



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit**  
State Examinations Commission

**Leaving Certificate 2024**

**Marking Scheme**

**Mandarin Chinese**

**Higher Level**

## **Note to teachers and students on the use of published marking schemes**

Marking schemes published by the State Examinations Commission are not intended to be standalone documents. They are an essential resource for examiners who receive training in the correct interpretation and application of the scheme. This training involves, among other things, marking samples of student work and discussing the marks awarded, so as to clarify the correct application of the scheme. The work of examiners is subsequently monitored by Advising Examiners to ensure consistent and accurate application of the marking scheme. This process is overseen by the Chief Examiner, usually assisted by a Chief Advising Examiner. The Chief Examiner is the final authority regarding whether or not the marking scheme has been correctly applied to any piece of candidate work.

Marking schemes are working documents. While a draft marking scheme is prepared in advance of the examination, the scheme is not finalised until examiners have applied it to candidates' work and the feedback from all examiners has been collated and considered in light of the full range of responses of candidates, the overall level of difficulty of the examination and the need to maintain consistency in standards from year to year. This published document contains the finalised scheme, as it was applied to all candidates' work.

In the case of marking schemes that include model solutions or answers, it should be noted that these are not intended to be exhaustive. Variations and alternatives may also be acceptable. Examiners must consider all answers on their merits, and will have consulted with their Advising Examiners when in doubt.

### **Future Marking Schemes**

Assumptions about future marking schemes on the basis of past schemes should be avoided. While the underlying assessment principles remain the same, the details of the marking of a particular type of question may change in the context of the contribution of that question to the overall examination in a given year. The Chief Examiner in any given year has the responsibility to determine how best to ensure the fair and accurate assessment of candidates' work and to ensure consistency in the standard of the assessment from year to year. Accordingly, aspects of the structure, detail and application of the marking scheme for a particular examination are subject to change from one year to the next without notice.

**READING: 80 MARKS**

**Answer Question 1, Question 2, Question 3 AND Question 4**

**Question 1 - 17 marks**

- (a)** What time is it now? (2 x 2 marks)

Dublin Standard Time: 11:30 a.m. / 11:30 in the morning

Beijing Standard Time: 6:30 p.m. / 18:30 / 6:30 in the afternoon

- (b)** What is the weather like today in Dublin? (2 x 2 marks)

Weather: rainy

Temperature: 17

- (c)** Indicate whether the following sentences are True or False by ticking (✓) the boxes.

	True	False
<b>(i)</b> Dublin will be colder than Beijing this week.	✓ 3 marks	
<b>(ii)</b> It will be a sunny day on Tuesday in both Dublin and Beijing.	✓ 3 marks	
<b>(iii)</b> Wednesday will be the coldest day in Beijing this week.		✓ 3 marks

**Question 2 - 22 marks**

- (a)** What is the homeland of the animal mentioned in the first paragraph? (1 x 1 mark)

China

- (b)** Which two animals are mentioned? (2 x 1 mark)

Animal in the first paragraph: panda

Animal in the second paragraph: sheep / goat

- (c)** The first paragraph mentioned an animal with **four** black body parts. Name **three** of the body parts. (3 x 1 mark)

eyes / ears / hands / feet (paws)

(Answer any three of the four)

- (d) The second paragraph mentioned **two** differences between the two animals. What are they? (2 x 2 marks)
- (i) The panda's face is white. The sheep's face is black.
- (ii) The panda's eyes are black, the sheep's eyes are white.
- (e) Answer Fill in the blanks in the table below. You will find the characters for the first column in the previous text.

Character in the text (Answer in <b>Chinese</b> )	Meaning of the character (Answer in <b>English</b> )	Radical of the character (Answer in <b>Chinese</b> )	Meaning of the radical (Answer in <b>English</b> )
家 1 mark	home	宀 1 mark	roof / shelter 1mark
黑 1mark	black 1 mark	灬	fire 1 mark
眼	eye 1 mark	目 1 mark	eye / to see 1 mark
样 or 朵 1 mark	Shape / appearance / look / face or measure word of (flowers, clouds, etc.) 1 mark	木 1 mark	wood / tree

### Question 3 - 21 marks

- (a) What is the meaning of ‘乒乓球’? (1 x 2 marks)  
Table tennis / PingPong
- (b) In which country was the first world ‘乒乓球’ competition held? (1 x 2 marks)  
UK / England / The Great Britain
- (c) Chinese people gave a nickname to Jan-Ove Waldner. What is it? Answer in **Chinese**. (1 x 2 marks)  
老瓦
- (d) According to the text, why was the gold medal won by Jan-Ove Waldner significant? (1 x 2 marks)  
He is the first person win the gold medal outside of Asia.

