

# Chinese A level Student Guide

## Is this the right subject for me?

If you enjoy meeting and talking to people from other countries, finding out about their cultures and learning how language works, then studying A level Chinese is an excellent choice for you!

## Why should I study a language?

Learning languages encourages you to:

- Meet people from different countries and find out more about them
- Learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, be confident about speaking in public, use problem solving strategies and write coherently
- Develop critical thinking, creativity and independence
- Add an international dimension to your choice of A level subjects, which is something many employers and higher education providers want
- Have greater opportunities to work and/or study abroad, or work for companies in the UK with international links
- Discuss interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak the language
- Learn more about countries where the language is spoken, and the people who speak it
- Read books and watch films in their original language
- Spend time abroad (e.g. at university or on a work placement).

## What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

If you already have knowledge of a variety of topics, and can express your opinions, you are ready to build on this at A level, though you can also start from scratch. You will learn about different aspects of Chinese culture, literature and/or film, and be able to use more complex grammar and more vocabulary. This enables you to really develop an understanding of the language, the countries where it is spoken and the people who speak it.

## What can I do after I've completed the course?

People with language skills and knowledge usually have an advantage over people without them. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons. Success at A level Chinese means you will:

- Add an extra international dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress people who read your CV
- Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links
- Be able to work or study in a Chinese-speaking country in later life
- Progress to study a degree in Chinese, or Chinese and another subject, to further your knowledge of the language and culture
- Find it easier to learn other languages later if you want to
- Add a useful skill if your main subjects are not languages: languages support careers in a range of areas including management, business, science and tourism.



## What will I learn?

A level Chinese helps you explore a wide range of topics, which will add to your understanding of the language and country. Topics are:

- Changes in contemporary Chinese society
- Chinese culture
- Evolving Chinese society
- The impact of reform and opening up in 1978 on China

The books (or book and film) you study may link to the topics, giving you further insight into Chinese culture. You will also learn new grammar and vocabulary and you will be able to translate into and out of Chinese. You will develop your critical thinking, creativity, independence and skills of analysis. You will also develop skills to be able to learn other languages.

## How will I be assessed?

You will take three exams which make up the total available. Paper 1 is 40% of the total marks; Paper 2 is 30% and Paper 3 is 30%. You will be given a certificate with a grade between E and A\* with A\* being the highest.

<b>Paper 1</b> <b>Listening, reading and translation</b>	<b>Paper 2</b> <b>Written response to works and translation</b>	<b>Paper 3</b> <b>Speaking</b>
<b>Section A (listening)</b> In the listening section of this paper, you will answer multiple-choice and comprehension questions in Chinese on a variety of recordings.  <b>Section B (reading)</b> In the reading section, you will also answer multiple-choice and comprehension questions in Chinese, based on a variety of written texts.  <b>Section C (translation into English)</b> You will also translate a passage from Chinese into English.	<b>Section A (translation into Chinese)</b> There will also be a translation of a passage from English into Chinese.  <b>Sections B and C (written response to works)</b> You will write about two books or one book and one film that you have studied throughout the year.	<b>Preparation time</b> Before this exam you will have 5 minutes to prepare a discussion based on a stimulus card you are given.  <b>Task 1 (discussion on a theme)</b> You will discuss the topic on the stimulus card with your examiner, who is often your teacher.  <b>Task 2 (presentation and discussion on independent research project)</b> You will give a presentation of your independent research project and discuss it.