

Document 9

Pre-U Mandarin Chinese: Principal Course Component 1, Speaking

Notes on questioning technique

A very demanding exercise for the examiner:

- need to arrive at a consistent, objective and fair assessment
- need to think up appropriate questions pitched at the right level

Good practice:

- Examiners must aim to make candidates feel at ease
- Need to come over as friendly and sympathetic human beings!
- Need to be well prepared
- Once a question has been asked, allow the candidate to give as full an answer as he/she is capable of
- Examiners can best impress by asking short, succinct, open-ended questions and keeping what they say to a minimum
- Aim to ask open-ended questions that encourage candidates to express and develop own ideas
- Avoid questions that elicit one-word answers (except when this is a starter question to lead into more open-ended questioning)
- Do not correct errors or invite candidates to correct their own errors
- Aim to vary questions from one candidate to another
- Candidates should not be allowed to deliver substantial chunks of rote-learned material
- One of our prime aims must be to give the candidates the opportunity to defend and justify their opinions, to expand, develop, exemplify and explain points
- Do not repeat/labour a question when it is immediately obvious that the line of questioning is not going to elicit anything positive
- Think about the sort of questions that might be appropriate to achieve this aim:

Question bank

Topic Area 1: Family

Let's talk about the size of families.

谈一谈你对家庭大小的看法。

Is your own family big or small? How many siblings do you have?

你的家是大家庭还是小家庭？你有几个兄弟姐妹？

Do you think a big family or a small one is best? Why?

你觉得是大家庭好还是小家庭好？为什么？

Do your grandparents live with your family? Why/why not?

你的祖父祖母跟你们一起住吗？为什么？

In China, family size is decreasing. Why has it changed?

What are the advantages and disadvantages?

在中国，家庭变得越来越小了。为什么会有这样的变化？这

样的变化有什么好处和坏处？为什么？

What, in general, are the advantages and disadvantages of a "one-child family" – either in the UK or China?

一般来说，只有一个孩子的家庭有哪些好处和坏处，不管是

在英国还是在中国？

What kind of a relationship do you think siblings should have with each other?

你认为兄弟姐妹之间的关系应该是怎样的？

Tell me about your family.
谈一谈你的家庭。

Do you enjoy spending time with your family? Why/why not?

你喜欢跟家人在一起吗？为什么？

If you and any member of your family have a difference of opinion, how do you resolve it?

如果你和家人之间发生了矛盾，你怎么解决？

How important are your family's views are when you make decisions?

当你需要作决定的时候，你家人的意见有多重要？

Who do you listen to more: your parents or your friends?

你是更愿意听父母的意见，还是更愿意听朋友的意见？

Would you see yourself living with your family when you go to university or after you graduate? Why/why not?

上大学以后，或者毕业以后，你会跟家人一起住吗？为什么？

With respect to bringing up children, what are the differences between parents in China and in the UK?

在养孩子方面，中国父母和英国父母有哪些不同？

Are attitudes to the family in China different to those in the UK? How?

中国和英国在对家庭的态度方面，是不是不一样？怎么不一样？

Topic Area 2: Young People

Tell me about your spare time.
谈一谈你的空闲时间。

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?
有空儿的时候，你喜欢做些什么？

Are hobbies important to young people? Why/why not?
兴趣爱好对年轻人来说很重要吗？为什么？

Some people say, young people should spend more of their spare time studying, not going out with friends. Do you agree? Why/why not?
有人说，年轻人应该利用空闲时间多学习，而不是跟朋友们在一起。你同意吗？为什么？

Some people just stay at home and chat with friends online at the weekend. What are your views on this?
周末的时候，有人只是呆在家里在网上跟朋友聊天。你怎么看？

Do you think doing voluntary work in your spare time is a good idea? Why/why not?
利用空闲时间做一些志愿者工作，你认为好不好？为什么？

Do young people in the UK and China enjoy doing the same things? Why/Why not?
英国的年轻人和中国的年轻人喜欢做的事情一样吗？为什么？

The role of young people
年轻人的作用

What kind of expectations do your family have for your future?

你的家人对你的将来有什么样的期望？

What do you think about the young people around you?

你身边的年轻人怎么样？

In your view, how can young people help each other?

你认为年轻人可以在哪些方面互相帮助？

What kind of contribution do you think young people can make to society?

你认为年轻人能为社会做些什么？

What sort of problems do young people have to deal with today?

现在的年轻人需要处理哪些问题？

It is said that nowadays young people are not as happy as they were in the past. Do you agree? Why/why not?

有人说现在的年轻人不如过去的年轻人幸福。你同意这样的说法吗？为什么？

What do you like about being young?

作为年轻人，你感觉怎么样？

Topic Area 3: Education

Tell me about your school and your teachers.

谈一谈你的学校和老师。

Is it a good school? Why/why not?

你的学校好不好？为什么？

How would you like to change it? Why?

