

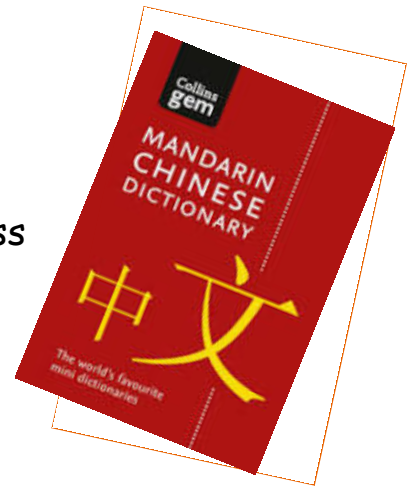
Higher Mandarin Course Guide



Getting Organised For Class

Dictionary

Although Chinese-English dictionaries are available in class, at Higher level it's highly recommended that you buy your own dictionary so you can practise using it at home. A Collins Chinese dictionary and grammar is perfect.



Textbooks

Just like at National 5 there is no prescribed textbook for Higher, but you will receive a number of booklets and worksheets from your teacher. It's very important to keep things filed neatly and in the correct place.

Folder

Please make sure you have a lever arch file with dividers, and bring it to every lesson. You can keep your folder in class if you don't have a locker. Make sure you file loose paper away in the correct section of your folder at the end of each lesson.

You should label the dividers in your folder as follows:

1. Course Information
2. Grammar
3. Society
4. Learning
5. Employability
6. Culture
7. Directed Writing
8. Folio and Essay Writing
9. Performance (Talking)
10. Exam Practice

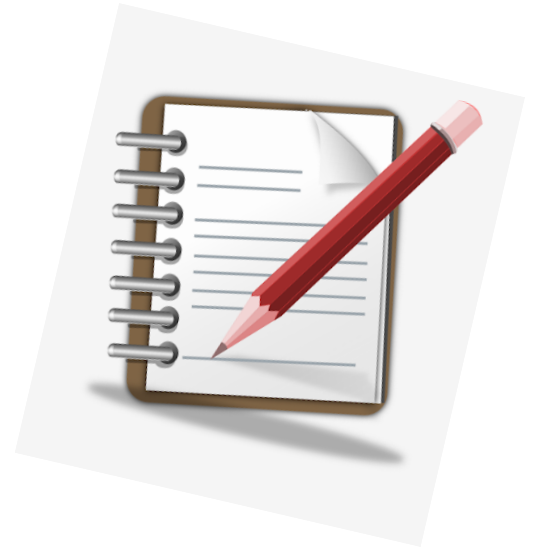


Well-Organised Notes

Independent note-taking and well-organised notes are the key to success at Higher. Pupils who take their own reference notes, without having to be reminded, are the most successful. Make sure your notes are clear and easy to read over and refer back to. This will help you to make the most of your time in class, enhance your learning and save on valuable revision time as exams approach.

Vocabulary

It's your responsibility to actively learn and revise new vocabulary. Keep a blank piece of paper at the front of the four context sections (3, 4, 5, and 6) to write down new vocabulary related to that section as you come across it. You should keep a similar piece of paper at the front of your folder for noting any generic vocabulary.



You should make a habit of reading over these vocabulary notes once a week. It won't take long, but will hugely enhance your working knowledge of the language and therefore your overall performance. It will also save on revision time at the end of the year.

Course Overview

The content of the Higher course covers four main contexts: society, learning, employability, and culture. You'll notice that the contexts remain the same as at National 5, but have a look at the table below to see how they're developed in greater detail.

Society	Family and friends	Becoming an adult/new family structure/ marriage/partnership/gang culture/bullying/social influences and pressures.
	Lifestyle	Teenage problems, eg smoking, drugs, alcohol.
	Media	Impact of the digital age.
	Global languages	Minority languages and their importance/association with culture.
	Citizenship	Global citizenship/democracy/politics/power.
Learning	Learning in context	Understanding self as a learner, eg learning styles/importance of language learning.
	Education	Advantages/disadvantages of higher or further education, choosing a university/college, lifelong learning.
Employability	Jobs	Getting a summer job, planning for future jobs/ higher education, gap year, career path, equality in the workplace.
	Work and CVs	Preparing for a job interview/importance of language in global contexts, job opportunities.
Culture	Planning a trip	Taking a gap year Working abroad (mobility) Travel
	Other countries	Living in a multicultural society/stereotypes/ prejudice and racism.
	Celebrating a special event	Social influences on/importance of traditions, customs and beliefs in another country
	Literature of another country	Literature — analysis and evaluation
	Film and television	Studying the media of another country

