

# GCSE Chinese (Pearson Edexcel)



# GCSE Chinese

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Full link to specification is here:

[Specification - Chinese \(pearson.com\)](https://www.pearson.com/qualifications/gcse/gcse-chinese-specification)

Sample Assessment Materials are here:

[sams-gcse-chinese-2022-issue-3.pdf](https://www.pearson.com/qualifications/gcse/gcse-chinese-specification/sample-assessment-materials)

### **Theme 1: Identity and culture**

- Who am I?: relationships; when I was younger; what my friends and family are like; what makes a good friend; interests; socialising with friends and family; role models
- Daily life: customs and everyday life; food and drink; shopping; social media and technology (use of, advantages and disadvantages)
- Cultural life: celebrations and festivals; reading; music; sport; film and television

### **Theme 2: Local area, holiday and travel**

- Holidays: preferences; experiences; and destinations
- Travel and tourist transactions: travel and accommodation; asking for help and dealing with problems; directions; eating out; shopping
- Town, region and country: weather; places to see; things to do

### **Theme 3: School**

- What school is like: school types; school day; subjects; rules and pressures; celebrating success
- School activities: school trips; events; exchanges

### **Theme 4: Future aspirations, study and work**

- Using languages beyond the classroom: forming relationships; travel; employment
- Ambitions: further study; volunteering; training
- Work: jobs; careers; professions

### **Theme 5: International and global dimension**

- Bringing the world together: sports events; music events; campaigns and good causes
- Environmental issues: being 'green'; access to natural resources

# Themes and Topic Areas



*Directly building on knowledge and skills from KS3*

spontaneous speaking

extended writing (from memory)

reading and listening

key vocabulary

phonics, pronunciation and tones

translation

grammar

use of literary texts / authentic material

**GCSE Chinese is assessed in exams at the end of year 11 as follows:**

25% listening

25% speaking

25% reading

25% writing



# Tiers of entry

- Students will be entered either for Foundation or for Higher
- Final decisions do not need to be made until year 11
- As well as a difference in the level of difficulty, there are also some different question types.
- Either foundation in all 4 skills or higher in all 4 skills (it is not possible to mix and match).
- The highest possible grade on the foundation paper is a grade 5.
- A grade U is awarded if students do not reach a grade 4 at higher tier.

# OVERVIEW

- The four papers at a glance

**Paper 1: Listening**  
and understanding.

Foundation tier:  
35 minutes  
including 5 minutes  
reading time; 50  
marks.

Higher tier: 45  
minutes including 5  
minutes reading  
time; 50 marks.

**25% of the total  
qualification.**

**Paper 2: Speaking.**  
Internally conducted  
and externally  
assessed.

Foundation tier: 7-9  
minutes plus 12  
minutes preparation  
time; 70 marks.

Higher tier: 10-12  
minutes plus 12  
minutes preparation  
time; 70 marks.

**25% of the total  
qualification.**

**Paper 3: Reading**  
and understanding.

Foundation tier: 50  
minutes; 50 marks.

Higher tier: 1 hour;  
65 marks.

Including  
**translation** from the  
target language into  
English.

**25% of the total  
qualification.**

**Paper 4: Writing**

Foundation tier:  
80 minutes; 60  
marks.

Higher tier: 85  
minutes; 60  
marks.

Including  
**translation** from  
English into the  
target language.

**25% of the total  
qualification.**

### A Chinese student

**10** Yuanyuan is from China and is studying at a boarding school in England. You hear him talking to a friend.

Listen to the conversation and answer the following questions **in English**.

(a) Where does he want to go next year?

(1)

.....

(b) What does he want to study?

(1)

.....

(c) What does he think of Britain's winter? Give **two** details.

(2)

.....

.....

**(Total for Question 10 = 4 marks)**



## Speaking Overview

**Task 1** - Role play based on one topic allocated by Pearson.

**Task 2** - A task containing a picture and questions drawn from one topic. This is allocated by Pearson at the time of assessment.

**Task 3** - conversation based on two themes. The first based on the topic chosen by the student and the second selected by the teacher from a choice of two themes allocated by the exam board.

# Speaking examples

## STIMULUS FR1

### Topic: Work

### Instructions to candidates

A hotel in Brighton attracts lots of Chinese tourists during the summer. You are asking for a holiday job in the hotel. The teacher will play the role of the hotel manager and will speak first.

Use appropriate language for a formal conversation.

You will talk to the teacher using the five prompts below.

- Where you see - **?** - you must ask a question.
- Where you see - **!** - you must respond to something you have not prepared.

### Task

***You are in a hotel in Brighton. You are looking for a job for the summer holidays.***

1. Say what kind of work you are looking for.
2. Say why you want to work in the summer.
3. **!**
4. Say how long you want to work.
5. **?** Ask when you can start work.

