patterns and vocabulary

This section comprised three questions 3, 4 and 5. Questions 3 and 4 carried 5 marks each and question 5 carried 10 marks, making a total of 20 marks. The candidates were required to answer all the questions.

2.2.1 Question 3: Filling in the Brackets with Chinese Pinyin from the Provided Vocabulary

The question was divided into 5 sub-items containing one vocabulary each. The vocabularies were from the topics of Housing (sub-topic of Size of a Housing Room) and Family. In this question, the candidates were instructed to write Chinese Pinyin. The question tested the candidates' ability to recognize the Chinese characters and its pronunciation. The question was as follows:

三. 给汉字标注拼音。

Lǐrú: nǐ(hǎo)

例如: 你好

kè () jiā () wò () ()qí ()zi

1. 客厅 2. 家具 3. 卧室 4. 整齐 5. 椅子

The question was attempted by 144 (100%) candidates, of which 16 (11.1%) candidates scored from 3.5 to 5, among them 1 (0.7) candidate scored 5 marks which is a good performance. Moreover, 37 (25.7%) candidates scored from 2 to 3 marks, which is an average performance and 91 (63.2%) candidates scored from 0 to 1.5 marks, which is a weak performance, out of these candidates 29 (20.1%) candidates scored zero. The candidates' general performance in this question was average, since 36.8% scored from 2 to 5 marks. Figure 3 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 3.

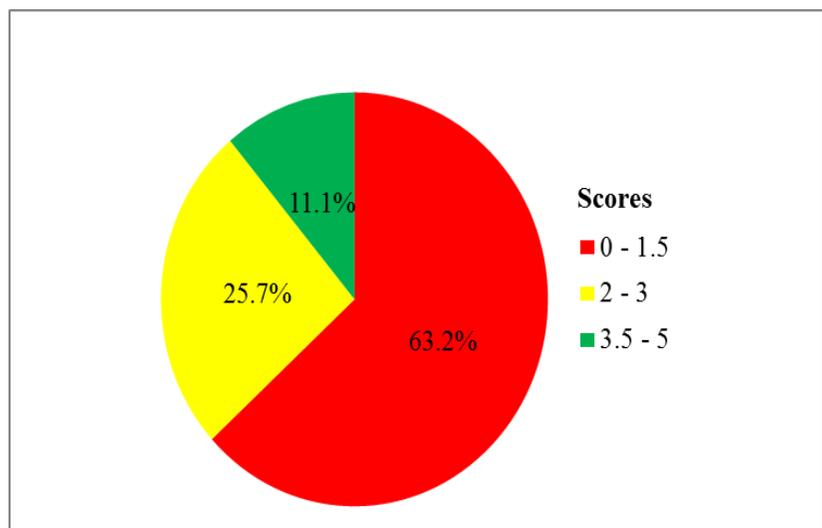


Figure 3: *The Percentage of Candidates' Performance in Question 3.*

The analysis of the candidates' performance shows that, 16 (11.1%) candidates who scored from 3.5 to 5 marks were able to recognize the given Chinese characters (Hanzi) and hence wrote the Pinyin correctly. They had adequate competence in the Chinese characters (Hanzi) and Pinyin. They mastered well the basic strokes and the four tones and this enabled them to write the Chinese characters. This implies that, the candidates understood the demand of the question and had the ability to mark the tones correctly to the Pinyin. Extract 3.1 is a sample of candidates' good response in question 3.

三	1. tīng	
	2. jù	
	3. shì	
	4. zhěng	
	5. yǐ	

Extract 3.1 is a sample of a candidates' good response.

In Extract 3.1, a candidate was able to write the correct pinyin in all items.

Further analysis indicates that 37 (25.7%) candidates scored from 2 to 3 marks, which is an average performance. They were able to recognize some of the characters but failed in other characters. Some of them wrote the Pinyin correctly but failed to mark the tones in the right position. These candidates had partial knowledge on how to mark the tones in the Chinese Language.

The candidates also failed to write the correct pinyin because of the similarity of pronunciation. For example, in item 5, the candidates failed to differentiate the pinyin *Yǐ* in the word 椅子 *Yǐzi* (chair) from the pinyin *Yī* (one), because the two pinyin differ in tones. Also in item 4, the word 整齐 *Zhèngqí* (in good order) the first character in this word 整 *Zhèng*, it's radical is 敕 *Chì*, this distracted the candidates, as one of them wrote *Chū*. The analysis reveals that the candidates had insufficient knowledge on recognizing the Chinese characters (Hanzi) as well as on using the consonant, the vowel and the tone in a syllable. Extract 3.2 is a sample of candidates' average response in question 3.

三·1	tīng	
2.	zhí	
3.	shì	
4.	chū	
5.	yī	

Extract 3.2 is a sample of an average response.

In Extract 3.2, a candidate was able to write correct pinyin in item 1 and 3 but failed in items 2, 4 and 5.

Furthermore, 91 (63.2%) candidates scored from 0 to 1.5 marks, which is a poor performance. These students failed to recognize the given Chinese characters (Hanzi) and hence failed to write the correct Pinyin. This implies that, they had inadequate competence in Chinese characters (Hanzi) and Pinyin. Other candidates copied Pinyin from other questions and wrote them as answers. Few candidates left the blanks unfilled. This implies that, these candidates had insufficient knowledge on recognition of characters and Tone-Mark-Rule in the Chinese Language. Extract 3.3 is a sample of a candidates' poor response in question 3.

3.	17 shì	
	27 jiǎo	
	37 chǎng	
	47 jiān	
	57 zhū míng	

Extract 3.3 is a sample of poor candidates' response.

In Extract 3.3, a candidate failed to write the pinyin for the characters given.

2.2.2 Question 4: Filling in the Brackets with Chinese Character from the Provided Vocabulary

This question was divided into 5 sub-items containing one vocabulary each. The vocabularies were from the topic of Personal information. The candidates were instructed to write Chinese characters. The question tested the candidates' ability to recognize and write the correct Chinese characters for different pinyin. The question was as follows:

四. 根据拼音写汉字				
Lì rú				
例如: nǐ hǎo				
(你) 好				
shén me	Běi jīng	péng you		
1. () 么	2. () 京	3. () 友		
dì fang	míng zi			
4. 地 ()	5. 名 ()			

The question was attempted by 144 (100%) candidates. Among them, 138 (95.8%) candidates scored from 3.5 to 5 marks and 111 (77.08) out of these candidates scored 5 marks which is a good performance. 6 (4.2%) candidates scored from 2.5 to 3 marks, which is an average performance. Furthermore, there were no candidates who scored from 0 to 1.5 marks. The candidates' general performance in this question was good, since all 144 (100%) candidates scored from 2 to 5 marks. Figure 4 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 4.

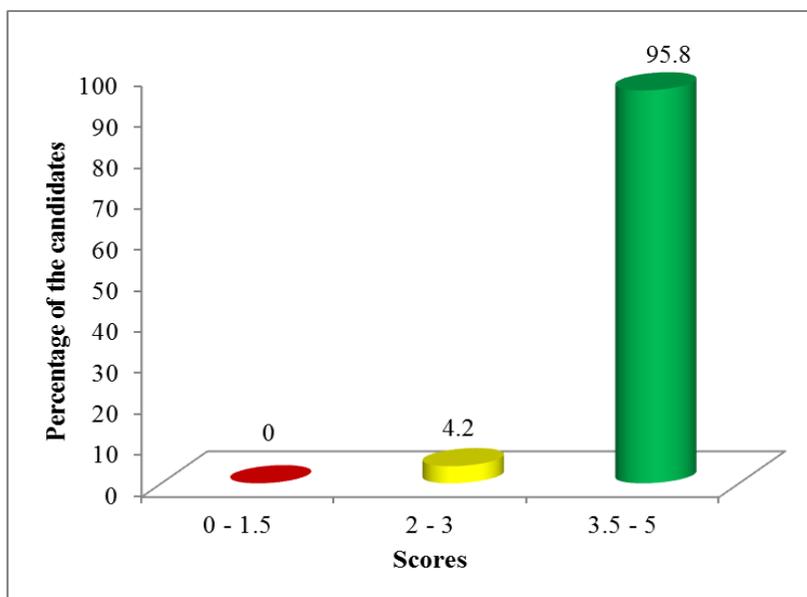


Figure 4: *The Percentage of Candidates' Performance in Question 4.*

The analysis of the candidates' performance indicates that, 138 (95.8%) candidates who scored from 3.5 to 5 marks were able to read and understand the vocabularies provided, hence responded to the question correctly. These candidates had sufficient knowledge on Chinese characters and pinyin. They identified the character related to the given pinyin. This implies that the candidates mastered well the writing of characters and the marking of the tones on the pinyin. Extract 4.1 is a sample of a candidates' good response in question 4.

