

PROFICIENCY EXAM GUIDELINES

for English & Chinese Language and Literature Students

The exam will be held in two sessions; **written exam** and **oral exam**. Written exam will be scored out of 100 points but will be converted into 80 points in the final assessment and the oral exam will be scored out of 20 points. Together, both parts will total **100 points**. In order to qualify, students must achieve a minimum combined score of **80** out of 100.

WRITTEN EXAM (100) POINTS)

A. LISTENING SECTION (20 POINTS TOTAL)

Listening I

You are going to hear a conversation / interview. Listen and complete the blanks in the following sentences with a word or words. You're going to hear the recording twice. You have 45 seconds to look at the sentences. (1 point each)

(In this section students will be given 10 sentences, each with one blank. They are supposed to complete the sentences according to what they hear.)

Listening II

You are going to hear a lecture about Listen carefully and take notes in the space provided below. Focus on organising your notes clearly as you will use them to answer detailed questions later. Remember, your notes will not be graded. You will hear the recording twice.

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(After hearing “This is the end of the listening section”, students will be given another booklet where they will find 10 multiple choice questions.)

Choose the best answer to complete the following sentences using your notes from the lecture. (1 point each)

B. LANGUAGE USE SECTION (40 POINTS TOTAL)

I. Complete the following text by writing ONE word in each gap. Use words that are grammatically correct and make sense in the context. The first one is done as an example. (1 point each)

e.g. In recent years, more people have become interested in the concept of *digital detoxing* — deliberately stepping away from screens and online platforms. While the idea may seem simple, it often proves harder (1) than expected. Many individuals underestimate the extent (2) to which they rely on technology, not just for communication, but also for relaxation and entertainment. The constant stream of notifications creates a sense of urgency, making it difficult to disconnect. However, those (3) who manage to unplug, even temporarily, often report improved focus, better sleep, and stronger real-life connections, suggesting that short-term discomfort can lead to long-term benefits....

II. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Use the keyword given in brackets. DO NOT CHANGE the given word. An example has been done for you. (1 point each)

e.g. It's a pity I didn't take that job offer. (WISH)

I wish I had taken that job offer.

III. Find and circle the mistake in the sentences in column A and WRITE THE CORRECT EXPRESSION in the place provided in column B. An example has been done for you. (1 point each)

e.g.	Scientists at the medical center <u>is trying</u> to determine <u>if</u> there <u>is</u> a direct relationship <u>between</u> saccharine and cancer.	<u>are trying</u>
	(A) B C D	

IV. Fill in each blank in the following text with the correct form of the word given in brackets. (1 point each)

e.g.

While the speaker's ideas were thought-provoking, her 1) expressive (expression) style made it difficult to connect with the audience. She often jumped between topics without logical transitions, making it difficult for the audience to follow her argument 2) coherently (coherent). Nevertheless, many attendees appreciated the originality of her approach and noted that her talk sparked genuine 3) engagement (engage) among participants, who continued the discussion long after the session ended.

V. Circle the word which best completes each sentence. (0.5 point each)

e.g.

1. A product can be labelled "organic" when it has followed specific rules like the ISO 65 guide standards for organic farming. To achieve this, all operators must be inspected and _____ by an international certification body, such as ECOCERT.

a) abolished

(b) validated

c) entrapped

d) indulged

C. READING SECTION (20 POINTS TOTAL)

(In this section, there will be two reading texts of different lengths (500–750 words). The question types vary from main idea and specific information questions to inference, reference, and vocabulary-in-context questions.)

e.g.

Reading Text Sample

5	In the past decade, social media has become deeply embedded in everyday life, shaping how people communicate, work, and even see themselves. What began as a tool for connection has evolved into a powerful force capable of influencing personal identity and social values. As users increasingly curate <u>their</u> online presence, questions arise about how digital platforms impact self-perception and mental well-being.
10	1) <u>B</u> One major factor is the prevalence of comparison. Platforms like Instagram and TikTok are filled with carefully selected images and videos that often portray idealized lifestyles. Users, especially younger ones, may feel pressured to meet unrealistic standards of beauty, success, or happiness. This constant exposure can lead to feelings of inadequacy, low self-esteem, and even anxiety. Studies have shown that frequent social media use is correlated with negative self-evaluation, particularly when individuals measure their worth based on likes, comments, and follower counts.

I. Match the following headings (A- G) with the appropriate numbered paragraphs (1 – 5) in the text. Note: There is ONE extra heading that does not match. (1 point each)

- A. Scrolling Through the Self
B. When Perfection Becomes the Norm
C. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

II. Match the following words from the text with their definitions on the right. There are two EXTRA definitions. (0.5 point each)

e.g.

Words	Definitions
<u>e</u> 1. correlated (line 12)	a. not certain or universally agreed upon
___ 2. xxxxxxxx (line x)	b. to influence or direct
	c. to note or observe a difference; distinguish accurately
	d. describing two or more things that are closely connected

III. What do the underlined words in the text refer to? Write your answers in the blanks provided. (0,5 point each)

e.g.

1. their (line 4) refers to users'
2. xxxx (line x) refers to _____

IV. Answer the following questions according to the text. Use your own words and do not write any extra or irrelevant information. (2 points each)

1. In what ways does social media comparison affect users' mental well-being, according to the text?

Possible Answer: According to the text, social media comparison can negatively affect mental health by causing people to feel inadequate, undervalued, and anxious, especially when they base their self-worth on likes and follower counts.

D. WRITING SECTION (20 POINTS)

(In this section, students are expected to write an academic essay on the causes and/or effects, advantages and/or disadvantages etc. of a topic, or state their opinions about a given argument. Students are required to choose one of the topics given, and write an essay with an introduction paragraph, 2-3 body paragraphs and a conclusion paragraph.)

Choose one of the topics below to write a well-developed **ACADEMIC ESSAY** between 255 – 345 words.

- Make sure that your paragraph is well organized, has unity and coherence.
- Do not forget to write the word-count in the place provided at the bottom of the page.
- Your essay will be graded over Content (8), Organization (4), Language Use (6) and Mechanical Accuracy (2).

TOPIC 1: “.....”

TOPIC 2: “.....”

Word count: _____

ORAL EXAM (20 POINTS)

(Students are expected to arrive at the exam centre at their assigned time. They will be invited into the exam room in pairs. The interlocutor will begin by asking for their names and surnames, and will then give general instructions regarding the exam procedure and expectations.)

Speaking Part 1 - Question and Answer (2:00 minutes for each student)

(Each student will be asked two questions by the interlocutor.)

e.g.

To student 1:	To student 2:
1. What makes you feel stressed in your life? Why?	1. What do you think are the most important problems in the world today?
2. In your opinion, how can university students overcome stress in their lives?	2. Do you think the future will be better or worse for your grandchildren? Why?

Speaking Part 2 – Pair discussion (7:00 minutes – 1:00 for individual preparation & 5:00 – 6:00 minutes for the pair's discussion)

(In the second part of the speaking exam, students are given a task based on a situation and a set of pictures. The interlocutor introduces the task by stating the card number and reading the instructions aloud. Students are given 1 minute to think individually. After the preparation time, they are expected to discuss the situation together, using the pictures as prompts. The goal is to respond to the situation and persuade each other while demonstrating effective communication and turn-taking strategies.)

e.g.



You have passed all your exams, and you want to celebrate together. You don't want to spend too much money, but you want to enjoy. Decide together which one you want to do.

Talk to each other and explain your ideas by comparing all the pictures and support your argument.

Picture Task No. 02