

Edexcel GCSE

Chinese

Unit 4: Writing in Chinese

Controlled Assessment

Valid from September 2011 onwards

Paper Reference

5CN04/01

You do not need any other materials.

These possible controlled assessment tasks are valid from September 2011 to May 2013.

- For assessment in the Summer series centres must submit their tasks for external assessment by 15 May of the assessment year.
- For assessment in January 2012 or 2013 centres must submit their tasks for external assessment by 10 January.

Please note that these controlled assessment tasks will be subject to review every two years.

Further guidance can be found on the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com).

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Controlled assessments for writing

The following are samples of controlled assessment materials that you may use with your students. You are able to use these as they appear or you can adapt them to accommodate the specific needs of your students.

Stimuli are provided for each of the four themes identified in the specification:

- Media and culture
- Sport and leisure
- Travel and tourism
- Business, work and employment.

Students can focus on **one** of the above themes for both writing (and speaking) controlled assessments or, if preferred, work across more than one theme.

If your centre wishes to undertake work on a centre-devised theme, you will need to create your own stimuli for the controlled assessment writing tasks. Such stimuli do not have to be approved in advance but if you require reassurance on the suitability of a particular approach, topic or theme, you can consult an experienced examiner through the Edexcel *Ask the Expert* service.

Students must undertake two separate writing tasks, **one task** in each of the **two required controlled assessment sessions**. Each session should last up to one hour and the task must be completed in this time. The assessment must take place in controlled conditions and students must have access to notes and a dictionary as discussed in the specification. It is anticipated that students will produce at least 100 characters in each of the two assessment sessions. Students aiming for grade C or above will need to demonstrate extended writing skills and are expected to produce over 100 - 150 characters for each task.

It may be more appropriate for some students to complete two shorter tasks rather than a longer one in a single assessment session. Consequently, centres can submit more than two pieces of writing from these students as long as the work has all been produced in two separate assessment sessions (maximum of four pieces of writing).

Students may undertake more than two controlled writing assessments but only the work from two sessions must be submitted to Edexcel for marking.

Adaptation of tasks

As stated in the specification, teachers may use or adapt these tasks and are free to create their own. Centre-devised tasks may result from students' ideas and suggestions or could be linked to other areas of the curriculum.

Teachers may amend and edit the Edexcel tasks in a number of ways:

- to introduce a different context that is more appropriate to the needs and/or interests of particular students. (*An account of a **concert** could be changed to an account of a **film**.*)
- to alter the type of 'support' for individual students. Some students are reliant on bullet points that clearly spell out task requirements and provide some structure whereas others (possibly more confident or creative) prefer more open-ended tasks. To accommodate these different types of learner, teachers could, for example, remove or add bullets and alter the wording of the task rubrics (e.g. change '**must refer to**' to '**may refer to**' or vice versa).
- to change the nature of the task. Teachers may rewrite a task so that it takes on a different nature. For example, it may be more appropriate for certain students to produce a poster or complete a form rather than write an article or letter. Similarly, teachers may introduce a guide on the length of the task (e.g. number of words) either to ensure that the task is feasible or, for more able students, to promote extended writing. Teachers may also wish to change the content of the bullets so that a learner is able to focus on providing simple information rather than description and opinion. With revised simpler content and fewer and/or different bullets to cover, the nature and size of the task brief can change radically. This allows for some students who encounter difficulties when writing in the target language to undertake two separate shorter tasks rather than one in a controlled assessment session.

Clearly, the facility to modify task stimuli enables teachers to target activities to the level and needs of individual students. However, as all changes to tasks can impact significantly on their overall level of demand, it is imperative that teachers do not constrain or compromise the performance of their students through an inappropriate task stimulus.

Possible writing tasks (Media and culture)

Task 1

You have been watching a serial on TV. Write a letter to your Chinese-speaking friend about the serial.

You could mention:

- the story so far
- what ending you expect
- your favourite character
- which episode you liked most and why
- what other programmes you like to watch

Task 2

A Chinese-language magazine is offering a cash prize for the best article about your favourite personality.

You could mention:

- your favourite personality's personal details
- his/her career
- what you like about this person
- whether you would like to meet him/her and why/why not
- how you are going to spend the prize money

Task 3

You are writing an article for a Chinese-language website about young people's lifestyles today.

You could mention:

- social life for young people
- why modern technology is important
- a particular event you have enjoyed
- where you would like to live and why

Task 4

You have recently attended a cultural event (for example a wedding, a festival or a birthday). Write an email to your Chinese-speaking friend about this event.

