



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate 2026

Marking Scheme

Mandarin Chinese

Ordinary 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: 100 MARKS

Question 1 - 8 marks

Word	Letter
手	E (1 mark)
脚	C (1 mark)
雨伞	H (1 mark)
老师	G (1 mark)
桌子	A (1 mark)
饺子	F (1 mark)
电脑	D (1 mark)
冰淇淋	B (1 mark)

Question 2 – 25 marks

- (a) What day is the Sports Day? (1 x 5 marks)
Friday ✓
- (b) What time should one arrive at school on that day? (1 x 5 marks)
8:40 a.m. ✓
- (c) Where is the Sports Day taking place? (1 x 5 marks)
football pitch ✓
- (d) The notice mentioned **two** items of clothing to be worn on Sports Day. Name **one** of them. (1 x 5 marks)
sportswear; sports shoes
(Answer any one of the two)
- (e) What should one bring on the Sports Day? (1 x 5 marks)
lunch and a water bottle ✓

Question 3 - 28 marks

- (a) What country will group 1 go to? (1 x 4 marks)

China ✓

- (b) When will group 2 depart? (2 x 2 marks)

Month: April

Date: 15th

- (c) What activity will group 3 do? (1 x 4 marks)

learn French ✓

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

	True	False
(i) Group 1 will be away for seven days.		✓ (3 marks)
(ii) Group 2 will learn to dance.	✓ (3 marks)	

- (e) Tick (✓) the correct category for each of the following characters.

	Left-to-right structure	Top-bottom structure	Enclosed structure	Single structure
月				✓ (2 marks)
字		✓ (2 marks)		
班	✓ (2 marks)			
语	✓ (2 marks)			
学		✓ (2 marks)		

Question 4 - 39 marks

- (a) If students can complete all **four** activities, what animal sticker will they receive?

(1 x 6 marks)

panda

- (b) What is the first activity about? (1 x 6 marks)
 buying a book ✓
- (c) Having completed the second activity, which colour sticker will one receive? (1 x 6 marks)
 green ✓
- (d) What is the name of the song for the third activity? (1 x 6 marks)
 'Happy New Year' ✓
- (e) What Chinese character must students write for the fourth activity? Answer in **Chinese**. (1 x 6 marks)
 福
- (f) Indicate whether the following sentences are True or False by ticking (✓) the boxes.

	True	False
(i) The students will play table tennis for the second activity.	✓ (3 marks)	
(ii) Students who complete the fourth activity will receive black stickers.		✓ (3 marks)
(iii) According to the slide, one cannot receive any sticker unless one speaks Chinese for the activities.	✓ (3 marks)	

WRITING: 60 MARKS

Questions 5 - 30 marks

- (a)
- (i) 好 (3 marks)
- (ii) 吗 (3 marks)
- (b)
- (i) 哪 (3 marks)
- (ii) 那 (3 marks)
- (c)
- (i) 牛 (3 marks)
- (ii) 半 (3 marks)
- (iii) 生 (3 marks)

(d)

(i) 他 (3 marks)

(ii) 也 (3 marks)

(iii) 地 (3 marks)

Question 6 - 30 marks

Marking Instruction:

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

Use wavy lines for grammatical mistakes.

Use underline for substitutes of characters.

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

Communication = 3 marks

Language = 3 marks

The language dimension should be assessed only in relation to language produced in an attempt to fulfil the communicative task. Copied or reproduced material that does not contribute to task fulfilment should not be rewarded.

MARKING GRID

Communication	
3 marks High level of achievement	• Uses a full sentence to answer the question • Good or excellent achievement of the task
2 marks Moderate level of achievement	• Uses phrase/s to answer the question • Adequate achievement of the task
0-1 mark Low level of achievement	• Uses word/s to answer the question • Barely adequate or no achievement of the task

Language	
3 marks High level of achievement	• Some or no mistakes in characters, but do not significantly impede meaning • No mistakes in grammar and word order, or mistakes do not impede meaning • Very few to no substitutes of characters using other languages or means (e.g., pinyin, traditional characters, first language, other phonetic symbols ...)