四.1	什	
2.	北	
3.	朋	
4.	方	
5.	字	

Extract 4.1 is a sample of candidates' good response.

In Extract 4.1, a candidate was able to write the characters correctly.

Moreover, the analysis indicates that, 6 (4.2%) candidates who scored from 2 to 3 marks were able to give correct answers in some items and failed in others. For example, in item 1, some of the candidate recognized the character 什 but failed to write it correctly. In item 5, they mixed Chinese characters 字 and 子 because they are pronounced in the same way. This indicates that, the candidates had partial knowledge on Chinese characters writing. Extract 4.2 is a sample of candidates' average response in question 4.

四	1. 什	
	2. 北	
	3. 朋	
	4. 方	
	5. 子	

Extract 4.2 is a sample of candidates' average response.

In Extract 4.2, a candidate was able to write correct characters in items 2, 3 and 4, but failed in items 1 and 5.

2.2.3 Question 5: Choosing the Correct Character from the Given Two Similar Characters

The question had 5 sub-items containing one sentence each. The questions were from the topic of Housing and shopping. The candidates were instructed to choose one Chinese character between two similar characters. The similarities were either in morphology or in pronunciation. The question tested the candidates' ability to recognize the Chinese characters. The question was as follows:

五. 选字填空。

Lírú : Wǒ jiā yǒu kǒu rén .

例如：我家有九口人。（九/力）

Dà jiā dōu chī lǎo shī zuò de diǎnxīn .

1. 大家都吃老师做的点心。（爱/受）

Nǎinai shēn bù shūfu , tuǐ yě téng , jiǎo yě téng .

2. 奶奶身体不舒服，腿也疼，脚也疼。（体/休）

Zhōngguó de nán nǚ shǎo dōu xǐhuan pīngpāngqiú .

3. 中国的男女老少都喜欢乒乓球。（考/老）

Bàba de Zhōngguó cài hěn hǎochī .

4. 爸爸炒的中国菜很好吃。（炒/少）

Yàoshi nǐ shēng bīng le , jiù qù kàn yīshēng , hěn yòng de .

5. 要是你生病了，就去看医生，很有用的。（又/有）

This question was attempted by 144 (100%) candidates. Among these, 83 (57.6%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks, of which 33 (22.9%) candidates scored 10 marks, which is a good performance. 55 (38.2%) candidates scored from 4 to 6 marks, which is an average performance and 6 (4.2%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, which is a weak performance. Moreover, 1 (0.7%) candidate scored zero. The candidates' general performance in this question was good, since 138 (95.6%) candidates scored from 4 to 10 marks. Figure 5 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 5.

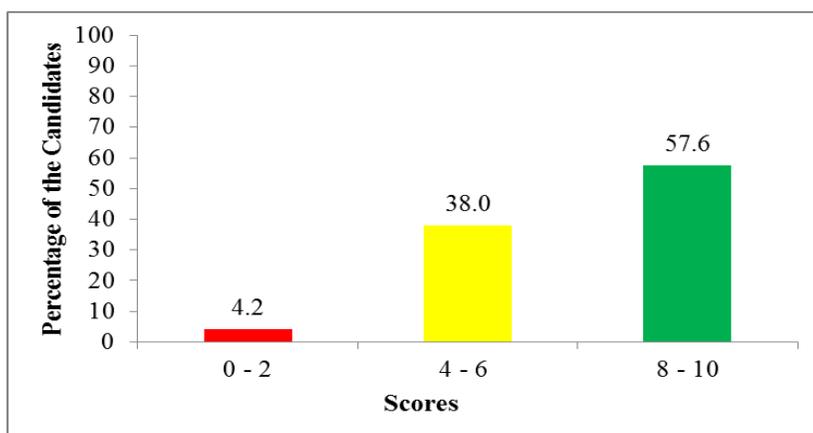


Figure 5: The Percentage of Candidates' Performance in Question 5.

The analysis of candidates' performance indicates that, 83 (57.6%) candidates scored high marks because they were able to complete the sentences by choosing the correct words provided in the brackets. These candidates were able to differentiate the meaning of the two characters given and choose the correct answer. For example, in item 1, they wrote the correct answer which was 爱 ài (like). The analysis shows that, they mastered well the strokes and the Tone - Mark - Rule. This indicates that, these candidates understood the meaning of the whole sentence and had the ability to recognize the correct Chinese characters (Hanzi) from similar characters provided. Extract 5.1 is a candidates' good response in question 5.

五	1. 爱	
	2. 体	
	3. 老	
	4. 炒	
	5. 有	

Extract 5.1 is a sample of candidates' good response.

In Extract 5.1, a candidate managed to write correct answers in all items.

There were 55 (38.2%) candidates who scored from 4 to 6 marks which is an average performance. The analysis shows that, the majority of the candidates were able to write correct answers in some items but failed in others. The items in which the candidates scored 0 mark had similar Chinese characters (Hanzi) and this made it difficult for the candidates to choose the correct one. For example, in item 1 alternatives 爱/受 (love/receive), the correct answer was 爱 but the candidates chose 受. In item 2, the alternatives were 休/体 (cease/body) and the correct answer was 休, the candidates chose alternative

体. This implies that, the candidates had partial knowledge on recognizing Chinese characters. Extract 5.2 is a sample of candidates' average response.

五 01	爰	
02	休	
03	考	
04	炒	
05	有	

Extract 5.2 is a sample of candidates' average response.

In Extract 5.2, a candidate was able to write correct answers in items 1, 4 and 5, but failed in items 2 and 3.

However, 6 (4.2%) candidates scored low marks because they had inadequate knowledge on the Chinese characters. They picked the alternative choices by guessing. Moreover, some of the candidates added extra strokes or lost some strokes and this made them to score low marks. Extract 5.3 is a sample of a poor candidates' response in question 5.

五 1	爰	
2	休	
3	考	
4	少	
5	有	

Extract 5.3 is a sample of candidates' poor response.

In Extract 5.3, a candidate wrote incorrect characters in all items.

2.3 Section C: Grammar Patterns

This section consisted of three questions, which are question 6, 7 and 8. Question 6 and 7 carried 5 marks each and question 8 carried 10 marks, making a total of 20 marks for the whole section. The candidates were instructed to answer all questions.

2.3.1 Question 6: Multiple Choices

This question consisted of five items and each item was worth 1 mark making a total of 5 marks. The candidates were given alternatives A, B, C and D from which they were to choose and fill in the blanks to make a meaningful sentence. The questions were from the topic of Travel and Custom. It tested the candidates' ability in Chinese Language grammar. The question was as follows:

1.	Gē ge hé wǒ () xǐhuān lǚxíng.
	哥哥和我 () 喜欢旅行。
A	yí yàng 一样
B	yì qǐ 一起
C	yì xiē 一些
D	yí gòng 一共
2.	Tā zhèng shuō nǐ ne , nǐ lái le .
	他正说你呢, 你 () 来了。
A	cái 才
B	dōu 都
C	jiù 就
D	hái 还
3.	Wǒ jià qī xiě zuòyè , hái qù lǚxíng .
	我假期 () 写作业, 还去旅行。
A	suīrán 虽然
B	yīnwèi 因为
C	yàoshì 要是
D	chúle 除了
4.	Wǒ xǐhuān zuò fēijī , xǐhuān zuò huǒchē .
	我喜欢坐飞机, () 喜欢坐火车。
A	zài 再
B	yě 也
C	cái 才
D	dōu 都
5.	Zhōngguó suīrán yuǎn , wǒ hěn xiǎng qù .
	中国虽然远, () 我很想去。
A	kěnéng 可能
B	suǒyǐ 所以
C	yīnwèi 因为
D	kěshì 可是

This question was attempted by 144 (100%) candidates, of which 51 (35.4%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks, among

them 16 (11.1%) candidates scored 5 marks, which is a good performance. Moreover, 86 (59.7%) candidates scored from 2 to 3 marks, which is an average performance and 7 (4.9%) candidates scored from 0 to 1 mark, which is a weak performance. Furthermore, 2 (1.4%) candidates scored 0. The candidates' general performance in this question was good as 95.1 percent scored from 2 to 5 marks. Figure 6 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 6.

