

GCSE Chinese (Mandarin) / French / German / Italian / Spanish / Urdu

- Additional Exemplar Tasks: Controlled Assessment Writing

Autumn 2011



Many teachers have requested examples of tasks they can use with more able students. The tasks in this booklet show how the contexts and topics in the specification can form the basis of tasks which are both stimulating and engaging. In some cases, we have shown how they can be adapted for use with students of differing abilities. In most cases, however, these tasks will be most suitable for use with more able students. They would be particularly appropriate for students who plan to progress beyond GCSE in the future.

Context: Lifestyle – Health

Task Title: MY LIFESTYLE

You are writing a blog in the target language for your partner school's website about your lifestyle.

You could mention

- your diet. Say whether you think it is healthy or not and why
- what exercise you used to do when you were younger, and what you do now
- what you think about smoking / alcohol / drugs and why
- whether you think your lifestyle is influenced by celebrities and the media
- what foreign foods you enjoy and why
- what advice you can give to someone who wants to be fit and healthy
- how you think your lifestyle will change in the future

Remember, in order to score the highest marks you must answer the task fully, developing your response where it is appropriate to do so.

Context: Relationships and Choices

Task title: PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND FUTURE PLANS

Your penfriend has asked you to write about your family and friends and how you get on with them.

Version 1

You could include

- a description of yourself and your family
- whether you get on with your mother/father or not and why/why not
- an account of a recent family celebration. Say whether you enjoyed it or not and why.
- a description of a close friend, saying why you get on with them
- your future plans

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Version 2

You could include

- a description of yourself and your family
 - name, age, position in the family
 - brothers and sisters
 - give a physical description of **one** member of the family and say what their character is like
- your mother/father
 - what they do
 - whether they are strict or not
 - whether you get on with them or not and why/why not
- an account of a recent family celebration.
 - what you were celebrating
 - where you went
 - what you did
 - whether you enjoyed it or not and why
- a description of a close friend
 - what they are like
 - interests you have in common
 - why you get on well together
- your future plans
 - relationships and marriage
 - education
 - work

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Context: Relationships and Choices

Task title: MY LIFE

You have applied to be a contestant on a target language country reality TV show and as part of the selection process you have been asked to write a description of yourself, your life and your hopes.

You could include

- a description of yourself
 - what you look like
 - what kind of person you are
- someone you get on well with, and why
- someone you don't get on with, and why
- a difficult situation you have been in previously, and what you did to resolve it
- your hopes and plans for the future
 - education
 - job
 - marriage/partnership/children, etc
 - where you would like to live and why
- why you think you would make an ideal contestant for the TV programme

Remember, in order to score the highest marks you must answer the task fully, developing your response where it is appropriate to do so.

Context: Free Time and the Media

Task Title: FREE TIME AND THE MEDIA

Your penfriend has asked you to write about what you do in your free time and the types of media you use.

Version 1

You could include

- what you like doing in your free time, and why
- what media you use in everyday life
- what use you make of the Internet and what you think its advantages and disadvantages are
- whether you prefer radio or television, and why
- what books/magazines you like reading and whether you prefer to read them in printed format or on-screen
- a film you have seen recently, and what you thought about it
- what music you like and how you prefer to listen to it
- what you are planning to do in your free time next weekend

Remember, in order to score the highest marks you must answer the task fully, developing your response where it is appropriate to do so.

Version 2

You could include

- how you spend your free time
 - what you like doing
 - why
- what media you use in everyday life
 - computers
 - mobile phone
- the Internet
 - how much you use it
 - whether you think it is useful, and why/why not
 - advantages
 - disadvantages
- radio and television
 - how much you listen / watch
 - which you prefer
 - why you prefer it
- your thoughts about reading
 - books/magazines you have enjoyed reading
 - whether you prefer to read them in printed format or on-screen
- a film you have seen recently

- title
- what it was about
- whether you enjoyed it
- why/why not?
- music
 - what sort of music you like
 - why you like it
 - and how you prefer to listen to it (i-pod, CD, live concert, etc)
- plans for your your free time next weekend
 - what you will do
 - where you will go
 - who you are going with

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Context: Free Time and the Media

Task Title: TECHNOLOGY

Your penfriend is interested to know what use young people in England make of modern technology and has asked you to write about it.

You could include

- Free time
 - how you spend your free time
 - what you would do if you had more free time
- What technology you use
 - computer
 - mobile
 - MP3 / I-Pod
- What do you think about Internet shopping, and why?
- Favourite / least favourite types of music, and why
- Downloading music or buying CDs? Which do you prefer, and why?
- What technology did you use yesterday?
- Advantages and disadvantages of the Internet
- A development in technology you would like to see in the future

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Context: Free Time and the Media

Task Title: FASHION

An English fashion magazine has selected you to write an article about the role of fashion in a teenager's life for their target language country counterpart.

You could include

- how important you think fashion is in your life, and why
- how your "look" has changed in the past 5 years
- a description of an item of clothing you have bought recently, and why you bought it
- what you would buy for a special event (party, "prom", wedding, family celebration, etc) and why
- a green/ethical/fair trade issue that concerns you and what you have done/will do about it
- the role of celebrities, magazines and the fashion world, including your views on size zero models
- how you imagine people will dress in the next century

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Context: Home and the Environment

Task Title: HOME AND THE ENVIRONMENT

A target language country magazine for young people recently featured an article about the environment and has asked readers to write in with their views on the environment where they live.

