



**Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit**  
State Examinations Commission

**Leaving Certificate 2025**

**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 is the theme of the school event next week? (1 x 2 marks)  
Asian languages
- (b) Why is there no class on Monday next week? (1 x 2 marks)  
It is Bank Holiday.
- (c) There are **three** ways to sign up for the event. Name **two** of them. (2 x 2 marks)  
go to the office; via phone call; by email  
(Answer any two of the three)
- (d) Name **two** activities one can do if choosing to study Japanese. (2 x 2 marks)  
Japanese paintings; Japanese calligraphy; Japanese paper folding / Origami  
(Answer any two of the three)
- (e) Calligraphy is offered on **two** days of the week. What are the two days? (2 x 2 marks)  
Wednesday  
Thursday
- (f) Who wrote this notice? Answer in **Chinese**. (1 x 1 mark)  
李老師

Question 2 - 16 marks

- (a) There are **four** colours mentioned in the nursery rhyme. Name **two** of them. (2 x 1 mark)  
green; red; yellow; white  
(Answer any two of the four)
- (b) What is on the hill mentioned in the nursery rhyme? (1 x 2 marks)  
grass
- (c) What are the **two** seasons below? (2 x 2 marks)  
summer

winter

- (d) What is placed on the head mentioned in the nursery rhyme? (1 x 2 marks)

a (warm) hat

- (e) Chose a name for this nursery rhyme and explain the reason for your choice.

(2 x 3 marks)

(Any reasonable answer)

### Question 3 - 19 marks

- (a) What is the name of the hotel? Answer in **Chinese**. (1 x 1 mark)

假日（酒店）

- (b) How long does it take to get from the train station to the hotel by taxi? (1 x 2 marks)

10 minutes

- (c) **Two** types of transportation are suggested for travelling from the airport to the hotel. What are they? (2 x 2 marks)

bus

metro/subway (tram, luas)

- (d) There are **two** facilities located on the same floor as the reception. What are they? (2 x 2 marks)

coffee shop

swimming pool

- (e) Where and when is breakfast served in the hotel? (2 x 2 marks)

second/2

7 AM – 10 AM

- (f) What time is check-in and check-out? (2 x 2 marks)

1 PM / 13:00

before 12 PM / noon / midday

### Question 4 - 28 marks

- (a) Some children like to go to night markets. Name **two** reasons mentioned in the text.

(2 x 2 marks)

delicious food; nice beverage/drinks; fun activities

(Answer any two of the three)

- (b) Name **two** things young people like to do at Karaoke. (2 x 2 marks)

singing; chatting; making friends

(Answer any two of the three)

- (c) According to the text, why do some of the young people like to go to town squares in the evening? (1 x 4 marks)

They work during daytime, thus they come to the town squares to do exercises.

- (d) Based on the text, identify **two** types of people who like to go to libraries in the evening.

(2 x 2 marks)

People who enjoys peace and quiet; students; people who read; young people

(Answer any two of the four)

- (e) Fill in the blanks. You will find the characters for the first column in the text.

| Character in the text<br>(Answer in <b>Chinese</b> ) | Meaning of the character<br>(Answer in <b>English</b> ) | Radical of the character<br>(Answer in <b>Chinese</b> ) | Meaning of the radical<br>(Answer in <b>English</b> ) |
|--|---|---|---|
| 场  | <b>field</b><br>(1 mark)                                | 土<br>(1 mark)   | <b>earth, soil</b><br>(1 mark)                        |
| 跳<br>(1 mark)  | Jump  | 足<br>(1 mark)   | <b>foot</b><br>(1 mark)                               |
| 安<br>(1 mark)  | <b>safe, peaceful, calm</b><br>(1 mark)                 | 宀   | <b>roof, house</b><br>(1 mark)                        |
| 图 / 因 / 国<br>(1 mark)                                | <b>picture, map /<br/>because / country</b><br>(1 mark) | 口<br>(1 mark)   | enclosure   |

## 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<br>5 & 6   | Communication<br>(Task Response & Coherence)  |
|--|---|
| 14 to 20<br>marks<br><b>High level of<br/>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<br>marks<br><b>Moderate<br/>level of<br/>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<br><b>Low level of<br/>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<br>5 & 6  | Language<br>(Lexical Response, Accuracy & Grammatical Range)  |
|--|---|
| 14 to 20<br>marks<br><br><b>High level of<br/>achievement</b>        | <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 ...)<br/>(Up to 3 substitutes for Q5, and up to 6 substitutes for Q6)</li> </ol>   |
| 8 to 13<br>marks<br><br><b>Moderate<br/>level of<br/>achievement</b> | <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 ...)<br/>(Up to 5 substitutes for Q5, and up to 10 substitutes for Q6)</li> </ol>             |
| 0 to 7 marks<br><br><b>Low level of<br/>achievement</b>              | <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 ...)<br/>(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 19 marks

