

MODERN STANDARD CHINESE (MAURITIUS)

Paper 3252/01
Composition

Key messages

To do well in this paper, candidates need to:

- ensure that they answer **one** question from **Section A** and **one** question from **Section B**
- adhere to the word limits specified
- ensure that their work is legible, accurate and logically presented
- show an awareness of the conventions of paragraphing and sentence structure
- demonstrate adequate control of vocabulary, syntax and grammar, punctuation and Spelling
- understand and be able to employ a range of appropriate vocabulary
- be able to present facts, ideas and opinions in an organised way
- ensure that they present their response in the form stipulated in the question (e.g., letter, dialogue, etc.)
- plan their use of time for each question and allow time for thorough checking of their work.

General comments

In general, candidates performed well on this paper.

In **Section A**, topic **1(a)** was the most popular question. The vast majority of candidates chose **1(a)** and, **1(c)** was the second most popular question. Only a small number of candidates chose **1(c)**. There was no candidates who chose **1(b)**. Performance on this section was very good on the whole.

In **Section B**, Question **2(d)** was the most popular choice with candidates.

It was encouraging to note that stronger candidates made very few spelling and grammatical errors. Weaker candidates generally struggled to construct sentences accurately and made frequent spelling and grammatical mistakes.

The most common spelling errors occurred in the use of the following Chinese characters, which were often written in an incorrect form (The wrong spelling is given on the right):

婚礼: 婚 礼 才能: 才 能 结果: 结 果 跳舞: 舞 蹈 漂亮: 漂 亮

为什么: 为 什么 担心: 担 心 拍照: 拍 照 裙子: 裙 子 操场: 操 场

告诉: 告 诉 一遍: 一 遍 身体: 身 体 发生: 发 生 那里: 那 里

暑假: 暑 假 重新: 从 新 再找: 再 找 星期: 星 期 走开: 走 开

毛里求斯: 毛 里 求 斯 阳光明媚: 阳 光 明 媚 有的...有的...: 又 的 ... 又 的 ...

Sentences which were wrongly written (grammatical mistakes):

- (1) 祝你身体快乐。
- (2) 我一到中国就去酒店因为婚礼会做那里。
- (3) 表哥和她的女朋友对大家说着话。
- (4) 因为是第一次庆祝一个婚礼，因此可以穿了美丽的衣服。
- (5) 到八点，我们到在酒店。
- (6) 如果你没有带饭的时候各以在学校买。
- (7) 新学校是大，老师的大学是好。
- (8) 新学校看像非常巨一样。
- (9) 爸爸的哥到来，他来很快。
- (10) 马丽在门口慢慢地走向上台。
- (11) 婚礼很热闹，大家拍手给他们。

There were also some very good sentences, such as:

- (1) 我有些怕可是我还是慢慢地走到大门口。
- (2) 因为新娘子是印度人，所以不但有中餐，而且还有印度餐。
- (3) 我在新学校交了很多新朋友，我跟他们一起散步一起打球。
- (4) 新学校老师很友善，环境也很美。
- (5) 在日常生活中我经常用手机查找学习资料。
- (6) 原来爸爸把旅行箱忘在车上了。
- (7) 他打开一看，旅行箱里什么都没有丢。
- (8) 机场的工人找了三个小时才找到我们的旅行箱。
- (9) 爸爸当时害怕极了因为旅行箱里有很多贵重的东西。
- (10) 我刚开学就想着给你讲讲我的新学校。
- (11) 学校里有一个大操场，早上学生们可以在操场上作做运动。

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Letter, Report or Speech, Dialogue

Candidates were required to write a response of appropriately 120 words in Chinese on one of three given topics.

A range of performance was seen on **Question 1(a)**, which asked candidates to write a letter on the topic 'Your name is Li Ting and you live in Mauritius. Write a letter to a friend, who lives in Beijing, telling him/her about the new school where you have enrolled recently.' This question was the most popular and there were some well-written essays.

In **Question 1(b)**, candidates had to write a report on the topic 'A well-known author visited your school to talk about his new book and the importance of reading. Write a report for your school magazine about the event.' This was not a popular topic.

Question 1(c) asked candidates to write a dialogue on the topic 'You returned home late from school. Your mother wants to know why you were late. Write a dialogue between you and your mother.' This question was also popular. Some fluent essays were seen here.

Section B – Essay

Candidates were asked to write an essay of approximately 200 words in Chinese from a choice of four given topics.

Again, a range of performances was seen. **Question 2(a)** required candidates to describe the scene and atmosphere at a wedding ceremony. This was the popular question in this section. Candidates wrote about their own experiences of the wedding ceremony. Some candidates were able to create very good descriptions. There were some fluent essays.