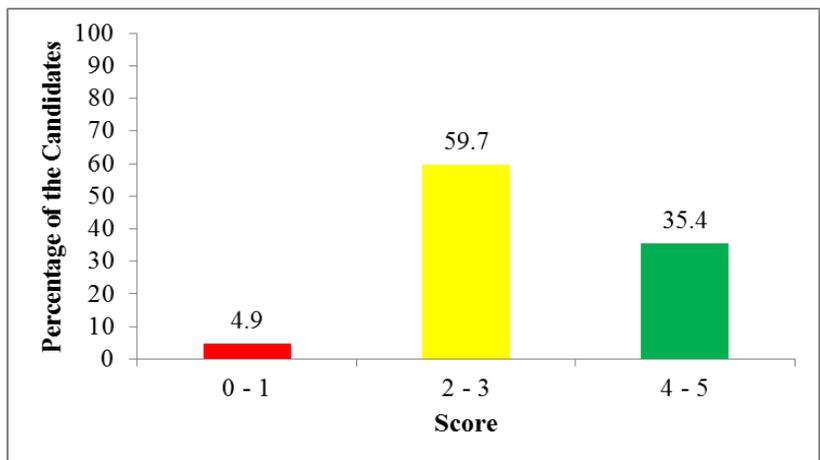


Figure 6: *The Percentage of Candidates' Performance in Question 6.*

The analysis indicates that, 51 (35.4%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks, which is a good performance. These candidates managed to fill in the blanks with the correct answers. The analysis shows that the candidates understood the meaning of the sentence and the alternatives given. This evidences that, the candidates mastered well the Chinese grammar. Extract 6.1 is a sample of a candidates' good response in question 6.

六。	1. A	
	2. C	
	3. D	
	4. B	
	5. D	

Extract 6.1 is a sample of good response.

In Extract 6.1, a candidate was able to fill in the blanks by choosing the correct answers.

Further analysis indicates that, 86 (59.7%) candidates scored from 2 to 3 marks, which is an average performance. The majority of these candidates were able to choose the correct answers for item 4 and 5, but failed to answer items 1, 2 and 3. For example, in item 2, many candidates selected the alternative B, but the correct answer was C. The candidates who chose alternative B, failed to differentiate between 都 and 就. The candidates' failure is attributable to their lack of mastery of regular grammar pattern 正.....就..... (Somebody is doing something and then another thing happens).

In item 3, some candidates mixed the two grammar patterns, they chose alternative C 要是... (就) instead of the correct answer A 除了.....还..... (Except.....also....), which is a regular grammar pattern. The analysis implies that, these candidates did not know that 还 had to be follow after 除了. The analysis indicates further that some candidates who chose alternative B 一起 (together) in item 1 made a word to word translation of the question 哥哥和我 (...) 喜欢旅行 (Elder brother and I (...)) like traveling.) in Kiswahili (Kaka na mimi wote tunapenda kusafiri – Elder brother and I all like travelling). The pattern is not correct in the Chinese Language. This implies that the candidates had partial knowledge on Chinese Language grammar and sentence patterns. Extract 6.2 is sample candidate's average response in question 6.

六	1	A	
	2	B	
	3	B	
	4	B	
	5	D	

Extract 6.2 is a sample of an average response.

In Extract 6.2, a candidate was able to write correct answers in items 1, 4 and 5 but wrote wrong answers in items 2 and 3.

The analysis of candidates' performance indicates that, 7 (4.9%) candidates scored from 0 to 1 mark, which is a poor performance. These candidates failed to identify the correct grammar patterns due to lack of understanding the meaning of the sentences and alternatives, hence they chose the alternatives by guessing. The analysis indicates that these candidates did not understand the requirement of the question. Extract 6.3 is a sample of a candidates' poor response in question 6.

1.	B	
2.	A	
3.	B	
4.	A	
5.	B	

Extract 6.3 is a sample of candidates' poor response.

In extract 6.3, a candidate wrote incorrect answers in all items.

2.3.2 Question 7: Choosing the Correct Vocabulary from the Given Two Similar Patterns

In this question, the candidates were instructed to choose the correct answer from the given two similar characters. The question was from the topics of Travel and Custom, Time, Health, and Entertainment. This question tested the candidates' ability to demonstrate the grammar patterns in the Chinese Language. The question was as follows:

七. 选择合适的词完成句子。用汉字填写。

Lírú: Wǒ lǎoshī.
例如：我 是 老师。（是/叫）

Zuótiān lěng.

1. 昨天 冷。（不/没）

Jīngjù biǎoyǎn chíxù liǎng gè bàn

2. 京剧表演持续两个半_____。（钟头/分钟）

Xiǎohóng yào zài Niǔyuē sān tiān.

3. 小红要在纽约_____三天。（开始/停留）

Tāmen dào jiàqī qù lǚxíng.

4. 他们_____到假期_____去旅行。（一...就.../要...了）

Mèimei qù de shíhòu, xióngmāo zuò yóuxì.

5. 妹妹去的时候，熊猫_____做游戏。（正在/快要）

This question was attempted by 144 (100%) candidates, out of whom 60 (41.6%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks, which is a good performance. Moreover, 79 (54.9%) candidates scored from 2 to 3 marks, which is an average performance and 5 (3.5%) candidates scored from 0 to 1 mark, which is a weak performance. The candidates' general performance in this question was good as 96.5% percent scored from 2 to 5 marks. Figure 7 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 7.

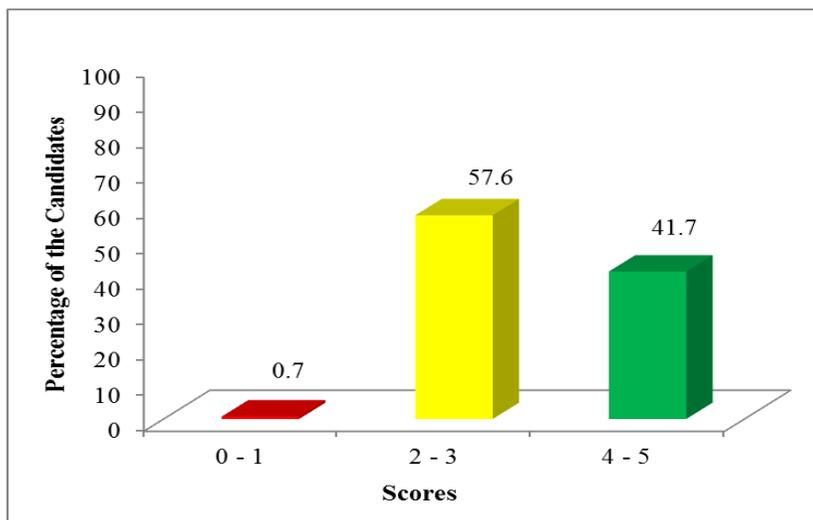


Figure 7: The Percentage of Candidates' Performance in Question 7.

The analysis of candidates' performance indicates that, 60 (41.6%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks, they were able to choose the correct answer from the two similar alternatives

because they had knowledge of the Chinese grammar and patterns, good command of Chinese Language; they also had an ability to differentiate the two similar words and vocabularies. Extract 7.1 is a sample of a candidates' good response in question 7.

七	1. 不	
	2. 钟头。	
	3. 停留。	
	4. 一...就...。	
	5. 正在。	

Extract 7.1 is a sample of a candidates' good response

In Extract 7.1, a candidate was able to write the correct answers in all items.

