2025

AP® Chinese Language and Culture

Scoring Guidelines

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Question 1: Story Narration — 6 points

General Scoring Note

When applying the scoring guidelines, the response does not need to meet every single criterion in a column. You should award the score according to the preponderance of evidence.

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	1 Very weak	2 Weak	3 Adequate	4 Good	5 Very good	6 Excellent
	Demonstrates lack of competence in presentational writing	**Suggests lack of competence in presentational writing**	**Suggests competence in presentational writing**	**Demonstrates competence in presentational writing**	**Suggests excellence in presentational writing**	**Demonstrates excellence in presentational writing**
TASK COMPLETION	• Response incomplete and difficult to follow; lacks narrative elements; may be inconsistent with stimulus	• Response characterized by description or listing, with little narration; may be inconsistent with stimulus	• Narration tells a basic story consistent with stimulus but may have inconsistencies in its logical progression from beginning to end	• Narration tells a complete story consistent with stimulus but may lack detail or elaboration or have minor inconsistencies in its logical progression from beginning to end	• Narration includes a beginning, middle, and end that tell a logical and complete story consistent with stimulus	• Narration includes a thorough and detailed beginning, middle, and end that tell a logical and complete story consistent with stimulus
	• Lacks organization and coherence; very disjointed sentences or isolated words	• Scattered information generally lacks organization and coherence; minimal or no use of transitional elements and cohesive devices; fragmented sentences	• Portions may lack organization or coherence; infrequent use of transitional elements and cohesive devices; disconnected sentences	• Generally organized and coherent; use of transitional elements and cohesive devices may be inconsistent; discourse of paragraph length, although sentences may be loosely connected	• Well organized and coherent, with a progression of ideas that is generally clear; some use of transitional elements and cohesive devices; connected discourse of paragraph length	• Well organized and coherent, with a clear progression of ideas; use of appropriate transitional elements and cohesive devices; well-connected discourse of paragraph length
DELIVERY	• Constant use of register inappropriate to situation	• Frequent use of register inappropriate to situation	• Use of register appropriate to situation is inconsistent or includes many errors	• May include several lapses in otherwise consistent use of register appropriate to situation	• Consistent use of register appropriate to situation except for occasional lapses	• Consistent use of register appropriate to situation
LANGUAGE USE	• Insufficient, inappropriate vocabulary, with frequent errors that significantly obscure meaning; constant interference from another language	• Minimal appropriate vocabulary, with frequent errors that obscure meaning; repeated interference from another language	• Limited appropriate vocabulary and idioms, with frequent errors that sometimes obscure meaning; intermittent interference from another language	• Mostly appropriate vocabulary and idioms, with errors that do not generally obscure meaning	• Appropriate vocabulary and idioms, with sporadic errors	• Rich and appropriate vocabulary and idioms, with minimal errors
	• Little or no control of grammatical structures, with frequent errors that significantly obscure meaning	• Limited grammatical structures, with frequent errors that obscure meaning	• Mostly simple grammatical structures, with frequent errors that sometimes obscure meaning	• Mostly appropriate grammatical structures, with errors that do not generally obscure meaning	• Variety of grammatical structures, with sporadic errors	• Wide range of grammatical structures, with minimal errors

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Score of 0: UNACCEPTABLE—Contains nothing that earns credit

- Completely irrelevant to the stimulus
- Not in Chinese characters

NR (No Response): BLANK (no response)

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Question 2: Email Response — 6 points

General Scoring Note

When applying the scoring guidelines, the response does not need to meet every single criterion in a column. You should award the score according to the preponderance of evidence.

