
Added by Pete on 25th October 2009 at 11:27AM

- Accreditation
- Curriculum/Schemes of Work
- KS 4
- UK
- Secondary/Upper

A-Level Mandarin Chinese or the GCE features at level 3 of the National Qualifications Framework.

The GCE is formed from the Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS) and the Advanced Level (A2) with exams for AS taken in the first year, followed by A2 the next. The Advanced Subsidiary level provides a logical progression from GCSE offering discrete skill-specific testing and a focus on language.

The A2 level offers a realistic progression from Advanced Subsidiary that it rewards advanced research/reading skills and acknowledges the importance of knowledge and understanding of Chinese-language culture. A2 also facilitates literary study.

The Detail

AS Specification:

The AS Level is split into 2 units:

- **Unit 1**: Spoken Expression and Response in Chinese

  Externally assessed
  30% of the total AS marks
  15% of the total GCE marks

  Content summary:
This unit requires students to demonstrate an ability to speak Chinese for 5–6 minutes in response to a short English-language stimulus. Students will be expected to refer to a series of questions printed on the stimulus so that they can communicate effectively in Chinese about the stimulus topic. Students will need to express opinions as well as provide relevant and appropriate information. Each stimulus will link to one of the following general topic areas:
Food, diet and health/Transport, travel and tourism/Education and employment/Leisure, youth interests and Chinese festivals*.

Unit 2: Understanding and Written Response in Chinese
70% of the total AS marks
35% of the total GCE marks

Content summary:
This unit rewards students for their understanding of spoken and written Chinese, their ability to transfer meaning from Chinese into English and to produce continuous writing in Chinese. The latter would be an essay linked to a short Chinese-language stimulus. The unit draws on the following general topic areas:
Food, diet and health/Transport, travel and tourism/Education and employment/Leisure, youth interests and Chinese festivals*. and New year, mid-autumn festival, dragon boat festival, Ching Ming (Qing Ming)

Assessment:
2 hours 30 minutes
The assessment for this unit is divided into three sections:

Section A - listen to a range of recorded Chinese-language material and to retrieve and convey information given in the recording by responding to Chinese-language questions.

Section B (20 marks) - read Chinese-language printed materials and to retrieve and convey information by responding to a range of mainly target-language test-types.
Section C (30 marks) - write 180–200 characters of Chinese in the form of a letter, Students must respond to four to six bullet points based on the stimulus text and demonstrate their ability to communicate accurately in Chinese using correct grammar and syntax. Students have control over the pace of this examination including the listening element. CD recording will be provided for each student. Detail of the specification can be found here.

**Resources for AS**
Edexcel Chinese for AS. See here
Chinese Made Easy Books 4 & 5 and Easy Steps to Chinese Books 5 to 8. See here
Chinese for AS. See here

**A2 Specification**

**Unit 3: Understanding, Written Response and Research in Chinese**

100% of the total A2 marks
50% of the total GCE marks

**Content summary:**
This unit rewards students for their ability to understand and respond in writing to written Chinese. It also enables them to demonstrate their ability to write in Chinese and promotes knowledge and understanding of Chinese culture and/or society through focused research.

**Topic areas:** Food, diet and health/Transport, travel and tourism/Education and employment/Lesisure, youth interests and Chinese festivals/Environment (energy, pollution and environmental campaigns)/New year/mid-autumn festival/dragon boat festival/Ching Ming (Qing Ming)

**Assessment:**
2 hours 45 minutes
The assessment for this unit is divided into four sections.

Section A: Reading - read a piece of authentic Chinese text and to retrieve and convey information from it. To demonstrate that they can do this, they will need to answer a series of questions in Chinese.

Section B: Translation - transfer meaning from a short passage written in English into Chinese.

Section C: Essay writing - Students must write an essay in Chinese (250–500 characters) in response to an essay title that links to the reading text in Section A.

Section D: Research-based essay - Students will write in Chinese (250–500 characters) about an area of interest to them and which they have researched in advance. Students will be free to set their own titles for this activity. All research must link to Chinese culture and/or society and to a specific topic area, film or book chosen from a prescribed list.
NB: Students are not permitted to take any books, notes, dictionaries or texts into the examination room. However, they may refer to a plan which they must complete in advance of the examination using the Edexcel GCE in Chinese Research-based Essay Form.
Detail of the A2 specification can be found here.

Resources for A2
Edexcel Chinese for A2. See here.

CIE – A5/A2 Level Chinese Language and Literature

CIE also offer an alternative AS/A2 in Chinese Literature and Language. The whole course is split into 4 components with students either taking all 4 components for the Language course and 3 for the Literature course.
Component 2 - Reading and Writing
Component 3 - Essay
Component 4 - Texts
Component 5 - Prose
For more information please visit CIE.
Frequently asked questions visit CIE FAQs.