Furthermore, the analysis shows that, 79 (54.9%) candidates scored from 2 to 3 marks. They were able to answer some items and failed other items. Some of them failed in item 3, whose question was 小红要在纽约(____)三天 (Xiaohong want to (____) in New York for three days) and the alternatives were 开始/停留 (start/stay). These candidates failed to recognize the two Chinese characters and did not understand their meaning. For item 4, the question was 他们(____)到假期(____)去旅行 (They (____) holiday (____) go traveling), and the two alternatives were 一...就.../要...了...(when one thing happening, at the same time, another happens / ...is going to happen). The candidates did not know the meaning of the alternatives and had partial knowledge of the language pattern given. Extract 7.2 is a response by the candidates who performed averagely in question 7.

6		
1	不	
2	钟头	
3	开始	
4	要...了	
5	正在	

Extract 7.2 is a sample of candidates' average response.

In Extract 7.2, a candidate managed to write correct answers in items 1, 2 and 5 but failed in item 3 and 4.

Further analysis of the candidates' performance in question 7 indicates that, 5 (3.5%) candidates scored from 0 to 1 mark, which is a weak performance. Those candidates failed to choose the correct answer from the two similar alternatives due to their inadequate knowledge of the Chinese grammar and patterns, poor command of Chinese Language and inability to differentiate two similar words and vocabularies. Other candidates left the questions unanswered, hence they scored low marks. Extract 7.3 is a response provided by one of the candidates who scored poorly.

7.	17	
	27 分 全中	
	37 开始	
	47	
	57 个 央 西	

Extract 7.3 is a sample of a candidates' poor response.

In Extract 7.3 a candidate provided wrong answers in all items.

2.3.3 Question 8: Re-arranging the Jumbled Words into Sentences

This question was divided into 5 sub-items; each sub-item contained four to five words. These words were from the topics of Travel and Custom. In this section, the candidates were

instructed to re-arrange the four or five given words into a logical order to form a correct and meaningful sentence by writing the number of the corresponding word. The question tested the candidates' ability to make correct sentences by following the rules of constituents in Chinese sentences. The question was as follows:

八. 连词成句。

Lì rú: shì Zhōngguó wǒ rén
 例如: ①是 ②中国 ③我 ④人

③①②④

lǚxíng qù wǒ xiǎng
 1. ①旅行 ②去 ③我 ④想

ná lái le wǒ bǎ xīnniánlǐwù
 2. ①拿来了 ②我 ③把 ④新年礼物

lái wǒ shì zuòhuǒchē de
 3. ①来 ②我是 ③坐火车 ④的

wǒ yào dào Zhōngguó qù cóng Měiguó
 4. ①我要 ②到中国 ③去 ④从美国

chéngshì tài nàgè yuǎn bú
 5. ①城市 ②太 ③那个 ④远 ⑤不

The question was attempted by 144 (100%) candidates. Among these, only 20 (13.9%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks, only 7 (4.9%) candidates out of these scored 10 marks, which is a good performance. 60 (41.7%) candidates scored from 4 to 6 marks, which is an average performance. Moreover, 64 (44.4%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, which is a weak performance and 9 (6.3%) candidates out of these scored 0. The candidates' general performance in this question was average, since (55.6%) percent of the candidates scored from 4 to 10 marks. Figure 8 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 8.

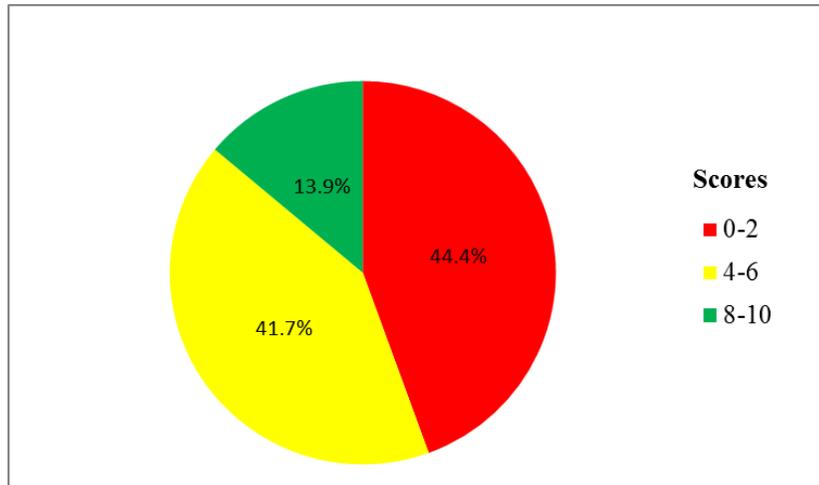


Figure 8: *The Percentage of Candidates' Performance in Question 8.*

Further analysis shows that, 60 (41.7%) candidates scored from 4 to 6 marks, which is an average performance. The majority of candidates managed to answer item 1, 4 and 5 correctly, but failed to attempt items 2 and 3. The candidates who failed in item 2 had inadequate knowledge on the regular Chinese sentence patterns, which are; Subject (主词) + 把 + Object (宾语) + verb phrase (动词短语). For example, the correct answer was 我把新年礼物拿来了 (I bring the New Year gift), but most of the candidates wrote 我把拿来了新年礼物 (Nachukua zawadi ya Krismasi) because they made a word to word translation from Kiswahili to Chinese. Those who got wrong item 3 lacked knowledge on the regular Chinese sentence pattern: Subject (主词) + 是 (be) + transportation + 来 (come) + 的. For example, the correct answer was 我是坐火车来的 (I came by Train), but the candidates wrote 我是来的坐火车 (I came to take a Train). Extract 8.1 is a sample of candidates' average response in this question 8.

1.	③ ④ ② ①	
2.	② ③ ① ④	
3.	② ① ④ ③	
4.	① ④ ② ③	
5.	③ ① ⑤ ② ④	

Extract 8.1 is a sample of the candidates' average response.

In Extract 8.1, a candidate was able to re-arrange items 1, 4 and 5 but failed in items 2 and 3.

The analysis of candidates' performance indicates that, 20 (13.9%) candidates scored from 8 to 10 marks. These candidates had a good command of the Chinese Language which enabled them to re-arrange the jumbled words and wrote sentences in a logical order. Extract 8.2 is a sample of candidates' good response in question 8.

1.	③ ④ ② ①。	
2.	② ③ ④ ①。	
3.	② ③ ① ④。	
4.	① ④ ② ③。	
5.	③ ① ⑤ ② ④。	

Extract 8.2 is a sample of a candidates' good response.

In Extract 8.2, a candidate was able to re-arrange all sentences according to the requirement of the question.

Moreover, the analysis of the candidates' performance indicates that, 64 (44.4%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, which is a poor performance. These candidates had a poor command of the Chinese Language and vocabulary and they lacked skills on how to re-arrange jumbled words. Therefore, these candidates

scored 0 marks in this question. Extract 8.3 is a response provided by a candidate.

8	17	1 2 3 4 1	
	27	2 4 1 3	
	37	2 4 1 3	
	47	1 3 4 2	
	57	1 2 1 4 5 3	

Extract 8.3 shows a sample of poor response.

In Extract 8.3, a candidate did not manage to give the correct answers in all items.

2.4 Section D: Language Use

This section comprised three questions: 9, 10 and 11. Questions 9 and 10 carried 5 marks each and question 11 carried 10 marks, making a total of 20 marks.

