

SYLLABUS

Cambridge IGCSE®
Mandarin Chinese (US)
0534

For examination in June 2015

This syllabus is available only to Centers taking part in the
Board Examination Systems (BES) Pilot.

If you have any questions about this syllabus, please contact Cambridge at
info@cie.org.uk quoting syllabus code 0534.

Syllabus changes for 2015:

This syllabus has been revised. Some changes are significant and are outlined below. You are advised to read the whole of the syllabus before planning your teaching program.

- Papers 1, 2, 3, and 4 will be taken by all candidates.
- Paper 1 is unchanged but it now has equal weighting (25%) for all candidates.
- The writing tasks have been removed from Paper 2 and the examination time has been reduced from 1 hour, 30 minutes to 1 hour, 15 minutes accordingly. The total marks for Paper 2 are 36. The marks for each section now total 12.
- Paper 3 has minor changes to clarify instructions. The wording of the mark scheme has been clarified.
- A new Paper 4 for all candidates replaces Paper 4: Continuous Writing (which was for Extended candidates only). The total marks for Paper 4 are 45.
- The four skills are now weighted at 25% each.
- Minor changes have been made to the Defined Content booklet.

In addition to reading the syllabus carefully, you should refer to the published specimen papers and defined content for examples of these changes.

Note

The subject content of this syllabus is the same as the international version. The alternative to practical paper is not included to ensure that coursework or the practical paper is a mandatory part of the syllabus.

Please read the *Cambridge Glossary* alongside this syllabus. This is available from our website. Administration materials appear in UK English and are standard for all our international customers.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Why Choose Cambridge?

Recognition

Cambridge International Examinations is the world's largest provider of international education programs and qualifications for students aged 5 to 19. We are part of Cambridge Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge, trusted for excellence in education. Our qualifications are recognized by the world's universities and employers.

Cambridge IGCSE® (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) is internationally recognized by schools, universities, and employers as equivalent in demand to UK GCSEs. Learn more at www.cie.org.uk/recognition

Excellence in Education

Our mission is to deliver world-class international education through the provision of high-quality curricula, assessment, and services.

More than 9,000 schools are part of our Cambridge learning community. We support teachers in over 160 countries who offer their students an international education based on our curricula and leading to our qualifications. Every year, thousands of students use Cambridge qualifications to gain admission to universities around the world.

Our syllabi are reviewed and updated regularly so that they reflect the latest thinking of international experts and practitioners and take into account the different national contexts in which they are taught.

Cambridge programs and qualifications are designed to support students in becoming:

- **confident** in working with information and ideas—their own and those of others
- **responsible** for themselves, responsive to and respectful of others
- **reflective** as students, developing their ability to learn
- **innovative** and equipped for new and future challenges
- **engaged** intellectually and socially, ready to make a difference.

Support for Teachers

A wide range of materials and resources is available to support teachers and students in Cambridge schools. Resources suit a variety of teaching methods in different international contexts. Through subject discussion forums and training, teachers can access the expert advice they need for teaching our qualifications. More details can be found in Section 2 of this syllabus and at www.cie.org.uk/teachers

Support for Exams Officers

Exams officers can trust in reliable, efficient administration of exam entries and excellent personal support from our customer services. Learn more at www.cie.org.uk/examsOfficers

Nonprofit, Part of the University of Cambridge

We are a nonprofit organization where the needs of the teachers and students are at the core of what we do. We continually invest in educational research and respond to feedback from our customers in order to improve our qualifications, products, and services.

Our systems for managing the provision of international qualifications and education programs for students aged 5 to 19 are certified as meeting the internationally recognized standard for quality management, ISO 9001:2008. Learn more at **www.cie.org.uk/ISO9001**

1.2 Why Choose Cambridge IGCSE?

Cambridge IGCSEs are international in outlook but retain a local relevance. The syllabi provide opportunities for contextualized learning, and the content has been created to suit a wide variety of schools, avoid cultural bias, and develop essential lifelong skills, including creative thinking and problem solving.

Our goal is to balance knowledge, understanding, and skills in our programs and qualifications to enable candidates to become effective students and to provide a solid foundation for their continuing educational journey.

Through our professional development courses and our support materials for Cambridge IGCSEs, we provide the tools to enable teachers to prepare students to the best of their ability and work with us in the pursuit of excellence in education.