- (e) Chinese people like Ai Fukuhara for a few reasons. Give **two** of them. (2 x 2 marks)

She was the youngest Japanese Olympic athlete of the table tennis.

She learnt table tennis in China.

She plays table tennis very well.

She is friendly.

(Answer any two of the four)

- (f) Indicate whether the following sentences are True or False by ticking (✓) the boxes.

	True	False
(i) People in Asia like this sport very much.	✓ 3 marks	
(ii) 孙颖莎 won her first match at five years old.		✓ 3 marks
(iii) According to the text, Ai Fukuhara was the youngest Japanese Olympic athlete of this sport.	✓ 3 marks	

#### Question 4 - 20 marks

- (a) At the calligraphy camp, one can learn through **four** types of activities. Name **two** of them.

(2 x 2 marks)

To learn the history of Chinese language and the Chinese characters.

To use calligraphy writing Chinese characters.

To write your Chinese name.

To draw/paint with Chinese characters.

(Answer any two of the four)

- (b) At the food camp, one can learn **three** different types of skills. Name **two** of them.

(2 x 2 marks)

To buy tasty dishes in the Chinese restaurant.

To chat with the waiters or waitress.

To cook Chinese dishes home.

(Answer any two of the three)

**(c)** What are the meanings of the following sentences? Answer in **English**. (2 x 2 marks)

(i) You can listen to the music, learn singing and make friends here.

(ii) If your Chinese is very good, you can try Chinese rap.

**(d)** What is the Chinese equivalent of 'Kind Regards' in this email? Answer in **Chinese**. (1 x 2 marks)

祝好

**(e)** Who wrote this email? Answer in **Chinese**. (1 x 2 marks)

黄老师

**(f)** Mention **one** similarity or **one** difference between the format of an email in Mandarin Chinese and English. (1 x 4 marks)

(Any reasonable answer)

## WRITING - 80 MARKS

### MARKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITING

Circle errors of characters in red. Only circle the first occurrence of this error.

Use wavy lines for grammatical mistakes.

Use underlines for substitutes of characters.

Marks for Question 5/6 are broken down as follows:

- Communication = 20 marks
- Language = 20 marks

The candidate must deal with three tasks. Each task should be credited as soon as it is encountered in the answer by inserting 1, 2, 3 in the left-hand margin.

The mark awarded under the two headings (communication and language) is then determined by reference to the marking grids below.

Typically a candidate will not go beyond band 2 if they only deal with two of the three tasks and band one if they only deal with one of the three tasks.

The bands are describing the typical characteristics of work in that band. The consequence of the response falling short with respect to one of these criteria does not necessarily move the mark to the next band down if, for instance, the response is comfortably meeting or exceeding the standard with respect to the other characteristics.

### MARKING GRID

Questions 5 & 6	Communication (Task Response & Coherence)
14 to 20 marks <b>High level of achievement</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Material easily comprehensible</li><li>2. Clearly conveyed intention and purpose</li><li>3. Good or excellent achievement of the task/s</li><li>4. Mostly relevant details provided in context</li></ol>
8 to 13 marks <b>Moderate level of achievement</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Material slightly to reasonably comprehensible</li><li>2. Intention and purpose comprehensible</li><li>3. Adequate achievement of the task/s</li><li>4. Some relevant details provided</li></ol>
0 to 7 marks <b>Low level of achievement</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Material is incomprehensible or barely comprehensible</li><li>2. Intention and purpose barely comprehensible or not comprehensible at all</li><li>3. Barely adequate achievement of the task/s or not adequate at all</li><li>4. None or few relevant details provided</li></ol>

Question 5 & 6	Language (Lexical Response, Accuracy & Grammatical Range)
<p>14 to 20 marks</p> <p><b>High level of achievement</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sufficient or good range of lexis to complete the task/s</li> <li>2. Simple but mostly correct grammatical structures</li> <li>3. Mostly correct word order</li> <li>4. Some or no mistakes in characters, but do not significantly impede meaning</li> <li>5. Very few to no substitutes of characters using other languages or means (e.g., pinyin, traditional characters, first language, other phonetic symbols ...) (Up to 3 substitutes for Q5, and up to 6 substitutes for Q6)</li> </ol>
<p>8 to 13 marks</p> <p><b>Moderate level of achievement</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Limited range of lexis but adequate to complete the task/s</li> <li>2. Limited use of repeated grammatical structures with occasional mistakes</li> <li>3. Some mistakes in word order, but do not impede meaning</li> <li>4. Frequent mistakes in characters which do not or slightly impede meaning</li> <li>5. Some substitutes of characters using other languages or means (e.g., pinyin, traditional characters, first language, other phonetic symbols ...) (Up to 5 substitutes for Q5, and up to 10 substitutes for Q6)</li> </ol>
<p>0 to 7 marks</p> <p><b>Low level of achievement</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Insufficient range of lexis, not adequate to complete the task/s</li> <li>2. Limited use of repeated grammatical structures with many mistakes</li> <li>3. Some or many mistakes in word order, which impede meaning</li> <li>4. Frequent mistakes in characters, which impede meaning significantly</li> <li>5. Frequent substitutes of characters using other languages or means (e.g., pinyin, traditional characters, first language, other phonetic symbols ...) (More than 5 substitutes for Q5, and more than 10 substitutes for Q6 )</li> </ol>



## LISTENING COMPREHENSION - 100 MARKS

When the answer should be English/Irish: award 50% of marks for using language other than English/Irish.

