



Independent Schools  
Examinations Board

**CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT  
IN  
MANDARIN CHINESE  
FOUNDATION LEVEL  
SPECIFICATION**

© Independent Schools Examinations Board 2011

**INTRODUCTION**

This assessment comprises listening, speaking, reading and writing elements. It is appropriate for candidates who have undertaken 30 to 40 hours or one to two years of study.

**AIMS**

A course leading to this assessment should:

- (i) develop the skills which will enable candidates to understand the written and spoken language and use the language effectively for purposes of practical communication;
- (ii) give candidates opportunities to take part in a broad range of linguistic activities such as those set out in the National Curriculum for modern foreign languages;
- (iii) provide a basis for continuing study of the language and encourage independent learning, including the use of dictionaries, glossaries and ICT;
- (iv) give candidates opportunities to work with authentic language materials;
- (v) encourage interest in the target countries;
- (vi) provide enjoyment and stimulation;
- (vii) encourage positive attitudes towards the use of foreign languages and towards speakers of foreign languages.

## ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The examination will test candidates' ability to:

- show an understanding of the spoken language dealing with a range of familiar topics, and identify and note main points and specific details, including opinions;
- take part in short conversations, giving information and opinions;
- show an understanding of a number of single words, short phrases and longer texts, and identify and note main points and specific details, including opinions.
- produce pieces of writing, ranging from single words or short phrases to longer passages in which they seek and convey information and opinions.

## SPECIFICATION CONTENT

- (i) The basis of the assessment is contained in the topics, as set out below.
- (ii) The grammar section lists all the material which candidates should cover.

## TOPICS

- Tones (on listening paper)
- Hello and basic greetings
- Names and numbers
- Age and numbers
- My family
- Countries
- Food and drink
- Parts of the body
- What's the time?
- My day/ my week
- My Clothes
- Shopping
- Inside my house
- What's cooking?
- My school
- I like / I don't like
- My hobbies
- Sports
- My holidays

## GRAMMAR

<b>use of <i>pinyin</i></b>	
<b>tones</b>	
<b>verbs</b>	see vocabulary list
<b>negatives</b>	不, 没
<b>adjectives</b>	see vocabulary list
<b>pronouns</b>	personal: 我, 你, 他, 她, 我们, 你们, 他们, 她们  demonstrative: 这, 那  interrogative: 什么, 谁, 几
<b>prepositions</b>	在,
<b>particles</b>	吗,
<b>numerals</b>	cardinal numbers: 0-100, 两

## **SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT**

The assessment is divided into four elements. Successful candidates will receive a certificate indicating a pass (50%), a merit (65%) or a distinction (80%).

**SPEAKING** (10%; approximately 5-10 minutes)

**READING AND WRITING SECTION** (60% - 45 minutes)

Instructions will be given in English. There will be 18 questions altogether testing the two skills. There will be some exercises to test pinyin and others to test Chinese characters, although the emphasis will be on character recognition rather than on character writing. See the vocabulary list for the prescribed pinyin vocabulary and compulsory Chinese characters required.

**LISTENING** (30%; approximately 10-15 minutes)

The test will be based on recorded material. Instructions will be given in English. There will be 10 questions. There will be a range of question types.

# APPENDIX

## SUGGESTED VOCABULARY AND CHINESE CHARACTERS

*Asterisked characters are non-prescriptive.*

ADJECTIVES		
美丽 / 漂亮 *	měilì / piàoliang	beautiful
大	dà	big
无聊 *	wúliáo	boring
便宜 *	piányi	cheap
好喝	hǎohē	delicious/good to drink
好吃	hǎochī	delicious/good to eat
好玩	hǎowán	fun
好	hǎo	good
有意思 *	yǒu yìsi	interesting
新	xīn	new
老	lǎo	old
小	xiǎo	small

