

IGCSE CHINESE FIRST LANGUAGE - 0509

Course Overview

First language Mandarin speakers who are proficient in Mandarin may select this course. Pupils wishing to pursue this course will need to demonstrate native-speaker ability in the classroom.

Course aims

This course enables candidates to:

- Read a wide range of texts, fluently and with good understanding and appreciating a variety of language
- Communicate accurately, appropriately and effectively when writing
- Develop skills of a more general nature (e.g. analysis, drawing of inference)
- Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology and linguistic conventions

Course content

Candidates will engage with a range of genres and types of texts, including fiction and non-fiction, essays, reviews and articles, as well as Classical Chinese texts. The course focuses on the study of writers' use of language and style. Candidates would also focus on the ways in which writers achieve effects and influence readers.

Course assessment

All candidates will take two papers.

Paper 1: Reading, Directed writing and Classical Chinese 50% Externally assessed

Paper 2: Writing 50% Externally assessed

IGCSE CHINESE SECOND LANGUAGE - 0523

Course Overview

Cambridge IGCSE Chinese As A Second Language is designed for students who already have a working knowledge of Chinese and want to develop their understanding to progress their education or career. Through their studies, students achieve a thorough understanding of a wide range of registers and styles and learn to communicate appropriately in different situations. The syllabus concentrates on the development of the linked language skills of reading, writing and oral communication.

Course Content

The IGCSE syllabus covers the following topics:

1. Everyday activities: home life and school; food, health and fitness.
2. Personal and social life: self, family and personal relationships; holidays and special occasions.
3. The world around us: home town and local area; natural and made environment; people, places and customs.
4. The world of work: continuing education; careers and employment; language and communication in the workplace.
5. The international world: tourism at home and abroad; life in other countries and communities; world events and issues.

Assessment Details

Students will develop practical communication skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will be presented with a variety of stimuli that will build up their skills in reading and writing. They will learn to select relevant details, understand the difference between what is directly stated and implied, and practise writing for different purposes and audiences. Students will listen to a range of spoken material, including talks and conversations, in order to develop listening skills. In both written and spoken Chinese, students will be able to respond to factual information as well as abstract ideas. Students will engage in conversations on a variety of topics, and develop their skills in expressing their viewpoints with a degree of accuracy and clarity, becoming independent users of Chinese and to use Chinese to communicate effectively in a variety of practical contexts.

All of the papers and speaking component are assessed in Mandarin Chinese only. Candidates may answer in either traditional or simplified characters.

Paper 1 Reading and writing: 60% weighting.

Paper 2 Listening: 20% weighting.

Component 3 Speaking: 20% weighting.

IGCSE MANDARIN FOREIGN LANGUAGE - 0547

Why is Chinese Foreign Language so important?

With an economy growing by leaps and bounds, the importance of China on the world stage is increasingly felt. Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world, used not only in China but also in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and many other places in South-East Asia. Significant populations of people who speak Chinese also live in urban centres around the world. It is one of the key languages in the world culturally and in business. Learning Mandarin Chinese is a challenging but rewarding experience: no doubt written Chinese is difficult to learn but it is an extraordinary and agreeable experience through which you can immerse yourself in a different culture and develop lifelong skills.

Course Content

- Character writing & Formation
- Chinese Pinyin
- Introducing China – Cultures & customs
- Oral & Listening Tasks – Dialogues, Q&A, Interviews, Surveys, Oral Presentations
- Vocabulary
- Writing simple essays and notes, e.g. articles, letters
- Role Play situations (booking a hotel, finding directions, etc.)

How will I learn?

In lessons, you will be encouraged to:

- Work in pairs or small groups to practice using the language orally and in writing.
- Use ICT to practice the language and carry on projects
- Work independently on assignments.
- Work individually or in small groups to do intensive speaking practice in preparation for oral exam.
- Assess your own work and that of others in your group to help you to understand how to improve.
- Be involved in target setting and the learning review process.
- Be active and participate in class.
- Practise individually or collaboratively reading and writing characters

How will I be assessed?

Assessment will be through the IGCSE Exam at the end of Year 11.

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| • Paper 1 - Listening (35 minutes) | 25% |
| • Paper 2 - Reading Comprehension (1 hour 15 minutes) | 25% |
| • Paper 3 - Oral Speaking (15 minutes) | 25% |
| • Paper 4 - Extended Writing (1 hour 15 minutes) | 25% |