2 marks Moderate level of achievement	• Frequent mistakes in characters, but do not significantly impede meaning • Some mistakes in grammar and word order, but do not significantly impede meaning • Some substitutes of characters using other languages or means (e.g., pinyin, traditional characters, first language, other phonetic symbols ...)
0-1 mark Low level of achievement	• Frequent mistakes in characters, which impede meaning • Mistakes in grammar and word order impede meaning significantly • Frequent substitutes of characters using other languages or means (e.g., pinyin, traditional characters, first language, other phonetic symbols ...)

LISTENING COMPREHENSION: 120 MARKS

Answers given in the wrong language e.g. answers in Irish/English when Mandarin Chinese is required or answers in Mandarin Chinese when Irish/English is required – award 50% of the marks.

Section A - 20 marks

- (a) What is Mark's mother doing? (1 x 4 marks)

having breakfast ✓

(b) What is the time in China now? (1 x 4 marks)

6 p.m. ✓
- In which Chinese city is Mark now? (1 x 4 marks)

Beijing ✓
- (a) Where did Mark go with his friend in the morning? (1 x 4 marks)

bookstore ✓

(b) What is Mark's mother going to do today? (1 x 4 marks)

go shopping ✓

Section B - 20 marks

- (a) Why does Ma Yan need to buy a new ticket? (1 x 4 marks)

She missed the flight. ✓

(b) Which gate should Ma Yan go to? (1 x 4 marks)

Gate 17 ✓

2. (a) What country is Ma Yan going to? (1 x 4 marks)

Ireland

(b) What is Ma Yan's occupation? (1 x 4 marks)

student ✓

3. For which time slot does Ma Yan want to buy a ticket? (1 x 4 marks)

afternoon ✓

Section C - 20 marks

1. What does Maria study? (1 x 4 marks)

business and Chinese ✓

2. (a) What is Maria's nationality? (1 x 4 marks)

Spanish ✓

(b) Maria mentions **three** activities she does with her friends to learn Chinese. Name **one** of them. (1 x 4 marks)

chatting in Chinese; singing Chinese songs; watching Chinese films

(Answer any one of the three)

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

	True	False
(i) Maria went to China for the first time in 2023.	✓ (4 marks)	
(ii) Maria went to China with her friends in 2025.		✓ (4 marks)

Section D - 20 marks

1. What beverages can Christian make? (1 x 4 marks)

fruit tea and bubble tea ✓

2. (a) Christian can speak **three** languages. Name **one** of them. (1 x 4 marks)

Irish; English; Chinese

(Answer any one of the three)

- (b) Where is Christian going tomorrow? (1 x 4 marks)
to a hospital ✓

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

	True	False
(i) Christian can work at a bubble tea shop on both Saturdays and Sundays.		✓ (4 marks)
(ii) Christian can drive.	✓ (4 marks)	

Section E - 20 marks

1. (a) According to Finn, which season is it now? (1 x 4 marks)
summer ✓
- (b) What are many people doing by the sea now? (1 x 4 marks)
swimming ✓
2. What means of transport does Finn prefer to use for travelling? (1 x 4 marks)
train ✓
3. (a) According to Finn, what is the winter like in Ireland? (1 x 4 marks)
very cold ✓
- (b) What does Finn do during Christmas? (1 x 4 marks)
stays with family ✓

Section F - 20 marks

1. (a) What does Wang Chen have for lunch? (1 x 4 marks)
rice and eggs ✓
- (b) Who cooked the lunch for Wang Chen? (1 x 4 marks)
Wang Chen's father ✓
2. (a) What fruit does Emma have for lunch? (1 x 4 marks)
apple ✓
- (b) What classes does Emma have this afternoon? (1 x 4 marks)
maths and P.E. ✓

3. What is Wang Chen going to do this afternoon?

(1 x 4 marks)

playing basketball

✓

Appendix 1

CD Script

Section A

You will hear a video call between Mark and his mother.