2.4.1 Question 9: Matching Items

In this question, the candidates were instructed to match items in column A with those in column B, in order to make a meaningful dialogue. The candidates were required to write the correct letters corresponding to items numbers. Column A consisted of five sentences on the topics of Entertainment, School life, and Health. Whereas column B consisted of seven alternatives, the candidates were supposed to match with those in column A. The question was as follows:

九. 匹配题, 第一题答案已给出。

A 栏	B 栏
<p>Nǐ hǎo!</p> <p>1. 你好!</p>	<p>yīyuàn.</p> <p>A 医院。</p>
<p>Xīngqī liù Xiǎohǎi qù lǐtáng kàn shénme ?</p> <p>2. 星期六小海去礼堂看什么?</p>	<p>miànbāo.</p> <p>B 面包。</p>
<p>Tāmen fàngxué hòu zuò shénme yùndòng?</p> <p>3. 他们放学后做什么运动?</p>	<p>Gōngfu kè.</p> <p>C 功夫课。</p>
<p>Tā shì yì míng yīsheng, zài nǎr gōngzuò?</p> <p>4. 她是一名医生, 在哪儿工作?</p>	<p>diànnǎo.</p> <p>D 电脑。</p>
<p>Nǐ mama wèi nǐ zhǔnbèi le shénme wǎnfàn?</p> <p>5. 你妈妈为你准备了什么晚饭?</p>	<p>dǎ lánqiú.</p> <p>E 打篮球。</p>
<p>Xīngqī liù, tā yǒu shénme kè?</p> <p>6. 星期六, 他有什么课?</p>	<p>Nǐ hǎo!</p> <p>F 你好!</p>
	<p>kàn biǎoyǎn.</p> <p>G 看表演。</p>
	<p>zhuōzi.</p> <p>H 桌子</p>

The question was attempted by 144 (100%) candidates, of whom 119 (82.6%) scored from 4 to 5 marks, 97 (67.4%) candidates scored 5 marks, which is a good performance. Moreover, the analysis reveals that 20 (13.9%) scored 2 to 3 marks, which is an average performance. Furthermore, 5 (3.5%) candidates scored 0 to 1 mark, where 1 (0.7%) candidate scored 0. The candidates' general performance in this question was good, since 96.5% scored from 3 to 5 marks. Figure 9 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 9.

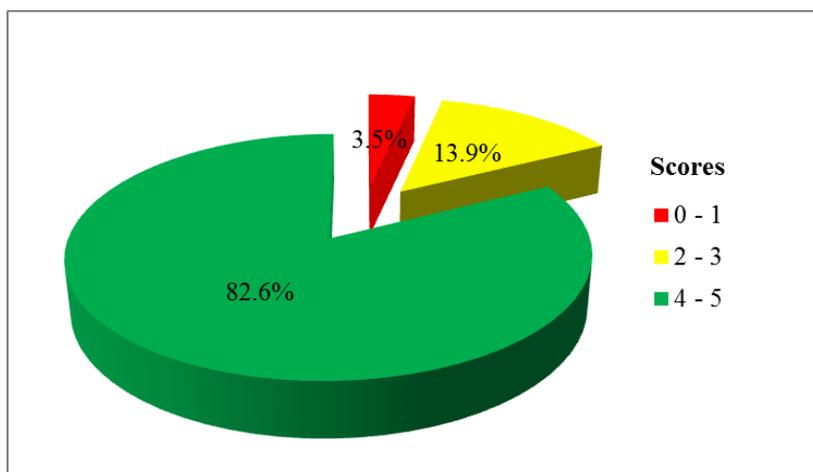


Figure 9: *The Percentage of Candidates' Performance in Question 9.*

The candidates' performance analysis indicates that, 119 (82.6%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks, which is a good performance. These candidates had good command of the Chinese Language and were able to comprehend the meaning of each of the items provided. Therefore, they managed to match all the items in column A with corresponding items in column B correctly. Extract 9.1 is a candidates' good response in question 9.

九.	1. F	
	2. G	
	3. E	
	4. A	
	5. B	
	6. C	

Extract 9.1 is a sample of the candidates' good response.

In Extract 9.1, a candidate was able to match the given words from column A with those of column B correctly.

Further analysis shows that, 20 (13.9%) candidates scored from 3 to 4 marks, which is an average performance. Those who failed to select correct answers had insufficient knowledge of Chinese vocabularies and were not capable of using the

language in different situations. Extract 9.2 is a sample of the candidates' average response in question 9.

九	9	1	F	
		2	D	
		3	E	
		4	A	
		5	G	
		6	C	

Extract 9.2 is a sample of candidates' average response.

In Extract 9.2, a candidate was able to write correct answers in items 3, 4 and 6; but failed in items 2 and 5.

On the other hand, the analysis of candidates' performance indicates that, 5 (3.5%) candidates who scored from 0 to 1 mark, did not understand the requirement of the question. This hindered them from matching all the items in column A with those in column B correctly. The analysis shows that, these candidates also lacked Chinese vocabularies which made them to answer questions by guessing, hence scored zero. Extract 9.1 is a sample of the candidates' poor response in question 9.

九	1	-	D	
		2	- E	
		3	- A	
		4	- B	
		5	- C	

Extract 9.3 is a sample of the candidates' poor response.

In Extract 9.3, a candidate wrote incorrect answers in all items.

2.4.2 Question 10: Filling in the Blanks by Using the Given Words in the List

In this question, candidates were provided with alternative A, B, C, D and E with Chinese characters and they were required to fill in the brackets in the given 5 items by writing the letters of the correct answers from the list. The question was from the topic of Media. This question tested the candidates' knowledge on vocabulary and grammar patterns. Alternative F was given as an example. The question was as follows:

十. 选词填空, 第一题答案已给出。

A 有名 B 正在 C 开始 D 好听 E 什么 F 名字

Nǐ jiào shénme

1. 你 叫 什么 (F) ?

Yéye dōu zhīdào.

2. 爷爷 () 都 知道。

Nǐ mèimei chàngē zhēn

3. 你 妹妹 唱歌 真 () 。

Bǐsài kuài yào le.

4. 比赛 快要 () 了。

Gēge gěi tā de péngyou dǎ diànhuà.

5. 哥哥 () 给他的朋友 打电话。

Chénglóng shì guójì de yǎnyuán.

6. 成 龙 是国际 () 的 演员。

The question was attempted by 144 (100%) candidates, of which 51 (35.4%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks, where 51 (35.4%) candidates out of these scored 5 marks, which is a good performance. Moreover, 51 (35.4%) candidates scored from 2 to 3 marks, which is an average performance and 42 (29.2%) candidates scored from 0 to 1 mark, which is a weak performance. Furthermore, 13 (9.0%) candidates scored 0. The candidates' general performance in this question was good, because 70.8 percent scored from 2 to 5 marks. Figure 10

summarizes the candidates' performance in question 10.

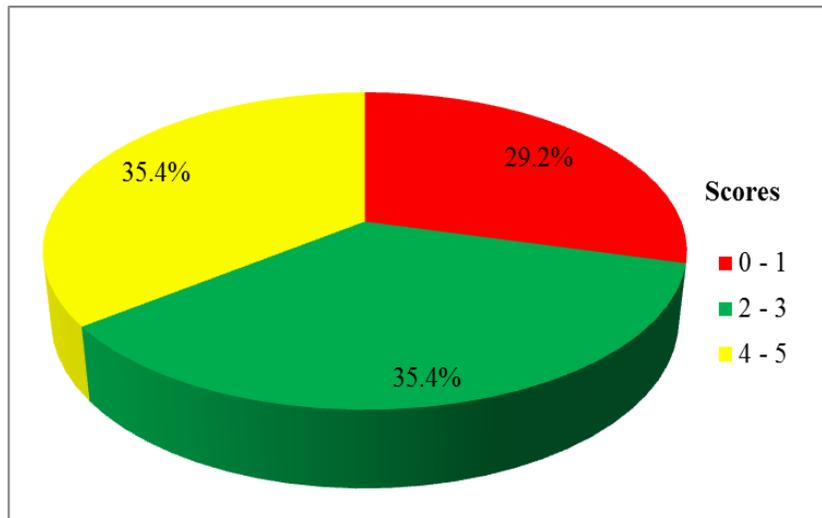


Figure 10: *The Percentage of Candidates' Performance in Question 10.*

The candidates' performance analysis in this question indicates that, 51 (35.4%) candidates who scored from 4 to 5 marks, which is a good performance, had good command of the Chinese Language and had adequate knowledge on vocabularies and grammar patterns. This enabled them to choose the correct answer and form a meaningful sentence. Extract 10.1 is a sample of a candidates' good response in question 10.

+	2. E	
	3. D	
	4. C	
	5. B	
	6. A.	

Extract 10.1 is a sample of the candidates' good response.

In Extract 10.1, a candidate filled the brackets with the correct answers in all items.

