

Beths Grammar School

Pre-U induction materials for Year 11 students

Mandarin Chinese (Cambridge Pre-U)

Preparation for courses to begin teaching in September 2021



Language

The Pre-U Mandarin Chinese course language part comprises 6 really interesting and eye-opening topics below:

Topic 1: FAMILY 家庭

Family activities
Status of the elderly and responsibility for their care
Generation gap
Conflicts in the family, etc.

Topic 2: YOUNG PEOPLE 青年一代

Young people and older generation
Attitudes towards family environment
Young people & their peers
Hobbies and interests
Aspirations and ways of communicating
Young people & advertising

Topic 3: EDUCATION 教育

Education systems and types of school
Patterns of curriculum
Relationship between education and training
Further and higher education provision
Examinations

Topic 4: MEDIA 媒体

The role and influence of the media in all aspects of life
The power of advertising;
The mass media (including broadcast media, newspaper media and internet media) and how it is evolving
Advantages and disadvantages of social media
Entertainment and celebrity

Topic 5: WORK AND LEISURE 工作与休闲

Balance between work and leisure; the changing face of work and leisure
Attitudes to work and leisure in China and other parts of the world
Work and the work ethic; time-pressure and stress; changing work patterns

Unpaid work and volunteering
The importance of leisure and well-being; planning leisure time
The leisure industry
The role of technology in work and leisure

Topic 6 : Equality of Opportunity 平等机会

Gender and equality of employment opportunity;
Fairness of selection procedures in education and employment;
Barriers to promotion
Employment and educational inequality between China's urban and rural dwellers; opportunities for migrant workers
Changes in equality of opportunity over time
The positive impacts of equality of opportunity on organisations, society and the economy

During the two year course, you will learn about the above topics in the context of China and the Chinese-speaking world through reading exercises, listening exercises, discussion and independent research. You will acquire facts and stats. to be able to confidentially undertake your speaking exam. During speaking exam the section 2 general conversation (6–8 minutes) you'll discuss two or three of the topic areas. At least one topic covered will be taken from topic areas 4, 5, and 6.

Speaking exam the section 1 is prepared topic and topic conversation (5–7 minutes). You will research a topic related to the history, current affairs or culture (including art, cinema, literature and traditions) of the Chinese world. In this section, you may prepare a 'cue card' (not more than postcard size; maximum number of characters/pinyin syllables = 50) in the language to remind them of the main points you wish to make, to bring into the examination room. A script of their presentation is not allowed. You may start to look for something you are interested in taking about now.

You will be assessed on linguistic competence (comprehension and responsiveness, fluency, accuracy of tones, pronunciation, range of vocabulary and variety of sentence structures).

There will be a choice of six titles, one on each of the six topic areas in language writing paper. Titles will be provided in English and Chinese. You will write one essay in Chinese with a recommended length of 175–225 characters. This part of the examination will be assessed for accuracy and linguistic range as well as development and organisation of ideas. You should be encouraged to use conjunctions and more complex sentence structure. A colloquial style will be sufficient for top marks. You will be expected to have a Chinese/English dictionary, as prescribed by Cambridge, for use during the examination.

We ask that students do a lot of independent research to broaden and further their knowledge, so, why not start now?... Why not conduct research into units from above that interest you/that you feel you know little about/would like to know more about. You could do this in a mixture of both Chinese and English. Ask yourself and investigate questions such as:

你和你的父母之间有代沟吗？

你对“三世同堂”有什么看法？

在英国“三世同堂”常见吗？为什么？

你觉得独生子女政策对中国传统家庭结构产生了什么影响？

请比较中国和英国的传统家庭结构。

你对婚姻有什么看法？

在英国，离婚率高吗？

You could also investigate Chinese food heritage and other Chinese-speaking countries' cuisines, do some research of Chinese festivals celebrations in China and outside China, find out what legend/history behind the festivals, look at the influence of Chinese language music in the Chinese-speaking world, as well as the role Chinese cinema has played in the world cinematographic scene etc. You may also can find super curriculum for KS5 on school website. All of these options will help you with the Pre-U topics we study.

All research you do will be useful as you will be informing yourself about the history, society and culture of the Chinese-speaking world!

Radical and stroke order skills

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66hsy5cPyco>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhCJR7LTESc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcqUa-DbAeY>

High- Level Language in 6 Topics:

Join link: <https://quizlet.com/join/9RMTnVxQP>

Code: Pre-U

Explore the following website (www.thechairmansbao.com/): Learn to make full use of the site's bilingual news articles and audio, vocabulary, and comprehension question features. Check the site regularly, as the free 'sample lessons' change and the news stories are sometimes really interesting! How high up the HSK grade level can you manage? (1 is easiest, 6 is most advanced.) Be ready to report to us in September about something you have read. When you start your course you will be given full access with a student account.

Idioms

You also find idioms from Quizlet link above and the links below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0XgcQh-QZA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQURmdoMU7M>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBatdUz0yH0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpqAFjRknz0>

Film and history

Buy or borrow a copy of Michael Lynch's books "*China: From Empire to People's Republic 1900-49*", and "*The People's Republic of China 1949-76*". Read chapter 1 of the first book (Imperial China and the Chinese Revolution)

Buy or borrow a copy of Yu Hua's "*Chronicle of a Blood Merchant*" (this is your assigned literary text)

Watch the following documentaries

a. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5cl0GjPjy4&t=4821s>

b. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJyoX_vrlns&t=2582s

Watch *The Blue Kite*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCKlm7iPUhk> (this is your assigned film)

Extra

- Keep a journal in hand-written or typed Chinese. Write whatever you like; teachers will check this, but not read it in detail (unless you'd like us to)
- Use the YouTube channel 'Crazy Fresh Chinese' to learn idiomatic phrases for speaking
- 'Slow Chinese' – an excellent online content resource – articles with explanations
- 'Chinese grammar wiki' – a great website for explanations of Chinese grammar points
- Read *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang
- Review and test yourself on the AQA GCSE Chinese Topics: <https://www.memrise.com/course/1886997/aqa-chinese-gcse-2/> (Pre-U Mandarin will build on these)
- Use the HSK link to learn words(reading, translation and typing) <https://www.chineseinflow.com/>

祝你们好运 !

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Li