1. (a) Where is Lily? (1 x 2 marks)  
on the bus

(b) Where are they going to meet later? (2 x 1 mark)  
at the gate / entrance of the park

2. (a) Why are there lots of people around today? Name **two** reasons. (2 x 2 marks)  
It is Sunday/weekend.  
The weather is nice.

(b) What is Adam's younger brother doing right now? (1 x 2 marks)  
playing football/soccer

3. Indicate whether the following sentences are true or false by ticking (✓) the boxes.

|     |   | True         | False        |
|-----|---|--------------|--------------|
| (a) | Adam's younger brother is wearing a yellow T-shirt. |              | ✓<br>3 marks |
| (b) | Adam's younger brother is 18 years old.             |              | ✓<br>3 marks |
| (c) | Adam's younger brother is taller than Adam.         | ✓<br>3 marks |              |

### Section B: 18 marks

1. (a) Which month was Leo talking about? (1 x 2 marks)  
August

(b) Fill in the following table.

| Time                   | Location | Activity                |
|------------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| 8:40 a.m.              | /        | getting up<br>(2 marks) |
| 9:00 a.m.<br>(2 marks) | Park     | Jog                     |



|                                |      |                               |
|--------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 10:10 a.m.                     | /    | having breakfast<br>(2 marks) |
| <b>11:00 a.m.</b><br>(2 marks) | Home | Read books                    |

2. What did Leo do at home at 5:30 p.m.? (1 x 2 marks)

playing video games/computer games

3. Indicate whether the following sentences are true or false by ticking (✓) the boxes.

|     |   | True         | False        |
|-----|---|--------------|--------------|
| (a) | Leo had a meal with his family at 7:00 p.m. |              | ✓<br>3 marks |
| (b) | Leo went to bed at 11:00 p.m.               | ✓<br>3 marks |              |

### Section C: 14 marks

1. Name **two** types of dumplings available in the shop. (2 x 2 marks)

beef / lamb / chicken

(Answer any two of the three)

2. (a) What food is next to tofu? (1 x 2 marks)

noodles

- (b) To which side of the milk are the eggs? (1 x 2 marks)

left

3. (a) What festival is taking place next week? (1 x 3 marks)

Chinese New Year / Lunar New Year / Spring Festival

- (b) Where are the on-sale products located? (1 x 3 marks)

on the red table/desk

### Section D: 17 marks

1. (a) How many classes does Ms. Li have today? (1 x 2 marks)

6/six

- (b) How many classes does Mr. Wang have this afternoon? (1 x 2 marks)

no class/ zero / 0

2. (a) What will Mr. Wang do this afternoon? (1 x 2 marks)  
check the students' maths homework
- (b) Whose birthday is it today? (1 x 2 marks)  
Ms. Li's

3. Indicate whether the following sentences are true or false by ticking (✓) the boxes.

|     |   | True         | False        |
|-----|---|--------------|--------------|
| (a) | Ms. Li likes Korean cuisine.                                      |              | ✓<br>3 marks |
| (b) | Ms. Li wants to eat pizza tonight.                                | ✓<br>3 marks |              |
| (c) | Ms. Li and Mr. Wang are going to a restaurant in the city centre. | ✓<br>3 marks |              |

#### Section E: 18 marks

1. When did Ms. Zhang visit Dublin before? (1 x 3 marks)  
2014
2. (a) How does Ms. Zhang feel about the weather today? (1 x 3 marks)  
a bit cold
- (b) What will the weather be like this afternoon? (1 x 3 marks)  
sunny
- (c) What will the weather be like tomorrow? (1 x 3 marks)  
rainy
3. (a) Why is Ms. Zhang going to buy clothes? (1 x 3 marks)  
She feels cold. She does not bring sufficient cloths.
- (b) Why does the taxi driver recommend going to the supermarket? (1 x 3 marks)  
It is closer to the airport.