Further analysis shows that, 51 (35.4%) candidates who scored from 2 to 3 marks managed to answer some items, but failed others. For example, in item 2, the question was 爷爷 () 都知道 and the correct answer was alternative E 什么, but most of the candidates wrote the wrong answer since they did not notice the grammar pattern somebody + 什么 + 都 + verb. In item 5 tested the grammar pattern somebody + 正在 + do something. The candidates wrote wrong answers because they did not master this grammar patterns. Extract 10.2 is a sample of candidates' average response in question 10.

1.	01. F	
	02. B	
	03. D	
	04. C	
	05. E	
	06. A	

Extract 10.2 is a sample of the candidates' average response.

In Extract 10.2, a candidate filled in the brackets with correct responses in items 3, 4 and 6; but failed in items 1 and 5.

On the other hand, the analysis shows that, 42 (29.2%) candidates scored from 0 to 1 mark, which is a weak performance. These candidates lacked mastery of the Chinese Language and knowledge on vocabularies and grammar patterns. Hence, they were not able to choose the correct answer. Extract 10.3 is a poor response written by one of the candidates.

+	1. F	
	2. B	
	3. E	
	4. D	
	5. A	
	6. C	

Extract 10.3 is a sample of the candidates' poor response.

In Extract 10.3, a candidate failed to fill in the brackets with the correct answers in all items.

2.4.3 Question 11: Answering the Questions Using Chinese Characters

In this question, candidates were provided with 5 sub-questions, which required them to answer the given questions correctly by using their own words with Chinese characters from the topic of City and Environment. The question tested the candidates' ability to express themselves in Chinese. The question was as follows:

十一. 回答问题, 用汉字书写。

Lǐrú: Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?

例如: 你叫什么名字?

Wǒ jiào Xiǎomíng.

我叫小明。

1. Gōngyuán li yǒu shénme yánsè de huā?
公园 里 有 什 么 颜 色 的 花?

_____。

2. Nǐ shì zěnmē qù xuéxiào de?
你 是 怎 么 去 学 校 的?

_____。

3. Nǐ xǐhuan qù nǎr sǎnbù?
你 喜 欢 去 哪 儿 散 步?

_____。

4. Nǐmen chéngshì de kōngqì zěnmeyàng?
你 们 城 市 的 空 气 怎 么 样?

_____。

5. Nǐ zuì xǐhuan nǎ ge jìjié?
你 最 喜 欢 哪 个 季 节?

_____。

The question was attempted by 144 (100%) candidates, of which 23 (16.0%) candidates scored from 6.5 to 10 marks, which is a good performance. Moreover, 75 (52.1%) candidates scored from 3 to 6 marks, which is an average performance and 46 (31.9%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, which is a weak performance. The candidates' general performance in this question was good, because 68.1 percent scored from 3 to 10 marks. Figure 11 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 11.

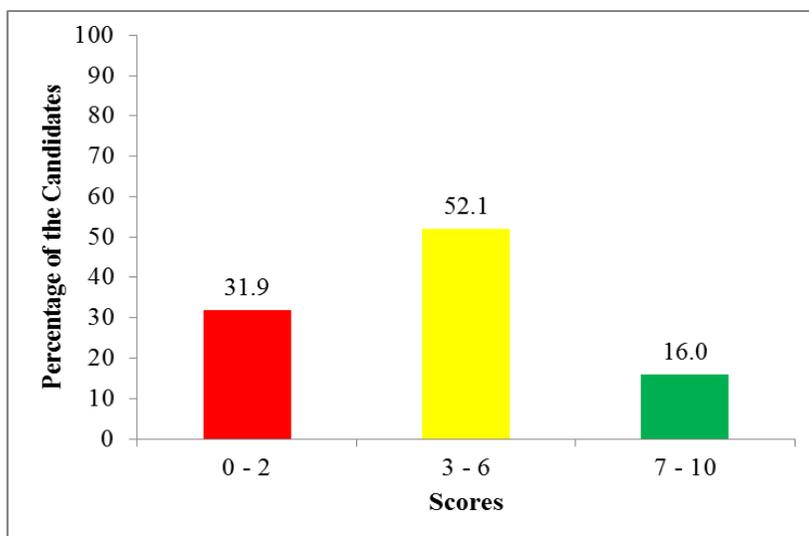


Figure 11: The Percentage of Candidates' Performance in Question 11.

The analysis of the candidates' performance in this question indicates that, 23 (16.0%) candidates who scored from 6.5 to 10 marks, had sufficient knowledge on Chinese Language. They also understood the requirement of the questions and they were able to answer the question by using the Chinese characters (Hanzi). Extract 11.1 is sample of a candidates' good response in question 11.

7-	1. Gōng yuán lǐ yǒu hóng sè de huā huā 公 园 里 有 红 色 的 花 花 。
	2. wǒ shì zuò huǒ chē qù xué xiào de 我 是 坐 火 车 去 学 校 的 。
	3. wǒ xǐ huan qù hú biān sǎn bù 我 喜 欢 去 湖 边 散 步 。
	4. wǒ men chéng shì de kōng qì hěn hǎo gān jìng 我 们 城 市 的 空 气 很 好 干 净
	5. wǒ zuì xǐ huan xià tiān 我 最 喜 欢 夏 天 。

Extract 11.1 is a sample of the candidates' good response.

In Extract 11.1, a candidate answered all the questions correctly.

Further analysis shows that, 75 (52.1%) candidates who scored from 3 to 6 marks were able to answer some items while failing others. For example, in item 4, the question was 你们城市的空气怎么样? (How is the atmosphere quality in your city? The answer was supposed to be good or bad; but most of candidates answered it by referring to cold or hot due to their inability to differentiate the two words 空气 (atmosphere) and 天气.

In item 5, the question was 你最喜欢哪个季节? (Which season do you like most?). This question was performed poorly because the majority of candidates gave answers about festival instead of season. The reason behind was the presence of the character 节 *jié* which means festival. They did not realize that the combination of the character 季 *jì* and 节 *jié*, results into the character 季节 *jìjié* which means season. Extract 11.2 is a sample of the candidates' average response in this question 11.

十一	1. Gōng yuán li yǒu hóng yán sè de huā. 公 园 里 有 红 颜 色 的 花。
	2. Wǒ shì zuò huǒ chē qù xué xiào de. 我 是 坐 火 车 去 学 校 的。
	3. Wǒ xǐ huan qù hú biān sǎn bù. 你 喜 欢 去 湖 边 散 步。
	4. Wǒ men chéng shì de kōng qì hěn lěng. 我 们 城 市 的 空 气 很 冷。
	5. Wǒ zuì xǐ huan chūn jì jié. 我 最 喜 欢 春 季 节。

Extract 11.2 is a sample of the candidates' average response.

In Extract 11.2, a candidate wrote correct answers in items 1, 2 and 3; failed in items 4 and 5.

On the other hand, the analysis shows that, 46 (31.9%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, which is a poor performance. These candidates had poor command of the Chinese Language and this hindered them from understanding the requirement of the question. They were also not able to answer the question by using correct Chinese characters (Hanzi) instead they wrote pinyin. Extract 11.3 is a sample of the candidates' poor response in question 11.

1. 1	Gōng yuán lǐ yǒu sè sè sè yán sè de huà
	公 园 里 有 有 有 色 色 的
2.	Wǒ shì sūn dāi qū xīng jīn tiān xué xiào de
3.	
4.	
3.	Wǒ xǐ huān qù gōng yuán lǐ sǎn bù
5. 4.	wǒ zuì xǐ huān nǎ ge jī jié
4.	Wǒ men chéng shì de kōng qì hěn yǎng

Extract 11.3 is a sample of the candidates' poor response.

In Extract 11.3, a candidate failed to answer all the five items and wrote pinyin instead of Chinese Characters.

2.5 Section E: Composition

This section had two questions which are 12 and 13. Question 12 comprised of five jumbled sentences which the candidates were instructed to re-arrange into a logical sequence to make a meaningful paragraph by writing letters corresponding to the correct sentences. Question 13 was about a guided composition whereby the candidates were instructed to write a composition by using Chinese characters (Hanzi) only. Each question carried 10 marks, making a total of 20 marks in this section. The questions tested the candidates' ability to write and to express themselves appropriately and logically using the Chinese Language.