NUMBERS & TIME		
一	yī	1
二	èr	2
三	sān	3
四	sì	4

五	wǔ	5
六	liù	6
七	qī	7
八	bā	8
九	jiǔ	9
十	shí	10
十一	shí yī	11
十二	shí'èr	12
<b>Numbers 13-99</b>		
一百 *	yī bǎi	100
两 *	liǎng	2 (before a measure word)
点 *	diǎn	o'clock
几点了/种? *	jǐ diǎn le/ zhǒng?	What time is it?
星期	xīngqī	week
星期一	xīngqī yī	Monday
星期二	xīngqī èr	Tuesday
星期三	xīngqī sān	Wednesday
星期四	xīngqī sì	Thursday
星期五	xīngqī wǔ	Friday
星期六	xīngqī liù	Saturday
星期天 / 日	xīngqī tiān / rì	Sunday
天	tiān	day/sky
月	yuè	month/moon

一月	yī yuè	January
二月	èr yuè	February
三月	sān yuè	March
四月	sì yuè	April
五月	wǔ yuè	May
六月	liù yuè	June
七月	qī yuè	July
八月	bā yuè	August
九月	jiǔ yuè	September
十月	shí yuè	October
十一月	shíyī yuè	November
十二月	shí'èr yuè	December

<b>PRONOUNS</b>		
我 *	wǒ	I; me
你 *	nǐ	you
他 *	tā	he; him
她	tā	she; her
我们 *	wǒmen	we; us
你们 *	nǐmen	you (plural)
他们 / 她们 *	tāmen / tāmen	they (male/female); them

**FAMILY; PEOPLE; HOME AND DAILY ROUTINE**

妈妈	māma	mum
爸爸	bàba	dad
哥哥 *	gēge	elder brother
姐姐 *	jiějie	elder sister
弟弟 *	dìdi	younger brother
妹妹 *	mèimei	younger sister
家	jiā	home
浴室 *	yùshì	bathroom/shower room
卧室 *	wòshì	bedroom
厨房 *	chúfáng	kitchen
客厅	kètīng	living room
床 *	chuáng	bed
沙发	shāfā	sofa
桌子 *	zhuōzi	table/desk
椅子 *	yǐzi	chair

**COUNTRIES, PLACES, LANGUAGES**

美国 *	Měiguó	America
英国 *	Yīngguó	Britain
中国	Zhōngguó	China
法国 *	Fǎguó	France
北京	Běijīng	Beijing

香港 *	Xiāng Gǎng	Hong Kong
伦敦 *	Lúndūn	London
上海 *	Shànghǎi	Shanghai
故宫 *	Gùgōng	The Forbidden City
长城	Cháng Chéng	The Great Wall
天安门 *	Tiānānmén	Tiananmen Square
黄河 *	Huáng Hé	Yellow River
汉语 /中文	Hànyǔ / Zhōngwén	Chinese
英语 *	Yīngyǔ	English

## SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM OBJECTS

包	bāo	bag
书	shū	book
放学 *	fàngxué	finish classes (for the day)
上学	shàngxué	go to school
作业 *	zuòyè	homework
课 *	kè	lesson
数学 *	shùxué	maths
体育 *	tǐyù	PE
笔	bǐ	pen
尺	chǐ	ruler
科学 *	kēxué	science
学生 *	xuéshēng	student

老师 *	lǎoshī	teacher
考试 *	kǎoshì	test/to test
课本	kèběn	textbook

## COLOURS

黑	hēi	black
蓝	lán	blue
绿	lǜ	green
红	hóng	red
白	bái	white
黄	huáng	yellow

## VERBS

有	yǒu	have/has; there is/there are
没有	méiyǒu	do not/does not have; there is not/are not
喜欢	xǐhuan	to like
不喜欢	bù xǐhuan	do not/does not like
要	yào	to want
不要	bú yào	do not/does not want
是	shì	to be
买	mǎi	to buy
在	zài	to be in / located in
做 *	zuò	to do/make

喝	hē	to drink
吃	chī	to eat
起床	qǐchuáng	to get up
去	qù	to go to
睡觉 *	shuìjiào	to sleep
坐	zuò	to travel by
用 *	yòng	to use
看	kàn	to watch/read/look at/visit
穿 *	chuān	to wear