Cambridge IGCSEs are considered to be an excellent preparation for Cambridge International AS and A Levels, the Cambridge AICE (Advanced International Certificate of Education) group award, Cambridge Pre-U, and other education programs, such as the US Advanced Placement program and the International Baccalaureate Diploma program. Learn more about Cambridge IGCSEs at **www.cie.org.uk/cambridgesecundary2**

Guided Learning Hours

Cambridge IGCSE syllabi are designed with the assumption that candidates have about 130 guided learning hours per subject over the duration of the course, but this is for guidance only. The number of hours required to gain the qualification may vary according to local curricular practice and the candidates' prior experience of the subject.

1.3 Why Choose Cambridge IGCSE Mandarin Chinese?

Cambridge IGCSE Mandarin Chinese is accepted by universities and employers as proof of linguistic ability and understanding. The course encourages learners to develop lifelong skills, including:

- the ability to use a foreign language as a means of practical communication
- insight into the culture and civilization of countries where the language is spoken
- a positive attitude toward language learning, toward the speakers of other languages, and toward other cultures and civilizations
- techniques that can be applied to other areas of learning, such as analysis and memory skills
- a sound foundation for progression to employment or further study.

This is one of a number of Cambridge IGCSE foreign language syllabi—for a full list, visit the Cambridge website at **www.cie.org.uk**

Prerequisites

We recommend that learners who are beginning this course should have previously achieved a level corresponding to the requirements of the Key Stage 3 program of study for Modern Foreign Languages within the National Curriculum for England.

Progression

Cambridge IGCSEs are general qualifications that enable learners to progress directly to employment or to proceed to further qualifications.

Candidates who are awarded grades A* to C in Cambridge IGCSE Mandarin Chinese are well prepared to follow courses leading to Cambridge International AS and A Level Chinese, or the equivalent.

1.4 Cambridge ICE (International Certificate of Education)

Cambridge ICE is a group award for Cambridge IGCSE. It gives schools the opportunity to benefit from offering a broad and balanced curriculum by recognizing the achievements of candidates who pass examinations in at least seven subjects. To qualify for the Cambridge ICE award candidates are required to have studied subjects from five groups: two languages from Group I and one subject from each of the remaining four groups. The seventh subject can be taken from any of the five subject groups.

Mandarin Chinese (0547) is in Group I, Languages.

Learn more about Cambridge ICE at **www.cie.org.uk/cambridgesecundary2**

The Cambridge ICE is awarded from examinations administered in the June and November series each year.

Detailed timetables are available from **www.cie.org.uk/examsOfficers**

1.5 How Can I Find Out More?

If You Are Already a Cambridge School

You can make entries for this qualification through your usual channels. If you have any questions, please contact us at **info@cie.org.uk**

If You Are Not Yet a Cambridge School

Learn about the benefits of becoming a Cambridge school at **www.cie.org.uk/startcambridge**. Email us at **info@cie.org.uk** to find out how your organization can register to become a Cambridge school.

2. Teacher Support

2.1 Support Materials

Cambridge syllabi, past question papers, and examiner reports to cover the last examination series are on the *Syllabus and Support Materials* DVD, which we send to all Cambridge schools.

You can also go to our public website at **www.cie.org.uk/igcse** to download current and future syllabi together with specimen papers or past question papers and examiner reports from one series.

For teachers at registered Cambridge schools a range of additional support materials for specific syllabi is available online. For Teacher Support go to **<http://teachers.cie.org.uk>** (username and password required).

2.2 Resource Lists

We work with publishers providing a range of resources for our syllabi including textbooks, websites, CDs, etc. Any endorsed, recommended, and suggested resources are listed on both our public website and on Teacher Support.

The resource lists can be filtered to show all resources or just those that are endorsed or recommended by Cambridge. Resources endorsed by Cambridge go through a detailed quality assurance process and are written to align closely with the Cambridge syllabus they support.

2.3 Training

We offer a range of support activities for teachers to ensure they have the relevant knowledge and skills to deliver our qualifications. See **www.cie.org.uk/events** for further information.