你希望你的学校有哪些改变？为什么？

Do you have a favourite teacher? What is he/she like?

你有没有最喜欢的老师？他/她是什么样的人？

Do you think a teacher can influence your life? Why/why not?

你认为一个老师可能会影响你的一生吗？为什么？

Who plays a more important role in young people's education, teachers or parents?

对年轻人的教育，是老师更重要还是家长更重要？

Who would you like to keep in touch with after graduation from school or university, teachers or classmates? Why?

毕业以后，你是更愿意跟老师保持联系，还是更愿意跟同学保持联系？为什么？

With respect to the relationship between teachers and students, what are the differences between China and UK?

在教师和学生之间的关系方面，中国和英国有什么不同？

What differences do you think there are between the education system here and the one in China?

你认为这里的教育系统和中国的教育系统有哪些不同？

What can we learn from the education system in China and vice versa?

从中国的教育系统中我们能学到什么？从英国的教育系统中呢？

What is the point of education?

教育的意义是什么？

What subjects are you studying?

你学习哪些科目？

What subjects do you like? Why?

你喜欢哪些科目？为什么？

What do you think about your Chinese course? How do you think it could be improved?

你的中文课怎么样？你认为可以怎样改进？

What do you know about the differences in subjects studied at school in China and the UK?

在学习科目方面，中国和英国有什么不同？

Those who study well at school and university will achieve more in their future life. Do you think this is true? Why/Why not?

在学校学习好的学生，将来在工作中也会取得好成绩。这样的说法对不对？为什么？

Why do you think it is important to learn Chinese in the modern world?

在当今世界，学习中文非常重要。为什么？

The role of school uniform

The role of sport

Topic Area 4: The media (first examination June 2014)

Topic Area 5: Urban and Rural life

Tell me about your hometown.

谈一谈你的家乡。

Do you come from a city, a town or a village? How do you like it?

你的家乡是在城市还是在农村？你怎么看你的家乡？

What kind of changes have there been in your hometown since you were a small child? Do you think there are any more changes needed?

跟你小时候比，你的家乡有哪些变化？你认为你的家乡还需要改变什么？

Is it possible to develop tourism in your hometown? How? 在你的家乡能不能发展旅游业？怎样发展？

Some people say that the countryside is a better place for people to live. Do you agree? Why/why not?

有人说农村更适合人类居住生活，你同意吗？为什么？

What are the differences between the countryside and cities?

农村和城市有哪些差别？

Do you want your children live in the countryside or in a city? Why?

你希望你的孩子住在农村还是住在城市？为什么？

Some people say "The cities are for the rich and the young." Do you agree? Why/why not?

有人说：“城市是有钱人和年轻人住的地方。”你同意这种说法吗？为什么？

What lifestyle differences are there between the countryside and the cities?

在生活方式上，农村和城市有什么不同？

In big cities, the relationship between people is more and more distant. What do think?

在大城市里，人们之间关系越来越远了。你怎么看这个问题？

In China, there is a big gap in the standard of living between the countryside and cities. How do you think that the gap might be decreased?

在中国，农村的条件跟城市比有很大的差别。你认为应该怎样减小这些差别？

Topic Area 6: Environment

Talk about pollution issues.

谈一谈污染问题。

What is the environment like where you live? What kind of pollution is there?

你住的地方环境怎么样？有哪些污染？

How has the environment of our planet changed compared to the time when you were at primary school?

跟你上小学的时候比，我们的地球环境发生了哪些变化？

What problems does pollution cause?

环境污染会带来哪些问题？

Do you think overpopulation is an important environmental issue? Why/why not?

你认为人口过多是一个很严重的环境问题吗？为什么？

How serious are the pollution issues in the UK? Who is more responsible for addressing the issues – citizens or government? Why?

英国的环境污染有多严重？对这一问题，谁应该负更多的责任？是政府还是老百姓？为什么？

How serious are the pollution issues in China? Can you talk about any pollution problems in China?

中国的环境污染有多严重？可以谈一谈中国的某些污染问题吗？

Tell me how to protect the environment.
谈一谈怎样保护环境。

Which items which you use daily can be recycled?
在日常生活中哪些东西可以回收利用？

What can you do to protect the environment in your own life?
在生活中你应该怎样保护环境？

Why is it very important to protect the environment? How can we educate people to protect the environment?
为什么保护环境非常重要？怎样教育人们保护环境？

How can we use resources rationally? What kind of new energy resources could we develop?
我们怎样做到合理利用资源？我们可以开发哪些新能源？

What efforts have the people made for protecting the environment in your country?
在你们国家，人们为保护环境进行了哪些努力？

Do you think developing the economy may damage the environment? Why/why not?
你认为发展经济会破坏环境吗？为什么？

What do you know about how China is tackling environmental issues?
为了解决环境问题，中国在做些什么？