FOOD AND DRINK		
牛肉	niúròu	beef
面包 *	miànbāo *	bread
鸡蛋 *	jīdàn *	chicken egg
鸡肉	jīròu	chicken meat
薯条 *	shǔtiáo	chips
咖啡 *	kāfēi	coffee
可乐 *	kělè	Coke
汽水	qìshuǐ	fizzy drink
牛奶	niúniǎi	milk
面条 *	miàntiáo	noodles
(米)饭 *	(mǐ)fàn	rice
茶 *	chá *	tea

水	shuǐ	water
早饭	zǎofàn	breakfast
午饭 *	wǔfàn	lunch
晚饭 *	wǎnfàn	dinner
筷子 *	kuàizi	chopsticks
叉 *	chāzi	fork
刀	dāo	knife
匙子 / 汤匙 *	sháozi / chízi / tāngchí	spoon

### BODY PARTS

胳膊 *	gēbo	arm
耳朵	ěrduo	ear
眼睛 *	yǎnjīng	eyes
脚 *	jiǎo	foot
手	shǒu	hand
腿 *	tuǐ	leg
嘴巴 *	zuǐba	mouth
鼻子 *	bízi	nose

### CLOTHING

外套 *	wàitào	coat
帽子	màozi	hat
茄克 *	jiákè	jacket

毛衣	máoyī	jumper
衬衫 *	chènshān	shirt
鞋子 *	xiézi	shoes
裙子 *	qúnzi	skirt
袜子 *	wàzi	socks
裤子 *	kùzi	trousers

### PLACES IN THE TOWN; HOLIDAY

海 *	hǎi	the sea
海滩 *	hǎitān	beach
假期	jiàqī	holiday
饭店	fàndiàn	hotel/restaurant

### INTERROGATIVES

吗	ma?	question word
几	jǐ?	how many?
什么 *	shénme?	what?
哪里/儿 *	nǎlǐ/ nǎr?	where?
谁 *	shéi?	who?

### OTHER WORDS

这里 *	zhè lǐ	here
那里 *	nà lǐ	there

里 *	lǐ	inside
不	bù	no; not
那 *	nà	that
这 *	zhè	this
很 *	hěn	very

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		
做饭	zuò fàn	to cook
吃饭 *	chī fàn	to eat/have a meal
看电视	kàn diànshì	to watch television
看电影 *	kàn diànyǐng	see a film
用电脑 *	yòng diànnǎo	to use the computer
上网 *	shàng wǎng	surf the net
跑步	pǎobù	to jog; jogging
踢足球 *	tī zúqiú	to play football
打篮球 *	dǎ lánqiú	to play basketball
打乒乓球 *	dǎ pīngpāngqiú	to play ping pong
打网球 *	dǎ wǎngqiú	to play tennis
游泳 *	yóuyǒng	to swim

<b>BASIC GREETINGS</b>		
你好*	nǐ hǎo	hello

再见*	zàijiàn	goodbye
谢谢*	xièxie	thankyou
你好吗?*	Nǐ hao ma?	How are you?
我很好*	Wǒ hěn hǎo.	I am well.

NAME AND AGE		
你叫什么?*	Ni jiào shénme?	What are you called?
我叫...*	Wǒ jiào....	I am called...
你几岁?*	Nǐ jǐ suì?	How old are you?
我...岁*	Wǒ ....suì.	I am .... old.

SUPPLEMENTARY		
朋友	péngyou	friend
手机*	shǒujī	mobile phone
元	Yuán	Yuan / Chinese currency
汉堡包	hànbǎobāo	hamburger
T 恤衫*	tīxùshān	T shirt
比赛*	bǐsài	to compete; competition
运动*	yùndòng	to exercise; sport
橙汁*	chéngzhī	orange juice

巧克力	qiǎokèlì	chocolate
苹果汁 *	píngguǒzhī	apple juice
公园	gōngyuán	park
学校	xuéxiào	school