

Chinese

2018 Senior External Examination — Subject notice 1

Information about the 2018 examination

The examination will be based on the *Chinese Senior External Syllabus 2007 (amended 2012)*.

It will consist of an oral examination (that will assess speaking skills) and a written examination (that will assess listening, reading and writing skills).

Candidates must sit both examination components. No alternative arrangements will be made if a candidate fails to attend a scheduled examination. If a candidate is ill on the oral examination day, they will need to follow the illness and misadventure instructions in the *Candidates handbook*. No level of achievement can be awarded unless all examination and oral components are sat.

Oral examination

The oral examination is designed primarily to assess a candidate's knowledge and skill in using spoken Chinese. It has two sections:

- Section 1: Prepared speech
- Section 2: Conversation.

The conversation and the discussion may be supported by objects such as photographs, diagrams, pictures and maps. Notes and cue cards are not permitted.

Section 1: Prepared speech

The oral examination will begin with the candidate delivering a prepared speech of at least 2–3 minutes in length.

The prepared speech topic will be sent to candidates in September.

Section 2: Conversation

Section 2 of the oral examination will be a general conversation between the candidate and the marker.

The conversation will be about the candidate's personal world, e.g. school and home life, family and friends, interests and aspirations. (Information on the prescribed themes and topics is in Section 6.2.3 of the syllabus.)

The conversation will last for approximately three (3) minutes.

Recording evidence of learning

The QCAA may make audio and/or audiovisual recordings of the assessment to gather evidence of learning.

Written examination

The written component is timetabled for a different day and may be conducted at a different examination centre from the oral component.

The written examination has three sections. Detailed information on the written examination can be found in Section 8 of the syllabus.

Section 1: Listening

This section is designed primarily to assess a candidate's knowledge and skill in analysing and responding to information from spoken texts.

Section 2: Reading

This section is designed primarily to assess a candidate's knowledge and skill in analysing and responding to information from written texts.

Section 3: Writing in Chinese

This section is designed primarily to assess a candidate's ability to express ideas through the creation of original text in Chinese.

Candidates are expected to be familiar with simplified characters as the characters used for recognition are the simplified forms officially adopted by the government of the People's Republic of China. While the use of simplified characters is preferred in responses, candidates may use full-form (traditional) characters without penalty. The character style selected (either simplified or traditional) should be demonstrated consistently in all responses.

Dictionaries

Dictionaries are not allowed in the Chinese examination.

Level of achievement

Candidates' responses to questions in each paper will be judged against the two syllabus exit criteria:

- *Comprehension*
- *Conveying meaning*.

Each candidate's level of achievement will be determined by applying the syllabus standards to an overall assessment of responses across the oral and written components of the examination.

Enquiries

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