

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

# SYLLABUS UPDATE

## PRE-U MANDARIN CHINESE SYLLABUS (PRINCIPAL COURSE AND SHORT COURSE)

Please note that this syllabus, for examination in 2013, 2014 and 2015, has been updated.

### Topic areas – Principal (9778) (page 7)

The topic areas from which all textual material used in Papers 2 and 3 will be drawn are set out below:

Topic areas to be examined in 2013	Topic areas to be examined in 2014	Topic areas to be examined in 2015
1 Family	1 Family	1 Family
2 Young people	2 Young people	2 Young people
3 Education	3 Education	3 Education
4 Tourism*	4 <b>NEW FOR 2014:</b> The media	4 The media
5 Urban and rural life**	5 Urban and rural life**	5 <b>NEW FOR 2015:</b> Work and leisure
6 The environment	6 The environment	6 The environment

\* The topic area of Tourism will be examined for the last time in 2013. It will be replaced by the topic area of The media. The media will be examined for the first time in June 2014. The list of new core vocabulary for this new topic area is provided in this document.

\*\* The topic area of Urban and rural life will be examined for the last time in 2014. It will be replaced by the topic area of Work and leisure. Work and leisure will be examined for the first time in June 2015. The list of new core vocabulary for this new topic area is provided in this document.

### Topic areas – Short Course (1341) (page 13)

There are no changes to the Short Course topic areas.

2013	2014	2015
1 Family	1 Family	1 Family
2 Young people	2 Young people	2 Young people
3 Education	3 Education	3 Education

**SYLLABUS 9778 ONLY**  
**CORE VOCABULARY FOR REPLACEMENT TOPIC AREAS**

**NEW TOPIC AREA FOR 2014:** The media: 媒体 (replaces Tourism, which will be examined for the last time in 2013)

版块	bǎn kuài	section
报道	bào dǎo	report (v.)
报道	bào dào	report (n.)
编辑	biān jí	edit
播放	bō fàng	broadcast
博客	bó kè	blog
采访	cǎi fǎng	interview
导演	dǎo yǎn	director
短信	duǎn xìn	text message
更新	gēng xīn	update
简讯	jiǎn xùn	brief news
漫画	màn huà	cartoon
媒体	méi tǐ	media
票房	piào fáng	box office
评论	píng lùn	commentary
摄制	shè zhì	production
视频	shì pín	video media
帖子	tiē zi	post
微博	wēi bó	twitter
象征	xiàng zhēng	symbol
预报	yù bào	forecast
专栏	zhuān lán	column

**SYLLABUS 9778 ONLY**  
**CORE VOCABULARY FOR REPLACEMENT TOPIC AREAS**

**NEW TOPIC AREA FOR 2015:** Work and leisure: 工作和休闲 (replaces *Urban and rural life*, which will be examined for the last time in 2014)

充实	chōng shí	enrich / fulfill
动力	dòng lì	drive / motivation
奋斗	fèn dòu	strive
过程	guò chéng	process/ course
合约	hé yuē	contract
户外	hù wài	out-door
缓解	huǎn jiě	relief / remission
激烈	jī liè	intense
交易	jiāo yì	trade / deal / transaction
节奏	jié zòu	pace / rhythm
力所能及	lì suǒ néng jí	in one's power
培养	péi yǎng	cultivate / foster
佩服	pèi fú	admire
疲劳	pí láo	tired / strain
启发	qǐ fā	inspire
趣味	qù wèi	interest / delight
人力资源	rén lì zī yuán	human resources
摄影	shè yǐng	photography
调整	tiáo zhěng	adjust / adjustment
效率	xiào lǜ	efficiency / productivity
欣赏	xīn shǎng	enjoy / appreciate
毅力	yì lì	willpower / stamina
追求	zhuī qiú	pursuit / aspire

## Description of components – Principal and Short Course (page 11 and page 15)

### Culture Options for 2013, 2014 and 2015

#### Paper 4 (9778 Principal)/Paper 2 (1341 Short Course) – Chinese Culture

Questions will be set on the following options:

##### Section 1: Topics in Chinese culture

Options to be examined in 2013	Options to be examined in 2014	Options to be examined in 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The founding of the People's Republic of China***</li><li>• Chinese economic trends since 1978***</li><li>• The city of Beijing*</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The founding of the People's Republic of China***</li><li>• Chinese economic trends since 1978***</li><li>• <b>NEW FOR 2014:</b> Emerging China: population, environment and migration†</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The founding of the People's Republic of China***</li><li>• Chinese economic trends since 1978***</li><li>• Emerging China: population, environment and migration†</li></ul>

##### Section 2: Chinese literature and film

Options to be examined in 2013	Options to be examined in 2014	Options to be examined in 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fiction – The Picador Book of Contemporary Chinese Fiction*</li><li>• Fiction – Red Dust, Ma Jian**</li><li>• Film – Yellow Earth, Chen Kaige**</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>NEW FOR 2014:</b> Fiction – Love in a Fallen City and other stories, Eileen Chang†</li><li>• Fiction – Red Dust, Ma Jian**</li><li>• Film – Yellow Earth, Chen Kaige**</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fiction – Love in a Fallen City and other stories, Eileen Chang†</li><li>• <b>NEW FOR 2015:</b> Fiction – Boat to Redemption, Su Tong††</li><li>• <b>NEW FOR 2015:</b> Film – Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress, Dai Sijie††</li></ul>

\* Options marked with ONE asterisk will be set in 2013.