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	1 Very weak	2 Weak	3 Adequate	4 Good	5 Very good	6 Excellent
	Demonstrates lack of competence in interpersonal writing	**Suggests lack of competence in interpersonal writing**	**Suggests emerging competence in interpersonal writing**	**Demonstrates competence in interpersonal writing**	**Suggests excellence in interpersonal writing**	**Demonstrates excellence in interpersonal writing**
TASK COMPLETION	• Email addresses stimulus only minimally • Lacks organization and coherence; very disjointed sentences or isolated words	• Email addresses topic only marginally or addresses only some aspects of stimulus • Scattered information generally lacks organization and coherence; minimal or no use of transitional elements and cohesive devices; fragmented sentences	• Email addresses topic directly but may not address all aspects of stimulus • Portions may lack organization or coherence; infrequent use of transitional elements and cohesive devices; disconnected sentences	• Email addresses all aspects of stimulus but may lack detail or elaboration • Generally organized and coherent; use of transitional elements and cohesive devices may be inconsistent; discourse of paragraph length, although sentences may be loosely connected	• Email addresses all aspects of stimulus • Well organized and coherent, with a progression of ideas that is generally clear; some use of transitional elements and cohesive devices; connected discourse of paragraph length	• Email addresses all aspects of stimulus with thoroughness and detail • Well organized and coherent, with a clear progression of ideas; use of appropriate transitional elements and cohesive devices; well-connected discourse of paragraph length
DELIVERY	• Constant use of register inappropriate to situation	• Frequent use of register inappropriate to situation	• Use of register appropriate to situation is inconsistent or includes many errors	• May include several lapses in otherwise consistent use of register appropriate to situation	• Consistent use of register appropriate to situation except for occasional lapses	• Consistent use of register appropriate to situation
LANGUAGE USE	• Insufficient, inappropriate vocabulary, with frequent errors that significantly obscure meaning; constant interference from another language • Little or no control of grammatical structures, with frequent errors that significantly obscure meaning	• Minimal appropriate vocabulary, with frequent errors that obscure meaning; repeated interference from another language • Limited grammatical structures, with frequent errors that obscure meaning	• Limited appropriate vocabulary and idioms, with frequent errors that sometimes obscure meaning; intermittent interference from another language • Mostly simple grammatical structures, with frequent errors that sometimes obscure meaning	• Mostly appropriate vocabulary and idioms, with errors that do not generally obscure meaning • Mostly appropriate grammatical structures, with errors that do not generally obscure meaning	• Appropriate vocabulary and idioms, with sporadic errors • Variety of grammatical structures, with sporadic errors	• Rich and appropriate vocabulary and idioms, with minimal errors • Wide range of grammatical structures, with minimal errors

Score of 0: UNACCEPTABLE—Contains nothing that earns credit

- Completely irrelevant to the stimulus
- Not in Chinese characters

NR (No Response): BLANK (no response)

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Question 3: Conversation — 6 points

General Scoring Note

When applying the scoring guidelines, the response does not need to meet every single criterion in a column. You should award the score according to the preponderance of evidence.

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	1 Very weak	2 Weak	3 Adequate	4 Good	5 Very good	6 Excellent
	Demonstrates lack of competence in interpersonal speaking	**Suggests lack of competence in interpersonal speaking**	**Suggests emerging competence in interpersonal speaking**	**Demonstrates competence in interpersonal speaking**	**Suggests excellence in interpersonal speaking**	**Demonstrates excellence in interpersonal speaking**
TASK COMPLETION	• Addresses prompt minimally or marginally	• Directly addresses prompt and provides an appropriate but incomplete answer	• Directly addresses prompt and provides a basic but appropriate answer	• Directly addresses prompt and provides an appropriate response	• Directly addresses prompt and provides a thorough and appropriate response; may include elaboration and detail	• Directly addresses prompt and provides a very thorough and appropriate response; includes elaboration and detail
	• Very disjointed sentences or isolated words	• Fragmented sentences	• Disconnected sentences	• Sentences may be loosely connected	• Connected sentences	• Smoothly connected sentences
DELIVERY	• Very labored pace and intonation, with constant hesitation and repetition	• Labored pace and intonation, with frequent hesitation and repetition	• Inconsistent pace and intonation, with hesitation and repetition that interfere with comprehension	• Generally consistent pace and intonation, with intermittent hesitation and repetition	• Smooth pace and intonation, with occasional hesitation and repetition	• Natural pace and intonation, with minimal hesitation or repetition
	• Frequent errors in pronunciation (including tones) necessitate intense listener effort	• Frequent errors in pronunciation (including tones) necessitate constant listener effort	• Errors in pronunciation (including tones) sometimes necessitate special listener effort	• May have several errors in pronunciation (including tones), which do not necessitate special listener effort	• Occasional errors in pronunciation (including tones)	• Accurate pronunciation (including tones), with minimal errors
	• Constant use of register inappropriate to situation	• Frequent use of register inappropriate to situation	• Use of register appropriate to situation is inconsistent or includes many errors	• May include several lapses in otherwise consistent use of register appropriate to situation	• Consistent use of register appropriate to situation except for occasional lapses	• Consistent use of register appropriate to situation
LANGUAGE USE	• Insufficient, inappropriate vocabulary, with frequent errors that significantly obscure meaning; constant interference from another language	• Minimal appropriate vocabulary, with frequent errors that obscure meaning; repeated interference from another language	• Limited appropriate vocabulary and idioms, with frequent errors that sometimes obscure meaning; intermittent interference from another language	• Mostly appropriate vocabulary and idioms, with errors that do not generally obscure meaning	• Appropriate vocabulary and idioms, with sporadic errors	• Rich and appropriate vocabulary and idioms, with minimal errors
	• Little or no control of grammatical structures, with frequent errors that significantly obscure meaning	• Limited grammatical structures, with frequent errors that obscure meaning	• Mostly simple grammatical structures, with frequent errors that sometimes obscure meaning	• Mostly appropriate grammatical structures, with errors that do not generally obscure meaning	• Variety of grammatical structures, with sporadic errors	• Wide range of grammatical structures, with minimal errors