2.5.1 Question 12: Re-arranging the Jumbled Sentences to make a meaningful paragraph

The question consisted of six sentences and the candidates were instructed to re-arrange the jumbled sentences to make a meaningful paragraph by writing a letter of the corresponding number in the table provided. Each item was worth 2 marks making a total of 10 marks. The question tested the candidates' ability to relate events in a logical manner. The whole paragraph was supposed to be organized in a chronological order by using the indicators of words which referred to time and event behaviors. For example, 今天早上 (this morning), 去公园 (go to park), 下雨 (to rain), 雨停了 (the rain stopped). The question was from the topic of Environment. The question was as follows:

十二. 为下面句子重新排序, 组成短文, 其中一句已经给出。

Tàijíquán tài yǒu yìsi le! Wǒ xǐhuan de bù dé liǎo!

A 太极拳太有意思了! 我喜欢 得不得了!

Bàngē zhōngtóu hòu, yǔ tíng le hěn duō rén qù gōngyuán li sǎnbù.

B 半个钟头 后, 雨停了, 很多人去 公园 里散步。

Dànshì yǔ hěn xiǎo, tiānqì bù lěng yě bú rè.

C 但是 雨很 小, 天气不冷也不热。

Hái yǒu lǎorén qù gōngyuán de hú biān dǎ Tàijíquán.

D 还有 老人去 公园 的湖边 打太极拳。

Yí dào gōngyuán, jiù xià yǔ le.

E 一到 公园, 就下雨了。

Jīntiān zǎoshang, wǒ cóng jiā zuòchē qù gōngyuán.

F 今天 早上, 我从家坐车去 公园。

The question was attempted by 144 (100%) candidates, of which 63 (43.7%) candidates scored from 4 to 5 marks, which is a good performance. Moreover, 39 (27.1%) candidates scored from 2 to 3 marks, which is an average performance and 42 (29.2%) candidates scored from 0 to 1 mark, which is a weak performance. The candidates' general performance in this question was good, because 70.8 percent scored from 4 to 10 marks. Figure 12 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 12.

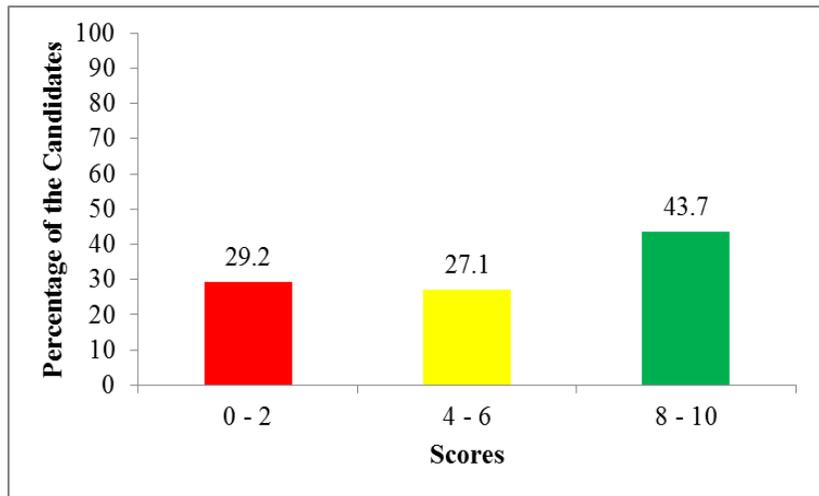


Figure 12: *The Percentage of Candidates' Performance in Question 12.*

The candidates' performance analysis shows that, 63 (43.7%) candidates who scored 8 to 10 marks, which is a good performance, had good mastery of the Chinese Language. They had also adequate knowledge on reading for comprehension and had ability to relate jumbled sentences in a logical manner. Furthermore, the candidates managed to identify the key information showing sequence of events. For example, they knew that, the sentence 一到公园,就下雨了 (It started raining when I arrived at the park.) was supposed to be the first sentence, because of the word 一到...就 (when I arrived) indicates the beginning of the event. They also noticed that, the sentence 但是雨很小,天气不冷也不热 (But there was a little rain, not cold and not hot.) was supposed to be the second because of the word 但是 (but) that indicates the continuation

of the event.

With regard to the third sentence, the candidates who got it right. They also knew that the sentence 半个钟头后，雨停了，很多人去公园里散步 (Half an hour later, the rain stopped, many people went to park to take a walk) was supposed to be the third sentence because of the phrases 半个钟头后，雨停了 (Half an hour later, the rain stopped) which explains about the stoppage of the rain. They also recognised the sentence 还有老人去公园的湖边打太极拳 (There were also old people who played Taiji at the lakeside in the park.) to be the fourth sentence because of the word 还有 (there were also) that indicates continuation of the sequence of events from the stoppage of the rain to playing Taiji in the park. Lastly, they knew that, the sentence 太极拳太有意思了！我喜欢得不得了！ (Taiji is very interesting, and I love it so much.) was supposed to be the last sentence because of the word 太极拳 indicating that the event of playing taiji is very interesting. Extract 12.1 is a sample of a candidates' good response in question 12.

12	1. F	
	2. F	
	3. C	
	4. B	
	5. D	
	6. A	

Extract 12.1 is a sample of the candidates' good response.

In Extract 12.1, a candidate was able to re-arrange the jumbled sentence by writing a letter of the corresponding number.

Further analysis shows that 39 (27.1%) candidates scored from 4 to 6 marks, which is an average performance. These candidates managed to re-arrange some items but failed others. Items 3 and 4, both were about the same event of rain, but the candidates did not know which sentence between the two had

to start.

In item 3, most of the candidates were familiar with the word 小时 which had the same meaning as the word (钟头 (hour)). This caused them to write wrong answer. Extract 12.2 is a sample of candidates' average response in question 12.

42.	1.	F	
	2.	C	
	3.	E	
	4.	B	
	5.	D	
	6.	A	

Extract 12.2 is a sample of an average response.

In Extract 12.2, a candidate re-arranged correctly the jumbled sentences in items 4, 5 and 6 by writing the letter to a corresponding number, but failed in items 2 and 3.

On the other hand, the analysis shows that, 42 (29.2%) candidates scored from 0 to 2 marks, which is a weak performance. These candidates had poor command of the Chinese Language and they had insufficient knowledge on reading comprehension skills. Furthermore, some candidates failed to comprehend the whole question and they made a guesswork by choosing answers randomly. Extract 12.3 is sample of a poor response written by one of the candidates.

42.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
	F	D	A	E	C	B

Extract 12.3 is a sample of a candidates' poor response.

In Extract 12.3, a candidate failed to re-arrange the jumbled sentences.

2.5.2 Question 13: Writing Composition

In this question, candidates were instructed to write a composition titled My Trip. The candidates were supposed to write the composition relying on the guidelines provided thereby adding some other information. The question tested the candidates' ability on arranging and expressing thoughts logically by using Chinese characters.

The guiding questions were as follows: (1) 你去过哪个地方旅行? (Which place have you been travelled?) (2) 离你家远吗? (Is it far from your home to this place?) (3) 你怎么去的? (How did you go there?) The guiding words were as follows: (1) 从.....到..... (From...to...) (2) 坐公共汽车 (by bus) (3) 飞机场 (Airport) (4) 火车票 (Train ticket) (5) 停留 (to stay). The candidates were required to write the composition on the topic of Trips and Travel with the correct grammar and structure ranging from 70 up to 80 words.

The question was attempted by 144 (100%) candidates, of which 23 (16.7%) candidates scored from 6.5 to 10 marks, which is a good performance. Moreover, 69 (47.9%) candidates scored from 3 to 6 marks, which is an average performance and 51 (35.4%) candidates scored from 0 to 2.5 marks, which is a weak performance. The candidates' general performance in this question was good, because 64.6% scored from 3 to 10 marks. Figure 13 summarizes the candidates' performance in question 13.

