

Mandarin Chinese A Level

Entry Requirement: Grade 7 in Mandarin
Awarding Body: EDEXCEL

The aim of the syllabus is to inspire all students who have an appreciation of the language, literature, film and culture of the Chinese-speaking world through a motivating course of study that will enable students to develop an advanced level knowledge and understanding of the Chinese language, the culture of China and other Chinese-speaking countries, as well as practical and valuable language and transferable study skills.

In addition, this specification will help to prepare students for higher education and enhance their employability profile.

Course Outline

Linguistic and cultural knowledge will be explored through four main themes, as outlined below. These themes cover key aspects of modern Chinese society, including youth culture, education, the world of work, and changes in Chinese Society. You will also study two literary works—one written text and one film—and learn how to analyse them effectively.

In preparation for the A Level Chinese exam, you will develop advanced skills in listening, reading, writing, and speaking. The course places strong emphasis on grammar, translation (both into and from Chinese), and essay writing. You'll engage with authentic materials such as news articles, videos, and any other available resources from Chinese society to deepen your understanding of contemporary issues and cultural perspectives.

The independent research project for the speaking examination will be introduced at the end of Year 12, allowing students to begin their research over the summer break. This project enables you to explore a topic of personal interest related to Chinese culture, history, or society. Guidance and support will continue throughout Year 13 to help you prepare thoroughly for the final speaking assessment, which includes a presentation and a discussion based on your research.

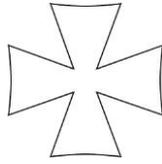
The themes are:

Theme 1: Changes in Contemporary Chinese society

Theme 2: Chinese Culture

Theme 3: Evolving Chinese Society

Theme 4: post-1978 China on the World Stage



Work Experience:

If you are selected to join the English Teaching Volunteer Service Program for Overseas Youth, sponsored by the Overseas Community Affairs Council of Taiwan, you will have the opportunity to teach in Taiwan and enjoy a one-week complimentary tour there.

Scheme of Assessment

At the end of the two-year course (Year 13), students will complete three externally assessed papers. Paper 1, which includes listening, reading, and translation, lasts 2 hours and contributes 40% of the final grade. Paper 2, focused on written responses to works and translation, is 2 hours and 40 minutes long and accounts for 30%. Paper 3, the speaking assessment, lasts 21–23 minutes, including 5 minutes of preparation time, and makes up the remaining 30%. This final paper will be conducted internally but assessed externally.

Students will need to attend speaking sessions with a Language Assistant weekly for advancing their speaking skills. Students are also expected to develop their ability of independent learning at A Level and become an autonomous learner.

Who should I contact for more information?

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