## STIMULUS FR1

### Topic: Work

### Instructions to teacher

- Use appropriate language for a formal conversation.
- **The target language phrases below must be asked verbatim. There must be no supplementary questions and no rephrasing of questions but questions may be repeated.**

**Begin the role play with the following introduction.**

***You are in a hotel in Brighton. You are looking for a job for the summer holidays.***

1	您好! 我能帮你什么忙吗? Allow the candidate to say what kind of job s/he is looking for.
2	您为什么想夏天工作? Allow the candidate to say why s/he wants to work in the summer.
3	<b>!</b> 你今年多大了? Allow the candidate to provide his/her age.
4	你想工作多长时间? Allow the candidate to say how long s/he wants to work there. 好。你可以上班了。
5	<b>?</b> Allow the candidate to ask about the start date. Give an appropriate brief response.

## STIMULUS FP5

### Topic: What school is like



(Source: © Henry Westheim Photography / Alamy Stock Photo)

Look at the picture and prepare answers to the following:

- a description of the photograph
- your opinion on school uniform
- what you did at school last week
- what you would like to study at school next year
- your opinion on homework.

## STIMULUS FP5

### Topic: What school is like



(Source: © Henry Westheim Photography / Alamy Stock Photo)

1. 描述这张照片。  
[还有呢?]
2. 我认为穿校服很好, 你觉得呢?  
[为什么(不)呢? /还有呢?]
3. 上个星期你在学校做了什么?  
[还有呢?]
4. 明年你想学习什么科目?  
[为什么呢? /还有呢?]
5. 你喜欢做作业吗?  
[为什么(不)呢? /还有呢?]

## SIMPLIFIED CHARACTERS

### SECTION B

#### Translation

**10** Translate this passage **into English**.

在中国，买一辆自行车很便宜。自行车非常环保，有很多好处。可是，近年来，中国的汽车越来越多。它们给交通和环境带来了不良的影响。

## SIMPLIFIED CHARACTERS

### School subjects

- 3 Translate the following passage into **Chinese**.

Meimei goes to school in Beijing. She enjoys Asian history, but found maths difficult last year. She will start Chinese lessons next term. She thinks learning Chinese is important, because she likes living in China.

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# Year 10 – May 2025

**HSK**” stands for 汉语水平考试 **Hànyǔ Shuǐpíng Kǎoshì**, which means “Chinese Level Test”.

It is an international standardized test for Chinese language proficiency, which assesses non-native Chinese speakers’ abilities in using the Chinese language in their daily, academic and professional lives.

Students who are part of the Mandarin Excellence Programme are expected to take the HSK3 exam (listening, reading, writing) at the end of year 10. This is in place of the ‘hurdle tests’ which were done in years 7, 8 and 9.

There is an overlap between the words at GCSE and HSK3, but there are some differences.

We will focus on HSK3 vocabulary and exam practice and technique on **Wednesdays after school in J5**.



# Revision and support sessions

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- Sessions on a Wednesday after school – this will focus on HSK3 vocabulary and exam technique.



**HSK**  
**3**

# Key resources

For Mandarin, pupils will be given the following resources (there is no cost for these):

- 'Treasure Box' booklet with lots of useful information for speaking and writing
- Reading and writing workbook
- Lists of common vocabulary for HSK3
- Speaking booklet

Students should look after and organise their resources.  
Replacements may be charged for.



# Speaking booklet

Students will be given a speaking booklet, with a list of possible questions for the GCSE speaking exam.

They can build up a bank of answers, which can then be used to prepare not only for the speaking exam, but also for the writing exam.

It is important that students keep this safe, write answers as part of their homework and use these to revise from through year 10 and in year 11.

There will be a mock GCSE speaking exam in January of year 11 and the final exam will be in April of year 11.

# Mandarin textbook

These will be used in lessons. We have copies of the textbook in school for use in class.

If students wish to have their own copy at home, these can be purchased from Amazon and other book stores.



[www.thisisschool.com](http://www.thisisschool.com)

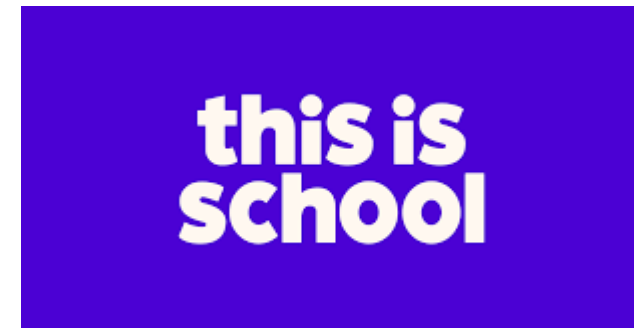
This is an excellent website for practising listening skills, learning vocabulary and grammar.

Students should be logging in regularly. The library of videos can be searched by topic or key word.

Homework will be set online.