Write a letter to the magazine. You could include

- details of where you live
 - a description of your village/town/city
 - the advantages/disadvantages of living there
 - whether you like living there, and why/why not
 - whether you prefer living in the town or the country, and why
- climate and weather
 - describe the climate in your area
 - say what the weather was like last year
 - say whether you think the climate is changing in your area
- environmental problems in your area
 - what you think the worst problems are and why
 - what you think should be done to solve the problems
- being eco-friendly at home and at school
 - recycling and separating rubbish
 - how you save energy and water
 - whether you think you do enough, and why/why not
- what you or your family have done recently to help the environment
 - details of what you did, and when
 - why you think it helped the environment
- how you think the house of the future will be environmentally friendly
 - low energy appliances
 - solar panels and domestic wind turbines
 - better insulation, including “green” roofs
 - tanks for collecting and recycling water
 - use of computers to control heating and lighting

Remember, in order to score the highest marks you must answer the task fully, developing your response where it is appropriate to do so.

Context: Home and the Environment

Task Title: THE ENVIRONMENT

You are a member of an environmental organisation which has asked you to write a briefing for its target language country branch about English teenagers' views on environmental problems.

You could include:

- Is your family environmentally friendly?
 - What do you do to help the environment?
 - Why do you think this is important?
- What environmental problems are there in your area?
 - traffic and pollution
 - rubbish and vandalism
 - how the area has changed from the past
- What are the environmental problems worldwide and how could we do better?
 - Which global issues worry you?
 - How might we remedy them?
 - What are the possible outcomes if we don't act?
- Describe a recent environmental disaster.
 - What happened?
 - What were the consequences for the environment?
- What are the special problems faced by developing countries?
- What will you do in the future to help the environment, and why?

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Context: Current and Future Jobs

Task Title: A JOB APPLICATION

A children's holiday camp in the target language country is recruiting young English people for this summer. You decide to write a letter of application.

You could include

- personal information
 - name, age, where you live
 - what school you go to and what you are studying at present
- which job you are interested in, and why
 - children's leader
 - receptionist
 - first-aider/lifeguard
 - preparing meals
 - doing odd jobs
- previous experience
 - work experience
 - part-time job
 - voluntary work
- your plans for the future
 - education
 - future career
- why you think children's camps are a good idea
 - activities
 - social benefits
- why you think you should be chosen for the job
 - personal qualities and skills

Remember, in order to score the highest marks you must answer the task fully, developing your response where it is appropriate to do so.

Context: Current and Future Jobs

Task Title: WORK EXPERIENCE ABROAD

You have recently completed a work placement in the target language country as part of your town's twinning campaign. You are asked to write an account of your experience for the foreign town's website.

You could include

- where you went and what work you did
- the journey and what your first impressions of the town and the placement were, and why
- details of your working day
- the work you had to do, what you thought about it and why
- the people you met, whether you got on with them or not, and why/why not
- what you did during the lunch hour and in your free time
- the advantages and disadvantages of foreign work experience
- whether you would like to work abroad in the future and why/why not

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Cross Context

Task Title: MY LIFE AS A TEENAGER

Your partner school in the target language country has asked you to write an article for its magazine about yourself and your lifestyle

You could include

- details about yourself, your family and your friends and how you get on with them
- a description of where you live, whether you like it or not and why/why not
- what you enjoy doing in your free time and why
- what you think about school and why
- what you like/don't like in your life and why
- how you celebrated your last birthday
- your future plans

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Cross Context

Task Title: MY LIFE AT HOME

Your target language penfriend has asked you to describe your life at home.

You could include

- a description of your house
 - say what you think about it and why
- details about your family
 - who you get on well with and why
 - who you don't get on with and why not
- your money
 - who gives it to you
 - if you have to earn it
 - what you spend it on
- what you do at home
 - in your free time
 - with other members of the family
 - to help in the house
- a celebration that took place at home recently
 - What event were you celebrating (birthday, anniversary, Christmas, etc)?
 - Who was there?
 - What did you do?
 - Did you enjoy it? Why/why not?
- your views on marriage/partnership and having a family of your own (give reasons)
- where you would like to live in the future and why
 - town or country?
 - England or abroad?
 - ideal house?

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Cross Context

Task Title: MY END-OF-YEAR PROM

Your target language country partner school would like to know about the leavers' prom which your school organises every year. You have been asked to write an article about it for their magazine.

You could include

- some personal details
 - name, where you live, which year you are in at school
 - what you think about the school and why
- plans for this year's prom
 - when it is
 - where it will take place, what your opinion of the place is, and why
 - what you are going to wear and why
 - who you are going with
 - how you are going to get there
 - what you are going to do during the prom (eat, drink, dance, take photos...)
- how the prom will be organised
 - how you will decorate the place
 - what food and drink will be served and your opinion of it
 - what type of music will be played and your opinion of it
 - special events (awards, speeches, etc)
- details of last year's prom
 - who told you about it
 - what happened
 - what went well and what they could have done better
 - whether they enjoyed it and why/why not
- ideas for the future
 - whether you think a prom is a good idea or if there might be a better way of celebrating
 - things that might be done differently
 - special activities or events

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