Mark: 妈妈，你在干什么？

妈妈：我在吃早饭。Mark，你吃早饭了吗？

Mark: 我在中国，我这里是下午六点，我刚刚吃了晚饭。

妈妈：哦，我忘记了。爱尔兰现在是上午十点。

妈妈：你还在上海吗？

Mark: 没有，我现在在北京。

妈妈：北京天气怎么样？

Mark: 北京天气很好。

妈妈：你今天做了什么？

Mark: 上午我和朋友一起去了书店。你呢，你今天要做什么？

妈妈：早饭后，我想去超市买东西。

Mark: 好的。

Section B

You will hear a conversation between Ma Yan and the check-in staff at Beijing Airport.

staff: 您好。

Ma Yan: 你好，我要买新的机票，因为我没坐上飞机。

staff: 哦？请问为什么？

Ma Yan: 我要去 17 号门，但是，我去了 70 号门，飞机飞走了。

staff: 好的，请问您去哪里？

Ma Yan: 我去爱尔兰都柏林。

staff: 你是学生吗？

Ma Yan: 是的，我是学生。

staff: 我们有上午的飞机，六百欧；下午的飞机，八百欧。

Ma Yan: 我想坐下午的飞机。谢谢！

staff: 好的。

Section C

You will hear Maria introducing herself.

你好，我叫 Maria。我学习商业和中文。我学中文六年了。我觉得中文很有意思。

我是西班牙人。在爱尔兰我有很多朋友。我们一起学习中文。我们用中文聊天，唱中文歌，看中文电影。

2023 年，我第一次去中国。我会说一点儿中文，但是我不会写汉字。2025 年，我和我的家人又去了中国。这次去中国，我觉得我的中文很好。我们认识了很多中国朋友。

Section D

You will hear a part-time job interview between Christian and a bubble tea shop manager.

Manager: 你好，你叫什么名字？

Christian: 你好，我叫 Christian。我今年 19 岁。

manager: 欢迎来我们奶茶店。你会做什么？

Christian: 我会做水果茶和奶茶。

manager: 你会说什么语言？

Christian: 我会说爱尔兰语，英语和中文。但是我的中文不太好，

Manager: 没关系。我们明天会很忙。你明天可以来吗？

Christian: 明天不行，明天我要去医院，我的牙疼。

manager: 好的。你星期六和星期天可以工作吗？

Christian: 星期六可以，星期天不可以，因为星期天我要去花店工作。

manager: 好的，没问题。你会开车吗？

Christian: 我会。

manager: 太好了。

Section E

You will hear a podcast from Finn.

你好！我是 Finn。欢迎来到爱尔兰。我现在在 Galway。现在是夏天，天气 热。看！有很多人在海边游泳。也有很多人吃巧克力冰淇淋和绿茶冰淇淋。我喜欢爱尔兰的夏天。

我也喜欢爱尔兰的春天和秋天。春天和秋天常常下雨。我喜欢雨天。我喜欢坐火车去旅游。

爱尔兰的冬天很冷。但是我们都很开心。冬天有圣诞节，圣诞节我和家人在一起。

Section F

You will hear a conversation between Emma and Wang Chen during lunch time.

Emma: Wang Chen, 你在吃什么？看起来很好吃。

Chen: 我在吃米饭和鸡蛋。

Emma: 你会做中国菜吗？

Chen: 我不会，这个菜是我爸爸做的。

Chen: 你今天吃什么？

Emma: 我吃鸡肉三明治和苹果。

Chen: 看起来很不错。你下午有什么课？

Emma: 我下午有数学课和体育课。你呢？

Chen: 我下午没有课。

Emma: 为什么？

Chen: 因为我要去打篮球。

