

9. Year 11 Subjects 2011 (Languages)

VCE Chinese As A First Language Units 3 & 4

General:

The study of a language other than English contributes to the overall education of students, most particularly in the area of communication, but also in the areas of cross-cultural understanding, cognitive development, literacy and general knowledge. It provides access to the cultures of communities which use the language and promotes understanding of different attitudes and values within the wider Australian community and beyond.

The study of Chinese develops students' ability to understand and use a language which is spoken by about a quarter of the world's population. It is the major language of communication in China and Singapore, and is widely used by Chinese communities throughout the Asia-Pacific region, including Australia.

Studying Chinese can provide a basis for continued learning and a pathway for students into a number of post-secondary options. A knowledge of Chinese can provide students with enhanced vocational opportunities in many fields, including banking and international finance, commerce, diplomacy, and translating and interpreting.

The aims of the study design are to develop students':

- ability to use Chinese to communicate with others;
- understanding and appreciation of their own and other cultures;
- understanding of language as a system;
- potential to apply Chinese to work, further study, training or leisure.

Areas of Study (all Units):

The areas of study for Chinese First Language comprise themes and topics, text types, kinds of writing, vocabulary and grammar. They are common to all four units of the study, and are designed to be drawn upon in an integrated way, as appropriate to the linguistic needs of the student, and the outcomes for the unit.

The themes and topics are the vehicle through which the student will demonstrate achievement of the outcomes, in the sense that they form the subject of the activities and tasks the student undertakes.

The text types, kinds of writing, vocabulary and grammar are linked, both to each other, and to the themes and topics. Together, as common areas of study, they add a further layer of definition to the knowledge and skills required for successful achievement of the outcomes.

The common areas of study provide the opportunity for the student to build upon what is familiar, as well as develop knowledge and skills in new and more challenging areas.

There are three prescribed themes:

- Self and others
- Tradition and change in the Chinese-speaking communities
- Global issues

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Unit 3

Assessment:

- Outcome 1 – Students should be able to express ideas through the production of original texts.
- Outcome 2 – Students should be able to analyse and use information from spoken texts.
- Outcome 3 – Students should be able to exchange information, opinions and experiences.

Assessment Break-Down:

The following list is a guide only:

- *Outcome 1:*
 - A 500–600 character imaginative written piece.
- *Outcome 2:*
 - A response to specific questions, or instructions, analysing and using information requested.
- *Outcome 3:*
 - A four- to five-minute evaluative oral presentation focusing on points for and against an aspect related to texts studied.

Unit 4

Assessment:

- Outcome 1 – Students should be able to analyse and use information from written texts.
- Outcome 2 – Students should be able to respond critically to spoken and written texts which reflect aspects of language and culture.

Assessment Break-Down:

The following list is a guide only:

- *Outcome 1:*
 - A response to specific questions, or instructions, analysing and using information requested.
- *Outcome 2:*
 - A 500–600 character persuasive or evaluative written response, for example, report, essay, article or review.

AND

 - A four- to five-minute interview on an issue related to texts studied.

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Graded Assessment

- Unit 3 School-Assessed Coursework: 25%
- Unit 4 School-Assessed Coursework: 25%
- Unit 3 and 4 End-of-year Examinations: Oral Component 12.5%
Written Component 37.5%

NB: A single grade is awarded for the Examination.

Other Information

- Chinese FL does NOT have a mid-year Exam, but a Practice Exam is held during the third week of the July term break. Other practice exams are also held during Semester Two. It is important that students take every opportunity to ready themselves for the final examination.

Entry – Units 3 and 4

Except in exceptional circumstances students must complete both Units 1 and 2 of Chinese FL prior to attempting to complete the Unit 3 and 4 progression. Students must complete Unit 3 before completing Unit 4. The school does not encourage students taking Units 3 and 4 Chinese FL in Year 11.