

MANDARIN – Edexcel A Level

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The Edexcel A Level Mandarin Chinese course provides a progression pathway from GCSE level Chinese. The course provides students with the opportunity to further develop their ability to understand and communicate confidently and clearly using Mandarin Chinese. It is designed to be appealing and engaging to students, while preparing them for future study and work. Candidates taking the A Level Mandarin Chinese course are required to take all assessment components at the end of the two-year course in one exam season.

The themes covered in the A Level course are:

Changes in contemporary Chinese society
Family; education and the world of work
Chinese culture
Traditions and customs; cultural activities
Evolving Chinese society
Communications and technology; economy and environment
The impact of reform and opening up in 1978 on China
Reform; China-UK relations

- The syllabus features familiar and popular themes as well as some new content that provides clear links to some of the **most fundamental and interesting aspects** of the culture of the Chinese-speaking world.
- **Paper 2** requires candidates to write two extended responses to the prescribed literary text and film, each with 250-350 characters. The responses can be **prepared and practised before the exam**.
- A list of core vocabulary is available from the exam board. Candidates may expect to encounter unfamiliar vocabulary in the examination, but only items in the list will be tested.
- **Paper 3** (speaking) will be conducted **internally** and assessed externally, which means candidates will have plenty of time to practise with their examiner (usually their teacher) before the exam.

What Do We Study?

We believe learning Mandarin Chinese should not only be limited to characters, grammar, listening and speaking skills, it is also vital for students to gain a global awareness and prepare them to become world citizens and game-changers through the course.

You will study Cao Wenxuan's novelette, *A Very Special Pigeon* and the documentary, *Please Vote for Me*, in Chinese. You will also have the opportunity to conduct an *Independent Research Project for speaking*, via studying research articles in both English and Chinese. We aim to equip students with a variety of critical transferrable study skills, enabling them to make a smooth transition to the next level of study.

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation
(2 hours, 40%)

Paper 2: Written response to works and translation
(2 hours 40 minutes, 30%)

Paper 3: Speaking (internally conducted and externally assessed) (21-23 minutes, incl. 5 minutes' prep time, 30%)

- Candidates are **not expected to produce perfect, error-free writing** in order to access the top band as errors are also made by native speakers. Errors that do not affect meaning, for example the misuse of measure words, missing strokes in characters as long as it is not ambiguous, will not affect the final grading.

中文

Entry requirements

Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mandarin