[year 10 Mandarin Registration-codes-22-09-2024.pdf](#)

The screenshot shows the 'this is school' website interface. The top navigation bar is dark purple with the logo 'this is school' on the left. To the right of the logo is a dropdown menu set to 'Videos', a search bar with the placeholder text 'Type a video ID or keyword', a search icon, a language dropdown set to 'Chinese', and a user profile icon for 'Mr. Floyd'. Below the navigation bar is a grid of nine colorful buttons: 'VIDEOS: LISTENING' (orange), 'VOCAB' (green), 'NUTTY GAMES' (purple), 'GRAMMAR' (pink), 'SPEAKING' (cyan), 'WRITING' (red), 'POINTS TARGET' (dark purple), 'TEACHER RESOURCES' (yellow), and 'ASSIGNMENTS' (light purple). To the right of this grid is a 'GLOBAL RANKINGS' section with an upward arrow. It contains a list of items: 'All Classes' (highlighted in purple), 'All Students', 'Classes In Your School', '11A/Ge1', '11C/Sp1', and '10C/Sp1'. At the bottom of this section are buttons for 'Now', 'Last Week', and a timer showing '05:08:54:18'.





## Other apps and websites

- Duolingo – 1000s of words to learn and practise in a fun way. Free to download. Can also be accessed as a website or app.
- Quizlet – Search for Edexcel GCSE sets of flashcards in the language you are studying and learn them using a variety of games and activities. You can also create your own sets of flashcards. Free to download. Can also be accessed as a website. Search Quizlet by teacher: Mandarin – **zgan**
- Wohuimandarin – Mandarin learning platform
- <https://www.mdbg.net/chinese/dictionary> - Online Chinese dictionary, which is also very helpful for learning the correct stroke order.

# Tips for learning

- **Regular revision** is key; languages will stick in your brain more easily if you do not leave days without seeing or hearing them. Remember: 'little and often'.
- Ensure that you split your revision time between the **four skills**: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Remember that you will also need to complete translation tasks as part of the reading and writing exams.
- Make sure you know **key verbs** and that you are confident in manipulating these into a **range of time frames**. You need to demonstrate that you can use time frames correctly in your speaking and writing exams.
- **Learn vocabulary regularly** – use vocabulary lists that you have been given, as well as links to Memrise and Quizlet, which you should use to help you learn this vocabulary. Create mindmaps and flashcards.

# Tips for learning

## Read Aloud

- Read text in your target language out loud. Start out by reading a short article, and then add more articles until you're reading for about fifteen minutes a day.

## Write More

- Reading and listening are activities in which you *consume* language. Speaking and writing are activities in which you *produce* language. So when it comes to language skills, speaking and writing are like close cousins.
- Something that bridges the gap between writing and speaking? Online chatting/using AI. These are more real time, but you can still slow down and get a little help from the dictionary when you get stuck.

## Talk about a topic.

- This is a tried and tested exercise that's common in language classrooms. Think of a topic. Then talk about it. Sample topics you might talk about include:
  - Your personal history
  - Your family
  - What you did over the weekend
  - A sport you like to watch
  - Your favourite animal

This is a good thing to do when you're talking to yourself. With this drill, you can quickly and identify what you're having trouble saying, and then learn the vocab or sentence structures.

# Tips for learning

## **Listen to songs in Mandarin**

- Music is a universal language, and an excellent way to train your ears to listen to a foreign language.
- Starting with just the refrain, sing along with the song until you can do it from memory. Then move on to the rest of the song. The good thing about learning with music is that it has a way of sticking in your brain and helping you to remember the words.

## **Listen to podcasts or the news, listen to online radio or watch Tiktok/Youtube/Wechat videos.**

- Remember it is fine not to understand everything! Look for resources at an appropriate level, with a slower pace and clear pronunciation.

# Tips for learning

## **Watch short films or videos with subtitles in the language you are learning.**

- Follow what's being said without having to decipher only the spoken language.
- Find a short scene with plenty of dialogue between two characters. Watch it with the subtitles a few times until you can distinguish every word. Then watch it a few more times without the subtitles, listening carefully to the words and how they're spoken. Which parts of the words are stressed? Where are the pauses? Which words or phrases are strung together to sound like a single word?
- Say the lines out loud as the character says them, then switch parts and respond to the words that are spoken. Do this enough times and you'll never forget how those certain words and phrases are pronounced.



# Tips for revision

- Prepare well for speaking. Use your speaking booklet to prepare answers. Make sure that you know a range of higher level phrases that you can apply across topics (Treasure Box booklet).
- Use the Personal Learning Checklists for subject content and grammar. Students can RAG rate their confidence levels against the topics and use the Edexcel revision guides and resources in their books to fill any gaps in knowledge. Work through this systematically and make sure that you are confident with each topic.
- Work through the revision activities and workbooks provided.
- Create revision flashcards / mindmaps for key vocabulary.
- Use [www.thisisschool.com](http://www.thisisschool.com) to practise listening and vocabulary.
- **Check Classcharts for specific information from your class teacher.**



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