

# MANDARIN CHINESE (Short Course)

Paper 1341/01

Speaking

## General comments

There are two parts to this examination – **Section 1** is a Prepared Topic and Topic Conversation and **Section 2** is a General Conversation. The Prepared Topic is marked out of 15 with 10 marks for Content/Presentation and 5 marks for Language. The Topic Conversation and the General Conversation are each marked out of 15 with 5 marks for Comprehension and Responsiveness and 10 marks for Accuracy and Range of Language. In addition, 15 marks are awarded globally for Pronunciation/Intonation (5 marks) and Feel for Language (10 marks). This gives a total of 60 marks. The Short Course Speaking examination is conducted and assessed by an Examiner appointed by the Centre (e.g. the candidates' teacher) and moderated by CIE.

Candidates have time during the year to work on their Prepared Topic and should be able with practice to present fairly fluently. This initial presentation should last two minutes, but thereafter should be interrupted by the Examiner if necessary so that the conversation can take place. Whilst tones and pronunciation are not expected to be perfect, the presentation should be easily understood by a sympathetic native speaker. Teachers get used to understanding their own candidates and making allowances for their errors, but the candidate needs to be able to be understood by the Moderator listening to them as well. Candidates will score highly on the Prepared Topic when they also demonstrate they have prepared well in terms of the content of what they say and the vocabulary and the structures used – e.g. good use of conjunctions etc.

In all cases, the best conversations ensue when the Examiner asks the candidates good, open-ended questions to which the candidate can respond on a variety of levels, depending on ability. Examiners should avoid filling any pauses by answering or commenting on the question they have asked before the candidates have had the chance to do so or by repeating back the candidate's answer, as if to check their own comprehension. There should not be any correction of what a candidate has said.

Teachers should avoid any potentially embarrassing questions and keep the flow of conversation going in as relaxed a manner as possible. By doing this, they will allow the candidates to demonstrate what they can do, thus maximising their chances of good marks which are obtainable with a natural, responsive conversation showing good use of vocabulary, structures and idiom.

# MANDARIN CHINESE (Short Course)

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**Paper 1341/02**  
**Chinese Culture**

## **General comments**

Candidates are required to answer one question for this paper. It is marked out of 30 with a mark out of 25 for Content and a mark out of 5 for Structure. In all cases, questions are open to interpretation; it is up to the candidate to develop an analytical response to the question with clear, specific examples (not generalized statements) to back up his/her argument. The mark scheme gives some indicative content for each question on the paper, but this is in no way intended to be prescriptive and is by no means exhaustive.

Each essay should start with an introduction which should outline how the question is going to be tackled. Subsequent paragraphs should develop a clear argument/line of thinking with specific, relevant examples to illustrate the argument and essays should finish with a strong conclusion.

Essays should not be a list of facts. Candidates obviously need to have a lot of facts at their fingertips, but then need to be in a position to manipulate those facts to demonstrate their deeper understanding and analytical capability in response to the question. Organisation of material is vital and an appropriate style should be used.

In order to be able to respond to these essay questions appropriately, candidates need to be exposed during their studies to a range of commentaries/view points about a particular topic and to have had the opportunity to discuss ideas with their teachers and other students to inform their interpretation of events or their interpretation of a book or film. It is this exposure to a variety of views that will develop in candidates the ability to handle these essay questions with sufficient analysis.