\*\* Options marked with TWO asterisks will be set in 2013 and 2014.

\*\*\* Options marked with THREE asterisks will be set in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

† Options marked with ONE cross will be set for 2014 and 2015

†† Options marked with TWO crosses will be set for 2015

### REPLACEMENT CULTURE OPTIONS FOR 2014 AND 2015

#### Paper 4 (9778 Principal)/Paper 2 (1341 Short Course) – Chinese Culture

##### Section 1: Topics in Chinese culture

**NEW OPTION FOR 2014:** Emerging China: population, environment and migration (*replaces The city of Beijing which will be examined for the last time in 2013*)

The bullet points listed below are intended to give further details and exemplification of the syllabus content. They are neither exhaustive nor prescriptive and should not necessarily be regarded as the basis for full questions.

Students need to understand the trends and the key issues and have some key facts and/or case studies which they can quote.

- Water control and availability – Three Gorges Dam Project case study
- Air pollution – coal mining, industrial development

- Soil erosion and forest resources
- China's environmental protection framework
- Sustainable cities – Dongtan Eco City
- Population policies and implementation post 1949
- Population density and distribution: east/west
- Population trends: age, gender, wealth, education
- Population pyramids
- Migration in China: push and pull factors
- Forced and voluntary migration
- The Hukou system
- Migrant workers

## REPLACEMENT CULTURE OPTIONS FOR 2014 AND 2015

### Paper 4 (9778 Principal)/Paper 2 (1341 Short Course) – Chinese Culture Section 2: Chinese literature and film

**NEW OPTION FOR 2014:** Fiction – Love in a Fallen City and other stories, Eileen Chang (*replaces The Picador Book of Contemporary Chinese Fiction which is examined for the last time in 2013*)

The bullet points listed below are intended to give further details and exemplification of the syllabus content. They are neither exhaustive nor prescriptive and should not necessarily be regarded as the basis for full questions.

Students need to know the novellas and be able to discuss literary techniques, structure, characterisation, language, mood and lyricism. They should also be able to compare and contrast the novellas. Sometimes the question will refer to a specific novella and at other times the question will ask the student to refer to two to illustrate their answer. Students will also need to have some background to the socio-political situation in Shanghai and Hong Kong at the time and discuss themes of:

- tradition and modernity
- love
- family
- politics
- conflict
- women and escape from convention

## REPLACEMENT CULTURE OPTIONS FOR 2014 AND 2015

### Paper 4 (9778 Principal)/Paper 2 (1341 Short Course) – Chinese Culture Section 2: Chinese literature and film

**NEW OPTION FOR 2015:** Fiction – Boat to Redemption, Su Tong (*replaces Red Dust, Ma Jian, which is examined for the last time in 2014*)

The bullet points listed below are intended to give further details and exemplification of the syllabus content. They are neither exhaustive nor prescriptive and should not necessarily be regarded as the basis for full questions.

Students need to know the plot of the novel and again be able to discuss literary techniques, structure, characterisation (of father, son and Huixian in particular), language and mood. It is important that students have some knowledge of the Cultural Revolution, as otherwise what they are reading will have little real meaning for them. They will need to be able to discuss:

- tragedy and comedy
- absurdity and parody
- Dongliang as the narrator

- obsessive love
- the relationship between father and son
- the metaphor of water and land
- narrative techniques
- politics and revolution
- fate

## REPLACEMENT CULTURE OPTIONS FOR 2014 AND 2015

### Paper 4 (9778 Principal)/Paper 2 (1341 Short Course) – Chinese Culture Section 2: Chinese literature and film

**NEW OPTION FOR 2015:** Film – Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress, Dai Sijie (*replaces Yellow Earth, Chen Kaige, which is examined for the last time in 2014*)

The bullet points listed below are intended to give further details and exemplification of the syllabus content. They are neither exhaustive nor prescriptive and should not necessarily be regarded as the basis for full questions.

Students need to have some background knowledge to the Cultural Revolution and rusticated youth in order to be able to understand the film. They should also know about the Three Gorges Dam for the coda at the end of the film to have any significance. Students should be very familiar with the plot and should be able to discuss the characters, particularly the main protagonists Lu, Ma and the Little Seamstress, but also the other characters too. With respect to the film, they will also need to be able to discuss:

- power and the impact of classical literature and art
- brutality and the Cultural Revolution
- political repression and freedom of thought
- youth and love
- cinematography
- audience impact and critical reaction
- change and tradition
- the individual and the collective
- the role of women
- nostalgia and reality
- rural Sichuan

In some schools, it may be that the Culture Paper will be taught by the Chinese department with support from the history, economics or even English department. For most Chinese language teachers, teaching the Culture paper through the medium of English will be a new experience and support for teachers will be available through the Cambridge Pre-U online forum, which will be a place to ask questions and receive support from the online moderator and fellow teachers.

The syllabus lends itself to both teacher-led lectures followed by student research e.g. for the founding of the People's Republic of China topic; alternatively Love in a Fallen City could be taught exclusively through a series of student-led seminars with an individual student/groups of students leading a discussion on a novella or a particular aspect of it and the sharing of research and ideas. Both modes of delivery can revolve round student discussion of ideas, which will then prepare students well for essay writing. (There will not be any questions comparing Boat to Redemption and Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress, but students may well find discussion about the similarities and differences in approach to the portrayal of the Cultural Revolution both interesting and insightful).