You could mention:

- details about the event
- what people wore
- food and drink
- how traditional the event was
- what you enjoyed most and why
- the next event you will attend

Task 5

You have been involved in organising a charity event.

Write a report in Chinese about this event.

You could mention:

- preparations for the event
- help and support from other people
- what you felt about the event
- what you learned from this experience
- why charity events are important

Possible writing tasks (Sport and leisure)

Task 1

Write an email about your free time to your Chinese-speaking friend.

You could mention:

- what you normally do in your free time
- what your favourite hobby is and why
- what you did last weekend
- what you would do for your ideal weekend
- why free time is important

Task 2

Write an article in Chinese about a sporting event you have been to.

You could mention:

- details about the event
- whether you liked it or not and why
- suggestions on how to improve this kind of event
- what other sporting events you intend to go to

Task 3

Write an article in Chinese on a famous sports personality you admire.

You could mention:

- his/her early life before becoming famous
- his/her sporting achievements
- his/her leisure activities and interests
- his/her future plans
- why you admire him/her so much

Task 4

You have been asked to write a blog in Chinese on how to have a healthy lifestyle.

You could mention:

- your eating and exercise habits
- what you have done recently to improve your lifestyle
- how healthy your lifestyle is and why
- your intentions for the future
- your opinions on young people's lifestyles and how they could be improved

Task 5

You are taking part in an exchange with a Chinese-speaking school in China. Write an email to your exchange partner about sports facilities in your area.

You could mention:

- what sports facilities are available
- your opinion about these facilities
- how you have used these facilities recently
- what sporting activities you are planning to do with your exchange partner during his/her visit
- what you would like to do in your free time in China

Possible writing tasks (Travel and tourism)

Task 1

Your neighbours have recently improved the family hotel which they own. Write a website advertisement for Chinese visitors.

You could mention:

- what improvements have been made
- details of the accommodation and meals provided
- why the hotel is good for families
- what there is to do in the area
- details of how to book

Task 2

Your Chinese friends ask you to give them advice about the suitability of your country as a holiday destination. Write them an email.

You could mention:

- some geographical details about your country
- what the best sights and attractions are and why
- what tourists can eat and drink
- where you have taken a holiday in your own country
- when the best time to visit your country is

Task 3

In your Chinese exchange school, you have to write an essay about transport.

You could mention:

- how you travelled to China
- what the journey was like
- how you travelled around the country
- the advantages and disadvantages of these methods of transport
- your future travel plans

Task 4

A new visitor centre for tourists is planned in your area. Write an email to your Chinese friends about it.

You could mention:

- some details about your local area
- what plans have been made for the centre
- the advantages and disadvantages of these plans
- how local people have reacted to the plans

Task 5

Your class has recently visited a school abroad. Write an article for a Chinese-language magazine.

You could mention:

- why the trip was a great success
- what you and your friends particularly enjoyed and why
- what you would like to do during your next visit abroad
- why school exchange visits are a good idea
- what your plans are for the exchange partners' visit to your school

Possible writing tasks (Business, work and employment)

Task 1

You are looking for a summer job abroad. Write a letter of application to the manager of a Chinese employment agency.

You could mention:

- your personal details
- which languages you can speak
- the type of work you are looking for and why
- your previous experience of work and your opinion of it
- what you are going to do next year

You could ask for information about pay and hours of work.

Task 2

You have just spent two weeks working at a theme park. Write an account of your experience for the Chinese section of the theme park's website.

You could mention:

- your work schedule and exactly what you did
- your opinion of the work
- what you thought of the rates of pay
- why you would/would not like to work there again
- some suggestions for people who are going to work there next year

Task 3

A few months ago, your friend left school and managed to get a job after many attempts. Send an email to your Chinese exchange partner with details of what happened.

You could mention:

- why your friend decided to leave school
- his/her search for work
- problems with the job search – how he/she reacted to difficulties
- details of the job he/she finally managed to get
- his/her plans for the future

Task 4

You see a competition in a Chinese magazine which asks you to write an article about your dream job.

You could mention:

- where you have worked before
- what was good or bad about the job(s) you have done
- what others in your family do
- what your dream job would be and why

Task 5

You are working in an office in the UK and you are asked to prepare the text for a Chinese brochure about the company.

You could mention:

- details about the company
- a description of some products it sells
- information about reduced prices for certain products
- previous customers' opinions about what they have bought
- the company's future plans

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