Assessment

The Higher course is assessed through a combination of coursework and exams, summarised as follows:

Skill	Assessment	Worth	When
reading	reading exam	25% (30 marks)	prelim in January exam in May
writing	directed writing exam	12.5% (20 marks)	prelim in January exam in May
writing	folio	12.5% (20 marks)	class assessment in March
listening	listening exam	25% (20 marks)	prelim in January exam in May
talking	conversation	25% (30 marks)	class assessment in December

Reading

- in a joint exam with directed writing
- overall exam time: 2 hours, spend 1 hour and 20 minutes on reading
- dictionary allowed
- one text of 550-650 words
- questions and answers in English
- overall understanding question
- translation into English from the text - use 10 minutes to get 10 marks

Directed Writing

- in a joint exam with reading
- overall exam time: 2 hours, spend 40 minutes on directed writing
- dictionary allowed
- choice of 2 scenarios, writing about a past experience related to speaking Spanish
- must answer 6 bullet points - if you don't, you will be penalised
- you should write 150-180 words

Folio

- completed in class under exam conditions
- respond to prompt using 200 - 250 words
- writing is mainly discursive
- allowed dictionary, word list and verb tables
- first sitting: draft writing
- second sitting: improving on corrections from teacher's marking code, writing final copy

Listening

- in an exam
- exam time: 30 minutes
- no dictionary allowed
- listen to a monologue and answer questions worth 8 marks
- listen to a dialogue and answer questions worth 12 marks
- questions and answers in English
- you will hear each recording twice

Talking

- recorded conversation between pupil and class teacher
- conversation length: approximately 10 minutes
- conversation is on at least two different contexts
- you can use five headings of no more than eight words each as prompts



Resources for Independent Study

Everything listed is free to download or use (besides the TV subscriptions!)

The most important thing about independent study is that you make it a habit. You will get the most benefit from short practice daily over a long period of time.

Grammar and text book

<http://www.chinesecio.com/>

Not the most beautiful website to look at, but good revision of grammar points with lessons that the website marks for you.

<http://www.hwjyw.com/textbooks/downloads/zhongwen/>

Another website with good revision of grammar and text books. The explanations and grammar are more systematical. You can download the books and related workbooks for daily practice.

<http://www.hwjyw.com/hwjc/content/2012/02/27/23685.shtml>

Check your listening and reading skills, you can use this website for media resources. These resources can match the book unit and exercise mentioned above. You can download for free.

Vocabulary

<https://quizlet.com/MsHZOU>

Miss ZOU has created all sets for High Mandarin vocabularies, classified by different topics, like social media, environment and so on. This is useful site for Higher!



The screenshot shows a website interface for 'LANGUAGES CHINESE'. At the top, there are several icons: a red and yellow shield, a red hat, a yellow hat, a red arrow, and a purple and pink patterned circle. Below the title, there are four main sections, each with a red header and a white body:

- The Chinese language**: Includes a red and black image of the Chinese character '法'. Text: 'A Guide to Chinese Facts, essential phrases plus the Chinese alphabet'. Below: 'Chinese mini-guides Learn about different aspects of the language'.
- BBC free lessons and courses online**: Includes a photo of a smiling man and woman. Text: 'Mandarin Chinese for beginners'. Below: 'Real Chinese Online video lessons with audio, games, vocabulary, grammar explanations and exercises'.
- Chinese pronunciation**: Text: 'Learn how to pronounce Chinese'. Below: 'Introduction', 'Tone game', 'Printable guide'.
- Writing Chinese characters**: Includes a photo of hands writing on a piece of paper. Text: 'Learn to write Chinese characters'.

Apps

Duolingo

Excellent for vocab and grammar revision. You can test out of the lower levels, so it's great for Higher.

Memrise

Another excellent resource for vocab and grammar revision.

TV Shows and Films

Netflix

Switch the language to Chinese (simplified) and you can watch your favourites and revise at the same time. Or have a look for some Mandarin language originals like CCTV-news and CCTV-films

Disney+

Disney's collection of films and shows in Chinese is much bigger than Netflix's! Plus it's great to hear a story you already know really well in the language you're learning.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/>

This is a BBC Mandarin learning **website**. You can try some games, watch some video lessons and even do some practice on line by your own pace.

Podcasts

News In Slow Chinese(simplified)

A great way to practise your listening skills and keep your Chinese news knowledge up to date.