VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society 2018–2021

Written examination – End of year

Examination specifications

Overall conditions
The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook. There will be 15 minutes reading time and two hours writing time.
The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.
The examination will contribute 35 per cent to the study score.

Content
The VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society Study Design 2018–2021 (Units 3 and 4) is the document for the development of the examination. All outcomes in Units 3 and 4 will be examined.
All of the key knowledge and key skills that underpin the outcomes in Units 3 and 4 are examinable.

Format
The examination will be in the form of a question and answer book.
The examination will consist of three sections.
Section 1 will consist of two parts, Part A and Part B.
Students will listen to three recorded texts in Chinese (two in Part A and one in Part B). The texts in both parts will relate to the prescribed topics of the ‘Chinese Language’ strand of the study (Unit 3: leisure, lifestyles, entertainment; Unit 4: youth issues, world of work). Each text will be played twice, with a pause between the first and second playings of each text, during which students may make notes. An announcement will be made at the start of the first playing of each text and a sound will alert students to the start of the second playing of each text. The total listening time for one reading of the three texts without pauses will be approximately 2 minutes.
Students will be expected to respond to a range of question types, such as completing a table, chart, list or form, or responding to a message, open-ended questions or multiple-choice items.
Questions in **Part A** will be phrased in English for responses in English.
Part A will be worth a total of 15 marks.

Questions in **Part B** will be phrased in English and Chinese for responses in Chinese.
Part B will be worth a total of 15 marks.

Section 1 will be worth a total of 30 marks.

**Section 2** will consist of two parts, Part A and Part B. Both parts will relate to the prescribed topics of the ‘Chinese Language’ strand of the study (Unit 3: leisure, lifestyles, entertainment; Unit 4: youth issues, world of work).

In **Part A** students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of one written Chinese text by responding in Chinese to information provided in the text. The text will be approximately 150 characters in length and students will be required to respond in approximately 100 characters. The task will specify a purpose, context and audience. The text type that students will be required to produce will be drawn from the text types listed for productive use, as indicated in the study design (page 9).

The task will be phrased in English and Chinese for a response in Chinese.

Part A will be worth a total of 10 marks.

In **Part B** students will be required to write a text in Chinese, presenting ideas and/or information and/or opinions. Students will select one of two tasks from the ‘Chinese Language’ strand of the study (Unit 3: leisure, lifestyles, entertainment; Unit 4: youth issues, world of work). One task will relate to the prescribed topics of Unit 3 and the other task will relate to the prescribed topics of Unit 4. Each task will designate a specific purpose, audience, text type and kind of writing. Students will be required to write a response of approximately 100 characters in Chinese.

The tasks will be phrased in English and Chinese for a response in Chinese.

Part B will be worth a total of 10 marks.

Section 2 of the examination will be worth a total of 20 marks.

**Section 3** will relate to the ‘Culture and Society in Chinese-speaking Communities’ strand of the study. Students will select one of two extended-answer questions based on the VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society Text List for the year in question. One question will relate to the prescribed topic for Unit 3 (Chinese philosophies and aspects of culture) and the other question will relate to the prescribed topic for Unit 4 (contemporary Chinese social values). The questions may require analysis of visual and/or written material.

The questions will be phrased in English for a response in English.

Section 3 of the examination will be worth a total of 20 marks.

Answers are to be recorded in the spaces provided in the question and answer book.

The total marks for the examination will be 70.
Criteria

Section 1, Part A will be assessed against the following criteria:
• the capacity to understand and convey general and specific aspects of texts

Section 1, Part B will be assessed against the following criteria:
• the capacity to understand general and specific aspects of a text
• the capacity to convey information accurately and appropriately in Chinese

Section 2, Part A will be assessed against the following criteria:
• the capacity to understand general and specific aspects of a text
• the capacity to convey information accurately and appropriately in Chinese

Section 2, Part B will be assessed against the following criteria:
• relevance, breadth and depth of content
• appropriateness of structure and sequence
• accuracy, range and appropriateness of vocabulary and grammar

Section 3 will be assessed against the following criteria:
• understanding of concepts and ideas relating to aspects of Chinese culture and society
• critical analysis of ideas and arguments relevant to the task
• selection and use of relevant material and appropriate examples to support the response
• development of a coherent and well-reasoned response that addresses the specific demands of the task

Approved materials and equipment

• Normal stationery requirements (pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers)
• Any printed monolingual and/or bilingual dictionary in one or two separate volumes

Relevant references

The following publications should be referred to in relation to the VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society examination:
• VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society Study Design 2018–2021 (Units 3 and 4)
• VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society – Advice for teachers 2018–2021 (includes assessment advice)
• VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society Text List (published annually)
• VCAA Bulletin

Advice

During the 2018–2021 accreditation period for VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society, examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and key skills from all outcomes in Units 3 and 4.

Students should use command/task words, other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.

A separate document containing a sample examination has been published on the ‘Chinese Language, Culture and Society – Exams and Examination Reports’ page on the VCAA website.
The sample examination provides an indication of the format of the examination, and the types of questions teachers and students can expect until the current accreditation period is over.

The VCAA does not provide answers to sample examinations.