#### Section F: 14 marks

1. (a) What is Jack's nationality? (1 x 2 marks)

Irish

**(b)** What does Jack study at Guangzhou University? (1 x 2 marks)

Chinese

**(c)** How does Jack get to his classes in the university? (1 x 2 marks)

by bike / cycling

**2. (a)** What shop is beside the bookshop? (1 x 2 marks)

coffee shop

**(b)** Name **two** beverages mentioned in the Vlog. (2 x 2 marks)

coffee,

green tea

**3.** When are they going to Chengdu? (1 x 2 marks)

next month

# Appendix 1

## CD Script

### Section A

**You will hear a conversation between Lily and Adam.**

Adam: 喂, Lily, 你在哪里?

Lily: Adam, 我在公共汽车上。

Adam: 太好了! 我们在公园门口见。

Lily: 好的。一会儿见。

Lily: 今天公园有很多人。

Adam: 是的, 因为今天是星期天, 天气也很好。

Lily: 很多人在散步, 也有人踢足球。

Adam: 是的, 我弟弟在踢足球。

Lily: 你弟弟在哪儿?

Adam: 他在那儿。他穿蓝色的 T 恤, 黑色的短裤和白色的运动鞋。

Lily: 你的弟弟很高。

Adam: 是的。他今年 17 岁, 他比我小一岁。但是他比我高。

### Section B

**You will hear Leo describing a day during his summer holidays.**

我叫 Leo, 这是我八月的一天。我早上 8 点 40 起床, 上午 9 点, 我和我的小狗去公园跑步。上午 10 点 10 分, 我吃早饭。11 点, 我在家看书。

下午两点, 我吃午饭。下午 3 点半, 我骑自行车去电影院看电影。五点半, 我在家玩电脑游戏。

晚上 7 点, 我和好朋友一起吃晚饭。晚上 11 点, 我睡觉。

### Section C

**You will hear a conversation between a shop assistant and a customer.**

Customer: 你好! 请问有饺子吗?

Shop assistant: 有, 在这里。我们有牛肉饺子, 羊肉饺子和鸡肉饺子。

Customer: 我买牛肉饺子。你们有包子吗?

Shop assistant: 对不起, 我们没有包子。

Customer: 我还想买豆腐。豆腐在哪儿?

Shop assistant: 你看, 豆腐在面条的旁边。

Customer: 鸡蛋在哪儿?

Shop assistant: 鸡蛋在牛奶的左边。

Customer: 好的, 谢谢。

Shop assistant: 下个星期是中国新年, 我们的很多东西都便宜。

Customer: 是吗? 在哪儿呢?

Shop assistant: 在红色的桌子上。

## Section D

**You will hear a conversation between two teachers, Mr. Wang and Ms. Li**

Wang: 李老师, 你今天怎么样?

Li: 王老师, 我很忙。我今天有六节课。你呢?

Wang: 我还好。我下午没有课。

Li: 王老师, 你下午做什么?

Wang: 我要看看学生的数学作业。

Li: 今天是我的生日, 晚上我们一起吃饭吧。

Wang: 生日快乐, 李老师。你想吃什么菜?

Li: 我喜欢吃日本菜和法国菜。但是, 我今天想吃披萨。

Wang: 好的。市中心有一个很好的意大利饭店。

Li: 太好了, 我们去那里吧。

## Section E

**You will hear a conversation between a taxi driver and a passenger in the airport.**

Driver: 您好, 您是张女士吗?

Zhang: 对, 我是。这是我今天的车吗?

Driver: 是的。您第一次来都柏林吗?

Zhang: 不是。我 2014 年来过。

Zhang: 今天的天气有点儿冷。

Driver: 上午下雨, 所以有点儿冷。下午是晴天。

Zhang: 明天天气怎么样?

Driver: 明天下雨。这个星期每天都下雨。

Driver: 我们现在去酒店吗?

Zhang: 现在不去。我想去买衣服。我有点儿冷, 我没有带很多衣服。

Driver: 我们可以去超市, 也可以去商场。

Zhang: 哪一个近一点儿?

Driver: 超市离机场近一点儿。

Zhang: 好的, 我们去超市。谢谢。

## Section F

### You will hear Jack's travel Vlog.

大家好，我是 Jack，我是爱尔兰人。这里是中国广州。我在广州大学学习中文。我们一起去看看吧。因为广州大学很大，所以我骑自行车去上课。我朋友 Emma 喜欢走路去上课。

现在，我们在书店。书店的旁边是咖啡馆，我和 Emma 喜欢在这里学习。我喜欢吃面包，喝咖啡。Emma 喜欢喝绿茶。

好的，这是今天的 Vlog。我下个月要去成都，下次我们一起看看成都吧！再见！