When the answer should be Mandarin Chinese: award 50% of marks for using language other than Mandarin Chinese.

### Section A 17 marks

1. (a) Where is the conversation taking place? (1 x 2 marks)  
a (Chinese) restaurant
- (b) What is Sean's favorite food? (1 x 2 marks)  
dumplings
2. (a) How much money does Lisa have? (1 x 2 marks)  
55 (kuai/yuan) / (¥) 55
- (b) What does Sean think of the food? (1 x 3 marks)  
not expensive / cheap / delicious
- (c) Which food mentioned by Sean is the cheapest? (1 x 2 marks)  
noodles
3. Indicate whether the following sentences are True or False by ticking (✓) the boxes.

	True	False
(i) Lisa ordered two portions of food.		✓ 3 marks
(ii) Lisa ordered roast duck.	✓ 3 marks	

### Section B: 19 marks

1. (a) Where does Jessica come from? (1 x 2 marks)  
US / USA / America / The United States
- (b) How many rooms are there in Jessica's house? (1 x 2 marks)  
8 / eight

2. Indicate whether the following sentences are True or False by ticking (✓) the boxes.

	True	False
(i) There is a small kitchen downstairs.		✓ 3 marks
(ii) Jessica's brother lives downstairs.	✓ 3 marks	
(iii) There are two bathrooms upstairs.		✓ 3 marks
(iv) Jessica's mother often works in the study.	✓ 3 marks	

3. What kind of house does Jessica want to buy in the future? (1 x 3 marks)

a small house with a garden

**Section C: 16 marks**

1. (a) How did David get here? (1 x 3 marks)

by bus

(b) How long did it take for David to get here? (1 x 3 marks)

30 minutes

2. Lucy mentioned **three** types of tea. Name **two** of them. (2 x 2 mark)

green tea / black (red) tea / white tea

(Answer any two of the three)

3. (a) What food can be ordered? Name **one** food. (1 x 3 marks)

fruit / cake / sandwich

(Answer any one of the three)

(b) Why did Lucy **NOT** order food? (1 x 3 marks)

She already had breakfast and is not hungry.

**Section D: 14 marks**

1. (a) What is the name of the book? (1 x 2 marks)

Chinese Geography / Geography of China

- (b) Who first mentioned this book to Fiona?  
her Chinese teacher (1 x 2 marks)
2. (a) Why does Jack think this book is difficult?  
He does not know many Chinese characters on the book. (1 x 2 marks)
- (b) On what day does Fiona have an examination?  
Thursday (1 x 2 marks)
3. (a) What nationality is Jack?  
French (1 x 2 marks)
- (b) What can Fiona teach Jack?  
Chinese characters (1 x 2 marks)
- (c) Where are they going to meet?  
classroom (1 x 2 marks)

**Section E: 19 marks**

1. (a) What is Aoife's comment about Spain?  
It is close to Ireland. / It is not far from Ireland. (1 x 3 marks)
- (b) Why does John want to go to Spain?  
He likes the weather in Spain. / Hot summer (1 x 2 marks)
2. (a) On what date in July does John plan to depart?  
12<sup>th</sup> (1 x 2 marks)
- (b) Why is Aoife available to go with John in July?  
She does not have class in July. (1 x 3 marks)

3. Indicate whether the following sentences are True or False by ticking (✓) the boxes.

	True	False
(i) John wants to go to the art gallery.	✓ 3 marks	
(ii) Both of them can swim.		✓ 3 marks
(iii) They are planning to go by boat.		✓ 3 marks

**Section F: 15 marks**

1. (a) What is the relationship between Cheng Chao and Ms Zhang? (1 x 2 marks)  
teacher and student
- (b) When did Cheng Chao visit the doctor? (1 x 2 marks)  
morning
- (c) The doctor made **two** suggestions. Name **one** of them. (1 x 3 marks)  
take medicine / drink more water  
(Answer any one of the two)
2. (a) On which day are they planning to go to the cinema? (1 x 2 marks)  
Friday
- (b) How long is the movie? (1 x 2 marks)  
2 hours and half / 2.5 hours / from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
3. (a) What is Cheng Chao going to do after school on Friday? (1 x 2 marks)  
by airplane / go to Shanghai to visit his father
- (b) Whose birthday is it on Sunday? (1 x 2 marks)  
Cheng Chao's father / his father

# Appendix 1

## CD Script

### Section A

You will hear a conversation between Sean and Lisa.

