

Mandarin IGCSE Exam **Academic year 2015-16**

Prepare You should use the time from now on productively by spending **an hour** or so a night (a couple of hours a day at the weekends) quietly in your room reading through your work, making notes and revising.

During the exams, be ready, have the right equipment. Have the right amount of sleep (8 hours). The more preparation you do now means the less worry you will have later.

Exam Materials – Include pens, pencils, eraser, and ruler.

Mandarin IGCSE Exam Timetable:

| Exam date | Exam type |
|---|------------------|
| 08:45 to 10:00 AM, Thursday 31 st March 2016 | Speaking Exam |
| 10:00 to 10:35 AM, Tuesday 24 th May 2016 | Listening Exam |
| 10:45 to 12:00 AM, Tuesday 24 th May 2016 | Writing Exam |
| 10:45 to 12:00 AM, Monday 6 th June 2016 | Reading Exam |

Topics to revise for the exam: (Topic list has been attached at the back.)

- Everyday activities
- Personal and social life
- The world around us
- The world of work
- The international world.

Answers No matter how good your grades were, you can always do better. When reading the question, make sure you read it properly. Re-read it, and make sure you've understood it. Pick out the key words and take a moment to think about your answer and make sure it is actually answering the question.

HANDWRITING – ensure that what you write is clear! An examiner does not have time to decipher unclear words.

How will you be tested:

All candidates take the following four components:

| Grades available: A*, A, B, C, D, E, F, G | Weighting of papers |
|---|---------------------|
| Paper 1 Listening approximately 35 minutes Candidates listen to a number of recordings and answer questions testing comprehension. 30 marks | 25% |
| Paper 2 Reading 1 hour 15 minutes Candidates read a number of texts and answer questions testing comprehension. 36 marks | 25% |
| Paper 3 Speaking* approximately 15 minutes Candidates complete two role plays, a topic presentation/conversation and a general conversation. 100 marks | 25% |
| Paper 4 Writing 1 hour 15 minutes Candidates respond in the target language to three tasks. 45 marks | 25% |

Speaking

Approximately 15 minutes, 100 marks

The Speaking examination consists of a single interview with three compulsory parts:

- Test 1: Role Plays
- Test 2: Topic Presentation/Conversation
- Test 3: General Conversation.

Test 1: Role Plays (approximately 5 minutes, 30 marks)

Each candidate is given **one card** containing two role play situations, each of which consists of five tasks. Each candidate is examined in both role play situations on the card they have been given. The first role play (Role Play A) is more straightforward than the second (Role Play B). Candidates should be

allowed approximately 15 minutes to prepare their two role play situations. You may not take any written notes into the preparation room nor may you make any notes during their preparation time. Candidates should have a copy of the Role Play Card they have prepared to refer to in the examination room but must not be allowed to take it away with them after the examination.

Test 2: Topic Presentation/Conversation (approximately 5 minutes, 30 marks)

This part of the examination starts with about two minute presentation by the candidate on a topic of their choice which you will have prepared in advance. The teacher will follow up the presentation with specific spontaneous questions on the topic, bringing the total time for the Topic Presentation and Topic Conversation to approximately five minutes.

Test 3: General Conversation (approximately 5 minutes, 30 marks)

The Topic Conversation will lead into a spontaneous discussion of a more general nature. E.g. school, home, town, journey to and from school, free time (evenings, weekends), holidays, and hobbies.

Test 4 Impression (10 marks)

At the end of the Speaking examination, based on the candidate's overall performance, the teacher awards a mark for pronunciation, intonation and fluency.

Listening

Approximately 35 minutes, 30 marks

All listening material will be heard **twice** by candidates and appropriate pauses for candidates to write their answers will be included on the recording.

All candidates must attempt all three sections.

The examination is divided into three sections, each worth 10 marks, and there is progression as higher grades are targeted.

Section 1 (10 marks)

One or two exercises, consisting of short recordings (one or two sentences), some involving two speakers, tested mainly by visual material (pictures, line drawings, etc.).

Section 2 (10 marks)

Two or three exercises.

Candidates hear recordings containing largely factual information, about travel, weather, opening times, facilities available, etc.

Section 3 (10 marks)

Two or three exercises.

Candidates hear recordings containing information which is of interest to the candidate: conversations, discussions, interviews, factual reports are likely sources.