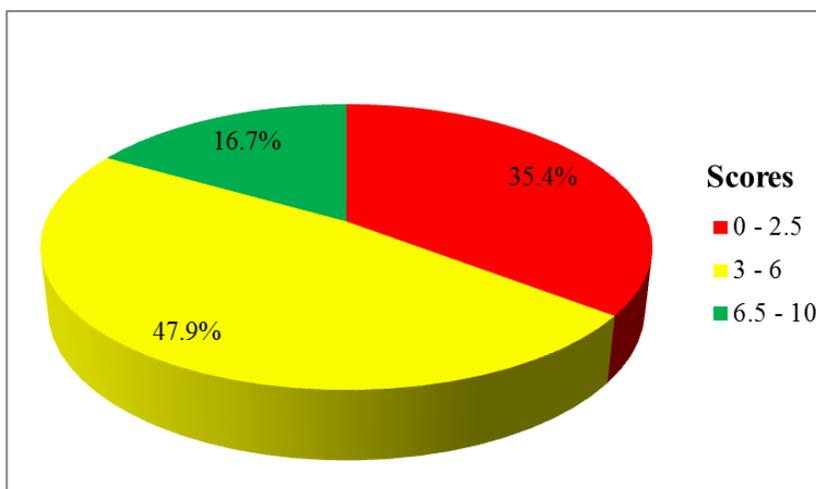


Figure 13: *The Percentage of Candidates' Performance in Question 13.*

The analysis of candidates' performance in this question indicates that, 24 (16.7%) candidates who scored from 6.5 to 10 marks had ability of arrange and express thoughts logically, based on the topic provided. Moreover, they had sufficient writing skills and they adhered to meet the requirements of the question by answering using the Chinese characters. This implies that, the candidates mastered well rules governing the composition writing. However, none of the candidates scored 10 marks in this question because there were some errors in writing Chinese characters (Hanzi). Some of the candidates missed some strokes which led to write wrong characters. Extract 13.1 is a sample of candidates' good response in question 13.

十三。	我的旅行。
	是
	你好!我叫王浩宇,我坦桑尼亚人,我家在
	多多牙。我今年十七岁,我是中学学校的学生。
	在我的学校有汉语课,我很喜欢汉语因为
	它很有意思,我也喜欢旅行。去年我去过中国
	旅行,中国离坦桑尼亚很远,我从坦桑尼亚
	到中国坐飞机去。在中国,我去过北京和停留
	两个星期,北京是中国有名的城市。在北京我
	去过很多地方去过故宫长城和中国国家的
	博物馆。北京的风景漂亮得不得了。在中国
	我还去过香港,从北京到香港坐火车去因为
	火车票不贵。我非常爱中国

Extract 13.1 is a sample of the candidates' good response.

In Extract 13.1, a sample of a candidates' good composition with few errors.

Further analysis shows that, 69 (47.9%) candidates who scored from 3 to 6 marks, had partial understand on the demand of the question and lacked basic skills in writing Chinese composition. However, these candidates faced challenges in writing the characters because they either added extra strokes or missed some strokes. Some of them had a limited number of Chinese characters, because they wrote below 70 characters. Extract 13.2 is a sample of candidates' average response in question 13.

十三.
大家妈,我叶小红。我和
我的妹妹一到假期就去
旅行。从坦桑尼亚我要去到
中国。坦桑尼亚离中国很远。
我们坐飞机场去北京。除了我们
还坐公共汽车去故宫和长城。
在北京,我去看我的中国朋友。
我们去剧院看京剧和去
湖边散步。我们喜欢旅行。

Extract 13.2 is a sample of the candidates' average response.

In Extract 13.2, a candidate was able to write a composition paragraph but had some errors in writing Chinese characters.

On the other hand, the analysis shows that, 51 (35.4%) candidates who scored from 0 to 2.5 marks lacked the Chinese vocabularies. They also failed to arrange and express thoughts logically. The candidates' failure is attributed to their lack of skills in composition writing. For example, some candidates copied sentences from other questions on the paper. Others wrote Chinese pinyin while others used the English Language to answer the question. Few of them left the question unanswered, and this made them to score zero. Extract 13.3 is a sample of the candidates' poor response in question 13.

十三	
	我叫 dōu yú xuān, 我 我是桑尼亚人。今
	年十八岁。去年有旅行在排北京。我去北京一
	木羊我妈妈飞机场。妈妈和我去广州,博物馆
	广州不远在北京。我 kùai le 旅行。我喜欢得子。
	请写一写

Extract 13.3 is a sample of the candidates' poor response.

In Extract 13.3, a candidate wrote a paragraph with the incorrect sentences using pinyin and characters.

3.0 PERFORMANCE OF THE CANDIDATES IN EACH TOPIC

The candidates' performance analysis shows that, five language aspects were examined in the Chinese Language subject in CSEE 2019. These were *Comprehension, Patterns and Vocabulary, Grammar Patterns, Language Use and Composition*.

The first language aspect was *Comprehension* which comprised two questions; that are questions 1 and 2. These two questions were performed well, since 97.9% of candidates scored from 3 to 10 marks, which is a good performance. Second language aspect was *Patterns and Vocabulary*, which comprised three questions: question 3 with the performance of 36.8%, question 4 with the performance of 100% and question 5 with the performance 95.8%, making an average of 77.5% which is a good Performance. Third language aspect was *Grammar Patterns* which contained three questions. Questions 6, 7 and 8 and all these had good performance, since the average of all the three questions was 82.4%.

The fourth language aspect was *Language Use* which comprised question 9, 10 and 11 had good performance of 78.4%, since all the three questions were performed above 65%. Last language aspect was *Composition* comprised two questions. Questions 12 and 13 had a good performance, since the average of the two questions was 67.7%, and all the candidates scored from 30% to 100% marks. This good performance shows that, the candidates had sufficient knowledge on Chinese vocabulary which enabled them to answer the questions according to the requirements.

Moreover, the analysis indicates that, questions 3, 8 and 13 which were on skills of *Patterns and Vocabulary Use, Grammar Patterns and Composition* had an average performance, since its Performance was 36.8%, 55.6% and 64.6% respectively.

The candidates performed averagely in question 8 because they could not rearrange the jumbled words in a logical order. They also performed averagely in question 13 because they did not have sufficient knowledge of writing using Chinese characters. The analysis indicates that, the candidates performed averagely in these aspects, because they did not master well the principles of the Chinese vocabulary and the structure of the Chinese Language. Finally, there was no question that was performed below 30%. The analysis has revealed that most of the candidates scored from 3.5 to 10 marks. This shows

that few candidates did not master well the knowledge on Chinese characters (Hanzi).

The candidates' performance in each topic is summarized in the Appendix, where *green* colour represents a good performance, *yellow* colour represents an average performance and *red* colour represents a weak performance.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The candidates' performance in Chinese Language subject in Form Four National Examination 2019 was generally good as all 144 candidates passed the examination.

According to the analysis, the general performance was good due to the fact that the candidates who sat for the National Examination passed the examination by scoring average and good marks. These candidates performed well because they had good command of the Chinese Language. Consequently, they managed to apply the principles and rules related to the use of the Chinese Language.

On the other hand, few candidates performed poorly because they had poor command of the Chinese Language and lacked the skills in reading for comprehension which would have enabled them to understand and identify the demands of the questions. Additionally, some candidates had insufficient vocabulary and inability to express themselves in the Chinese Language.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to improve the candidates' performance in Chinese Language subject, in the future it is recommended that:

- 5.1 Teachers should put more effort on teaching and learning activities by using different teaching and learning resources such as photos, pictures and texts while encouraging students to write compositions.
- 5.2 Teachers should motivate students into the subject and familiarize with the Chinese writing system including pinyin and Chinese characters. This can be done by giving them more writing exercises in order to practice and improve their ability of using Chinese characters.

5.3 Teachers should encourage students to read more new words and passages in order to improve their vocabulary and grammar by giving them simple texts.

APPENDIX

Summary of Candidates' Performance per Topic for the Chinese Language Subject in CSEE 2019

S/N	Topic	Qn. Number	% of Candidates who Scored an Average of 30 Percent or Above in each Question	% of Candidates who Scored an Average of 30 Percent or Above in each Topic	Remarks
1.	Comprehension	1	96.5	97.9	Good
		2	99.3		
2.	Vocabulary Use	3	36.8	77.5	Good
		4	100		
		5	95.8		
3.	Grammar Use	6	95.1	82.4	Good
		7	96.6		
		8	55.5		
4.	Language Use	9	96.5	78.4	Good
		10	70.8		
		11	68.1		
5.	Composition	12	70.5	67.7	Good
		13	64.6		

