

Subject: Mandarin Chinese

Level: A Level



Entry Requirements

Grade B in Mandarin GCSE

Course Outline – AQA Examination Board

We will develop your ability to use Mandarin Chinese in both speech and writing. You will have weekly Mandarin conversation one to one with a teacher or native speaker. Our students will almost always be able to speak Mandarin well by the end of the course so you will leave us with a really useful skill.

What will I learn on this course?

You will learn to communicate confidently and imaginatively in Chinese through both the spoken and written word and gain insight into the contemporary society and culture of China and Chinese speaking countries. You will be in a good position to undertake further, advanced study of Chinese or make practical use of Chinese in employment.

You will make frequent use of ICT for e-mailing your homework to us and the Internet for authentic Chinese language material.

Who would make a successful student of Chinese?

This course will appeal to students who would enjoy the challenge of speaking to native speakers of Mandarin Chinese in their own language. You should also enjoy taking part in in depth discussions, expressing your opinions and justifying these in debate. You may be considering further study or working in another country, possibly in Asia.

Extra Curricular Activities

There will be opportunities to enter a number of competitions at local and national level. Visiting China Town in London is also important to practise the language that we learn in class. Pupils would also be welcomed to help out in KS3/4 lessons. Some opportunities may become available to visit local primary schools and teach some basic Mandarin Chinese to younger pupils.

Career Opportunities

A modern language is a truly useful ancillary skill for a wide range of businesses. Most interpreters and translators are people who work for a company and have knowledge of a foreign language, rather than professionals.

You will also find this course useful if you wish to follow a career in travel and tourism, marketing, public relations, European administration or law, teaching, interpreting and translating or journalism. Opportunities in the workplace are increasingly being opened up for those who can combine any subject or skill with a modern foreign language. Employers are very keen to recruit languages graduates.

Course Structure

Students study technological and social change, looking at Han and minority groups. They will study highlights of China-speaking artistic culture, including music and cinema, and learn about traditions and festivals in China.

Students also explore the influence of the past on present-day Chinese-speaking communities. Throughout their studies, they will learn the language in the context of Chinese-speaking countries and the issues and influences which have shaped them. Students will study texts and film and have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of their choice.

Students will need to know stroke order of hanzi, how to translate from Chinese into English and will also be tested on the meaning of several Chinese idioms from a prescribed list.

Assessment tasks will be varied and cover listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Each skill is assessed at the end of the course in a terminal examination.

A Level consists of modules centered on the following topic areas:

- Family
- Young People
- Education
- The Media
- Work and Leisure
- The Environment

Students will be invited to present, discuss and take a clear stance on any issue of their choice, demonstrating their skills in advanced-level Chinese.