Questions are usually objective requiring non-verbal responses. Test-types include multiple-choice, matching, box ticking. Visuals are used wherever possible.

Five of the 20 marks allocated to Sections 2 and 3 correspond to questions requiring answers in Chinese. These questions are phrased in such a way that answers can be brief and candidates are allowed to write their answers in either Chinese characters or pinyin. As long as communication is achieved, candidates are not penalized for language which may be incorrect. Where candidates write their answers in pinyin, tones do not need to be correct for the mark to be awarded. Answers written in any language other than Chinese will be ignored.

Writing

1 hour 15 minutes, 45 marks

All candidates must attempt both sections.

Answers written in any language other than Mandarin Chinese are ignored.

Section 1 (20 marks)

- Question 1 (5 marks): candidates are required to write a series of single words linked to a topic. Any words relevant to the topic that are produced by the candidate in the examination will be considered for reward.
- Question 2 (15 marks): a directed writing task. 80–100 characters in total are required. 10 marks are available for Communication and 5 marks for Language.

Marks are only awarded for material which addresses the set tasks.

Section 2 (25 marks)

- Question 3 (25 marks): candidates are offered a choice of three tasks (an email/letter, an article, and a narrative) and must complete one of these. 150 characters in total are required.

Candidates are expected to communicate accurately and should make use of a wide variety of idiom, vocabulary, structure and show that they can convey past and future meaning. A system of positive marking is used. Irrelevant material is not rewarded.

Questions in Section 2 are marked out of 25 under the following three headings:

- Communication 5 marks
- Accuracy of Language 15 marks
- Impression 5 marks

Reading

1 hour 15 minutes, 36 marks

All candidates must attempt all three sections.

Candidates should write their answers in characters. Answers written in any language other than Chinese are ignored.

Section 1 (12 marks)

- Exercise 1 (5 marks): candidates read a series of short notices, signs, instructions, messages, advertisements, etc. And answer multiple-choice questions.
- Exercise 2 (4 marks): candidates read a series of short statements and complete a matching exercise which tests the main words in these statements.
- Exercise 3 (3 marks): candidates read a short text in the form of an email, message, postcard, letter, etc.
Questions are objective and test the main points and some detail.

Section 2 (12 marks)

- Exercise 1 (4 marks): candidates read a short text in the form of a brochure, guide, etc. Questions are objective and test the main points and specific detail.
- Exercise 2 (8 marks): candidates read a longer text in the form of a letter, email, etc. Questions test general understanding of the main points, which includes recognizing simple attitudes and opinions. Questions require short answers in the target language.

Section 3 (12 marks)

- Exercises 1 and 2 (12 marks): candidates read two longer, more complex texts. Questions test general and specific comprehension. They will also require candidates to identify attitudes, emotions and ideas, the

main points or themes, and to draw conclusions. Some of the questions are objective; some require short answers in the target language.

Topic list

| | Topic areas | Examination topics | |
|---------------|---|--|----|
| Area A | Everyday activities | | |
| | Home life and school | Home life | A1 |
| | | School routine | A2 |
| | Food, health and fitness | Eating and drinking | A3 |
| | | Health and fitness | A4 |
| Area B | Personal and social life | | |
| | Self, family and personal relationships | Self, family, personal relationships, pets | B1 |
| | | Everyday life | B2 |
| | Holidays | Eating out | B3 |
| | | Holidays | B4 |
| Area C | The world around us | | |
| | Home town and local area | Home town and geographical surroundings | C1 |
| | | Clothes | C2 |
| | | Shopping | C3 |
| | | Public services, customs, etc. | C4 |
| | Natural and made environment | Weather | C5 |
| | | Finding the way | C6 |
| | People, places and customs | Meeting and greeting phrases | C7 |
| | | Travel and transport | C8 |
| | | Famous sites and famous cities | C9 |
| | Animals | C10 | |
| Area D | The world of work | | |
| | Continuing education | Further education and training | D1 |
| | Careers and employment | Future career plans | D2 |
| | Employment | D3 | |
| Area E | The international world | | |
| | Tourism at home and abroad | Holiday travel and transport (see also C8) | E1 |
| | | Geographical surroundings (see also C1) | E2 |
| | | Weather (see also C5) | E3 |
| | Life in other countries | Places and customs | E4 |
| | | Food and drink (see also A3) | E5 |
| | Meeting people (see also C7) | E6 | |

GO FOR IT !



Good Luck