



A-level Mandarin

Board and specification: **Edexcel 9CNo**

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Subject specific entry requirements:

- Grade 7 in GCSE Mandarin (grade 6 will be considered in exceptional circumstances).
- Grade 5 or above in English Literature and/or Language.

What skills are required of students?

Students must be highly motivated and interested in the subject. They should also be able to undertake independent study outside of the classroom and be willing to try and speak in the target language at every available opportunity.

A-level Mandarin is challenging, therefore students must be willing to practise grammar, reading and listening skills every day, as well as learning phonics of the vocabulary and characters. They should also be willing to travel to China, if travel is permitted post-pandemic and during their course.

Course Outline

We will develop your ability to use Mandarin Chinese in both speech and writing. You will have weekly Mandarin conversation one to one with a teacher or native speaker. Our students will almost always be able to speak Mandarin well by the end of the course so you will leave us with a really useful skill.

What will I learn on this course?

You will learn to communicate confidently and imaginatively in Chinese through both the spoken and written word and gain insight into the contemporary society and culture of China and Chinese speaking countries. You will be in a good position to undertake further, advanced study of Chinese or make practical use of Chinese in employment.

You will make frequent use of ICT for e-mailing your homework to us and the Internet for authentic Chinese language material.

Who would make a successful student of Chinese?

This course will appeal to students who would enjoy the challenge of speaking to native speakers of Mandarin Chinese in their own language. You should also enjoy taking part in in depth

discussions, expressing your opinions and justifying these in debate. You may be considering further study or working in another country, possibly in Asia.

Extra Curricular Activities

There will be opportunities to enter a number of competitions at local and national level. Visiting China Town in London / Birmingham will also be important to practise the language that we learn in class. Pupils would also be welcomed to help out in KS3/4 lessons. Some opportunities may become available to visit local primary schools and teach some basic Mandarin Chinese to younger pupils.

Students study technological and social change, looking at Han and minority groups. They will study highlights of China-speaking artistic culture, including music and cinema, and learn about traditions and festivals in China.

Students also explore the influence of the past on present-day Chinese-speaking communities. Throughout their studies, they will learn the language in the context of Chinese-speaking countries and the issues and influences which have shaped them. Students will study texts and film and have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of their choice. Students will need to know stroke order of hanzi, how to translate from Chinese into English and will also be tested on the meaning of several Chinese idioms from a prescribed list.

Assessment tasks will be varied and cover listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Each skill is assessed at the end of the course in a terminal examination.

A Level consists of modules centred on the following topic areas:

- Family
- Education and Jobs
- Cultural Activity
- Chinese Traditions
- Communication and The Media
- Economic and The Environment
- Revolution
- China–United Kingdom relations

Students will be invited to present, discuss and take a clear stance on any issue of their choice, demonstrating their skills in advanced-level Chinese.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation (**Paper code: 9CN0/01)
<i>Written examination: 2 hours</i> <i>40% of the qualification</i> <i>80 marks</i>
Content overview This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all four themes listed on pages 9-10. Themes are based on the society and culture of Chinese-speaking countries.

Assessment overview

Students are not permitted access to a dictionary during the examination.

The examination is made up of:

Section A: Listening (30 marks)

A listening assessment based on a recording, featuring male and female Chinese speakers. Students will respond to comprehension questions based on a variety of contexts and sources.

Recordings of spoken Chinese will be available in Mandarin and Cantonese.

The listening audio files for the sample assessment materials are available on our website.

Section B: Reading (30 marks)

A reading assessment based on a variety of text types and genres where students will respond to comprehension questions.

Section C: Translation into English (20 marks)

An unseen passage to be translated from Chinese to English.

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation (Paper code: 9CN0/02)**

Written examination: 2 hours and 40 minutes

30% of the qualification

120 marks

Content overview

This paper requires students to translate a previously unseen passage from English into Chinese.

This paper also draws on the study of two discrete Chinese works: either two literary texts, or one literary text and one film. The works must be taken from the list provided in *Appendix 2: Prescribed literary texts and films*. The literary texts listed include novels and short stories. All of the films are feature length.

Assessment overview

This paper includes a translation exercise and two extended responses to either two literary texts, **or** one literary text and one film (students must **not** answer questions on two films).

Students are not permitted access to a dictionary or any documentation relating to the works during the examination.

Section A: Translation (20 marks)

Students translate an unseen passage from English into Chinese.

Section B: Written response to works (literary texts) (50 marks)

Students must write an extended response on either one **or** two of the literary texts listed in *Appendix 2: Prescribed literary texts and films*.

If a student answers questions on two literary texts then they **do not** complete Section C.

Section C: Written response to works (films) (50 marks)

Students who answer only one question on a literary text in Section B must write an extended response on **one** of the films listed in *Appendix 2: Prescribed literary texts and films*.

Paper 3: Speaking (**Paper code: 9CN0/03M/03C)

Internally conducted and externally assessed

Total assessment time: between 21 and 23 minutes, which includes a single period of 5 minutes' formal preparation time

30% of the qualification

72 marks

Content overview

Task 1 draws on vocabulary and structures across all four themes (listed on *pages 9-10*). Task 2 is based on independent research selected and carried out by the student. The research may be based on one of the themes or on the student's own subject of interest related to the society and culture of the Chinese-speaking world.

Students will be assessed on their ability to use a range of language accurately, communicate and interact effectively, summarise and analyse findings from written sources relating to their research subject, and show knowledge and understanding about the society and culture of the Chinese-speaking world.

Assessment overview

Students complete two tasks. Task 1 is worth 30 marks and Task 2 is worth 42 marks.

Task 1 (discussion on a Theme)

Students discuss one Theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing a short statement.

Task 2, Part 1 (independent research presentation)

Students present a summary of at least two of the written sources they have used for their research and give a personal response to what they have read.

Task 2, Part 2 (discussion on independent research)

Students answer questions on their presentation and then have a wider discussion on their research.

The assessment will be available in Mandarin and Cantonese. The option chosen for each student is indicated by entry code:

Mandarin – 9CNo/03M

Cantonese – 9CNo/03C