Lisa: Sean, 你也来这里吃饭吗?

Sean: 对啊, Lisa。这是我最喜欢的中国饭店。

Lisa: 我第一次来这里吃饭, 你觉得什么最好吃?

Sean: 饺子, 烤鸭和面条都好吃。但是我最喜欢吃饺子。

Lisa: 我只有 55 块钱。

Sean: 没关系, 这里的饭不贵。

Lisa: 真的吗? 那太好了!

Sean: 饺子 25 块钱一份, 烤鸭 30 块钱一只, 面条最便宜, 18 块钱一碗。

Lisa: 我可以点两份饭。

Sean: 一份饭就可以。

Lisa: 那我就点一只烤鸭。

### Section B

You will hear Jessica introducing her home.

大家好! 我叫 Jessica, 我来自美国, 现在我住在 Limerick。我家一共有八个房间。

我家楼下有一个大厨房, 爸爸常常在那里做好吃的。楼下还有一个卧室, 那是哥哥的房间。客厅在楼下。楼上是两个卧室, 一个卫生间, 和一个书房。妈妈常常在书房看书, 也在那里工作。

我以后也想买一个自己的房子。房子小小的, 有一个花园, 因为我很喜欢花。

### Section C

You will hear a conversation between Lucy and David.

Lucy: 你好, David。

David: Lucy, 对不起, 我晚了。

Lucy: 没关系。你怎么来的?

David: 我坐公共汽车来的。

Lucy: 从你家到这里多长时间?

David: 30 分钟。

Lucy: 你坐几路公共汽车?

David: 我坐 218 路公共汽车。

Lucy: 你渴不渴?  
David: 我有一点儿渴。这里有什么喝的?  
Lucy: 这里有绿茶, 红茶和白茶。  
David: 我想喝红茶。你呢?  
Lucy: 我想喝绿茶。

David: 我有一点儿饿, 这里有什么吃的?  
Lucy: 这里有水果, 也有蛋糕, 还有三明治。  
David: 我吃蛋糕吧。你呢?  
Lucy: 我不吃了, 我吃早饭了, 现在不太饿。

#### Section D

**You will hear a conversation between Jack and Fiona.**

Jack: 这是我最喜欢的中文书。  
Fiona: 这本书叫什么名字?  
Jack: 这本书叫《中国地理》。  
Fiona: 我也知道这本书。我的中文老师说过。

Jack: 这本书有一点难。我有很多不认识的汉字。  
Fiona: 我的中文很好, 我可以教你。  
Jack: 太好了。你星期三有时间吗?  
Fiona: 对不起, 我没有时间。星期三我想学习法语。星期四我有法语考试。

Jack: 我是法国人, 我可以教你法语。  
Fiona: 太好了。我教你汉字。你教我法语。星期三我们一起学习。  
Jack: 星期三放学后, 我们在教室见。  
Fiona: 好的, 再见!

#### Section E

**You will hear a conversation between John and Aoife.**

John: Aoife, 我七月想去旅游。  
Aoife: 你想去哪里?  
John: 我想去西班牙。  
Aoife: 不错, 爱尔兰离西班牙很近。  
John: 是的, 我很喜欢西班牙的天气, 那里的夏天很热。

Aoife: 你打算去多长时间?  
John: 我想去五天, 七月十二号去, 十七号回来。  
Aoife: 我也想去。我七月没有课, 我可以和你一起去西班牙。  
John: 太好了!

Aoife: 我们在西班牙可以做什么?  
John: 我们可以去海边游泳, 去看看美术馆, 也可以吃很多好吃的。  
Aoife: 我不会游泳, 但是我可以去海边跑步。  
John: 那我们现在买机票吧。  
Aoife: 好的!

## Section F

You will hear a conversation between Cheng Chao and Ms Zhang.

张老师: 你好, 程超。  
程超: 张老师您好。  
张老师: 听同学说, 你生病了。  
程超: 是的, 早上我去看了医生。  
张老师: 医生怎么说?  
程超: 医生要我吃药, 多喝水。

张老师: 你好好休息一下。星期五我们班去电影院看电影。你去不去?  
程超: 电影是几点?  
张老师: 下午 3 点到 5 点半。一共两个半小时。

程超: 对不起, 我去不了。星期五下课后, 我和妈妈要去坐飞机。  
张老师: 你们去哪里?  
程超: 我去上海看爸爸, 这个星期天是他的生日。  
张老师: 祝你们在上海玩得开心。  
程超: 谢谢张老师。

