Foreword

For sometime the British Council has identified the need to develop a structured programme of study as a key element in encouraging the teaching of Mandarin Chinese in secondary schools. There is a strong demand for a standard textbook that can be used as a teaching resource leading towards a recognised qualification.

Chinese for GCSE is a project funded by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) in England and China National Office for Teaching Chinese as Foreign Language (Han Ban) in Beijing, with its compilation and pilot use administered by the British Council and Han Ban. Before publishing the current version, a preliminary version was distributed to 20 secondary schools in England. Feedback from the schools and Edexcel was collected and changes made.

We are now delighted to be able to present to you this first ever series of Chinese textbooks for up to GCSE standard. The structure of the books follows the National Curriculum for England and is based on the revised specification by Edexcel. The course contains three separate textbooks and accompanying teacher's handbook. In addition, there are supplementary resources which have been funded by HSBC, including posters, flashcards, audio and video material. The UK copyright of all material belongs to the British Council whilst the rest of the world copyright belongs to Han Ban.

We would like to take this opportunity to offer our sincere thanks to all the people involved in this project. Our special thanks go to the following:

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