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Score of 0: UNACCEPTABLE performance—Contains nothing that earns credit

- Mere restatement of the prompt
- Clearly does not respond to the prompt
- “I don’t know,” “I don’t understand,” “Please repeat,” or equivalent in Chinese
- Not in Mandarin Chinese

NR (No Response): BLANK (no response although recording equipment is functioning) or mere sighs

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Question 4: Cultural Presentation — 6 points

General Scoring Note

When applying the scoring guidelines, the response does not need to meet every single criterion in a column. You should award the score according to the preponderance of evidence.

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	1 Very weak	2 Weak	3 Adequate	4 Good	5 Very good	6 Excellent
	Demonstrates lack of competence in presentational speaking and cultural knowledge	**Suggests lack of competence in presentational speaking and cultural knowledge**	**Suggests competence in presentational speaking and cultural knowledge**	**Demonstrates competence in presentational speaking and cultural knowledge**	**Suggests excellence in presentational speaking and cultural knowledge**	**Demonstrates excellence in presentational speaking and cultural knowledge**
TASK COMPLETION	• Presentation addresses prompt only minimally	• Presentation addresses topic only marginally or addresses only some aspects of prompt	• Presentation addresses topic directly but may not address all aspects of prompt	• Presentation addresses all aspects of prompt but may lack detail or elaboration	• Presentation addresses all aspects of prompt	• Presentation addresses all aspects of prompt with thoroughness and detail
	• Lacks organization and coherence; very disjointed sentences or isolated words	• Scattered information generally lacks organization and coherence; minimal or no use of transitional elements and cohesive devices; fragmented sentences	• Portions may lack organization or coherence; infrequent use of transitional elements and cohesive devices; disconnected sentences	• Generally organized and coherent; use of transitional elements and cohesive devices may be inconsistent; discourse of paragraph length, although sentences may be loosely connected	• Well organized and coherent, with a progression of ideas that is generally clear; some use of transitional elements and cohesive devices; connected discourse of paragraph length	• Well organized and coherent, with a clear progression of ideas; use of appropriate transitional elements and cohesive devices; well-connected discourse of paragraph length
	• Cultural information has frequent or significant inaccuracies	• Cultural information has several inaccuracies	• Cultural information is generally correct but has some inaccuracies	• Cultural information is accurate but may lack detail	• Cultural information is accurate and detailed	• Cultural information is ample, accurate, and detailed
DELIVERY	• Very labored pace and intonation, with constant hesitation and repetition	• Labored pace and intonation, with frequent hesitation and repetition	• Inconsistent pace and intonation, with hesitation and repetition that interfere with comprehension	• Generally consistent pace and intonation, with intermittent hesitation and repetition	• Smooth pace and intonation, with occasional hesitation and repetition	• Natural pace and intonation, with minimal hesitation or repetition
	• Frequent errors in pronunciation (including tones) necessitate intense listener effort	• Frequent errors in pronunciation (including tones) necessitate constant listener effort	• Errors in pronunciation (including tones) sometimes necessitate special listener effort	• May have several errors in pronunciation (including tones), which do not necessitate special listener effort	• Occasional errors in pronunciation (including tones)	• Accurate pronunciation (including tones), with minimal errors
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Score of 0: UNACCEPTABLE—Contains nothing that earns credit

- Mere restatement of the prompt
- Clearly does not respond to the prompt; completely irrelevant to the topic
- Not in Mandarin Chinese

NR (No Response): BLANK (no response although recording equipment is functioning) or mere sighs

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