In **Question 2(b)**, candidates had to give their opinion on 'Life without smart phones is impossible.' This was not a very popular option.

Question 2(c) required candidates to narrate 'You are alone at night in your house, when suddenly, there is a loud knock at the door' and what happened next. This was also not a very popular option in this section.

In **Question 2(d)**, candidates had to narrate what happened next based on the topic 'You were on holiday with your family. Your father realised that one of the suitcases was missing after you arrived at the hotel.' This question was the most popular question in this section. The strongest responses were characterised by fluency and varied sentence structures.

MODERN STANDARD CHINESE (MAURITIUS)

Paper 3252/02
Translation and Reading
Comprehension

Key messages

Candidates generally responded well to this paper, with the majority of candidates demonstrating a good understanding of the passages and sound skills in translating and expressing themselves in Chinese.

Candidates are reminded that it is important to:

- read the translation passages carefully before beginning to translate
- show that they can understand and adequately convey information
- be able to recognise implicit meaning and attitude
- select and evaluate information relevant to specific purposes and express it in their own words
- show a sense of audience and an awareness of register
- understand and employ a range of appropriate vocabulary
- demonstrate an awareness of the conventions of sentence structure.

General comments

Overall, a range of good performance was seen on this paper. Candidates provided accurate translations of the English in well-written Chinese. Mistakes that were made were either careless slips or uncertainty over words such as 'salary, flexible, balance' and 'career'. Candidates should always check their work and polish the translation to improve it.

Section A – Translation

Question 1: Translation into English

Candidates were required to translate a passage from Chinese into English. The majority of candidates coped very well with this exercise. An important number of candidates scored very highly in this question. Some of the common errors found in scripts related to the translation of the following words:

传统
traditional

习俗
customs

贴春联
putting up spring couplets

包饺子
making dumplings

赶回家乡
rush back to hometown

吃年夜饭
have a new year's eve dinner

午夜时
at midnight

家家户户
every family

放鞭炮
set firecrackers

压岁钱
lucky money

带来
will bring

好运
good luck

Question 2: Translation into Chinese

Candidates were required to translate a passage from English into Chinese. Some candidates did well in this question. Weak ones did not know how to write in Chinese.

Some of the common errors found in scripts related to the translation of the following words:

an ideal job 理想的工作	everyone's views 每个人的看法	young people 年轻人
having an interest in the role 对工作有兴趣	is the first thing 首先/第一	to consider 考虑
salary 提工资	the main factor 主要因素	they are not motivated 没有动力
flexible working hours 灵活的工作时间	long holidays 长假	necessary 必须
free time 空闲时间	to do things they enjoyed 做自己感兴趣的事情	this allows them 这可以让他们
good work-life balance 很好地平衡工作与生活	overall 总之	careers 职业
young generation 年轻一代	more opportunities 更多机会	to choose 选择
if ...only... 要是	never give up 永远不放弃	their dreams 他们的梦想
finally 终于	come true 实现/成真	

Section B – Reading Comprehension

Candidates were required to answer the questions based on a given passage. The majority of candidates demonstrated excellent understanding of the passage, and performance on this question was generally excellent.

Candidates coped very well with **Question 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8** and **9**, often scoring full marks.

In **Question 5**, the expected answers were: ‘图书、电子产品、服装’ and ‘鱼’. There were 4 elements of answer in this question. The majority of candidates attempted this question well, but some candidates gave only 2 or 3 elements answer instead of 4, hence they did not score full marks.

There were 2 parts in **Question 6** and the majority of candidates attempted this question well, unlike **Question 7, Question 8(i)** and **Question 9** where some candidates gave one element of answer instead of two.

Question 10 – Vocabulary

This question assessed knowledge of basic vocabulary in reading comprehension. Different kinds of vocabulary items were tested through giving synonym or antonym in this question. Candidates could choose any three questions to answer. The popular items were **(ii)**, **(iii)** and **(v)**. The majority of candidates could cope well in this question.

Question 10(i) ‘飞速’ 的同义词是什么？

The expected answer was: ‘迅猛’。 Some candidates wrongly gave ‘方便’ as the answer.

Question 10(ii) ‘过时’ 的反义词是什么？

The expected answer was: ‘流行’。Some candidates wrongly gave ‘到时’。

Question 10(iii) ‘包罗万象’ 的同义词是什么？

The expected answer was: ‘应有尽有’。The majority of candidates attempted this question well.

Question 10(iv) ‘马虎’ 的反义词是什么？

The expected answer was: ‘精心’。Some candidates wrongly gave ‘马上’ as the answer.

No candidates chose to answer **Question 10(v)**.