3. Curriculum Content at a Glance

The syllabus content is organized around five broad Topic areas, which provide contexts for the acquisition of vocabulary and the study of grammar and structures. Through the study of these Topic areas, candidates gain insight into target language countries and communities. The Topic areas are:

- Everyday activities
- Personal and social life
- The world around us
- The world of work
- The international world.

4. Assessment at a Glance

All candidates take the following four components:

Grades available: A*, A, B, C, D, E, F, G		Weighting of papers
Paper 1 Listening Candidates listen to a number of recordings and answer questions testing comprehension. 30 marks Externally assessed	approximately 35 minutes	25%
Paper 2 Reading Candidates read a number of texts and answer questions testing comprehension. 36 marks Externally assessed	1 hour 15 minutes	25%
Paper 3 Speaking* Candidates complete two role plays, a topic presentation/conversation, and a general conversation. 100 marks Internally assessed/externally moderated	approximately 15 minutes	25%
Paper 4 Writing Candidates respond in the target language to three tasks. 45 marks Externally assessed	1 hour 15 minutes	25%

* Individual Centers are responsible for administering the tests and for the initial assessment, which is then subject to moderation by Cambridge. Please see the Appendix for additional information.

Availability

This syllabus is examined in the June examination series.

Detailed timetables are available from www.cie.org.uk/examsOfficers

Combining This with Other Syllabi

Candidates can combine this syllabus in an examination series with any other Cambridge syllabus, except:

- syllabi with the same title at the same level
- 0509 First Language Chinese
- 0523 Chinese as a Second Language.

Please note that Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge O Level syllabi are at the same level. Detailed timetables are available from **www.cie.org.uk/examsOfficers**

5. Syllabus Goals and Assessment Objectives

5.1 Syllabus Goals

The goals of the syllabus outline the educational purposes of a course in a foreign language for the Cambridge IGCSE examination. They are not listed in order of priority.

The goals of this syllabus are to:

- develop the ability to communicate effectively using the target language
- offer insights into the culture and society of countries where the language is spoken
- develop awareness of the nature of language and language learning
- encourage positive attitudes toward speakers of other languages and a sympathetic approach to other cultures and civilizations
- provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation
- develop transferable skills (e.g., analysis, memorizing, drawing of inferences) to complement other areas of the curriculum
- form a sound base of the skills, language, and attitudes required for progression to work or further study, either in the target language or another subject area.

5.2 Assessment Objectives

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

AO1 Understand and respond to spoken language

AO2 Understand and respond to written language

AO3 Communicate in speech, showing knowledge of a range and variety of vocabulary and applying the grammar and structures of the target language accurately

AO4 Communicate in writing, showing knowledge of a range and variety of vocabulary and applying the grammar and structures of the target language accurately.

5.3 Relationship Between Assessment Objectives and Components

The marks allocated to each of the assessment objectives are summarized below.

	Paper 1 Listening (marks)	Paper 2 Reading (marks)	Paper 3 Speaking (marks)	Paper 4 Writing (marks)	Weighting for qualification (%)
AO1	30				25%
AO2		36			25%
AO3			100		25%
AO4				45	25%

5.4 Grade Descriptions

Grade A

- Listening** Candidates understand gist and identify main ideas and detail in texts drawn from a variety of contexts and topic areas. They recognize points of view, attitudes, and emotions and are able to draw conclusions. They show an ability to extract meaning from more complex language.
- Reading** Candidates understand gist and identify main ideas and detail in texts drawn from a variety of contexts and topic areas. They recognize points of view, attitudes, and emotions and are able to draw conclusions. They show an ability to understand unfamiliar language and to extract meaning from more complex language.
- Speaking** Candidates develop conversations and discussions and narrate events. They express and justify ideas and opinions, and produce longer sequences of speech using a variety of vocabulary, structures, and can express different time frames. They speak confidently with good pronunciation and intonation. The message is clear although there may still be some errors, especially when using more complex structures.
- Writing** Candidates give information and narrate events. They express and justify ideas and opinions. They use a range of vocabulary, structures, and verbs. Their spelling and grammar are generally accurate and their style is appropriate to purpose.

Grade C

- Listening** Candidates identify and note main ideas, details, and opinions from language spoken at normal speed. The spoken texts include past and future events and may include familiar language in unfamiliar contexts.
- Reading** Candidates identify and extract details and opinions from texts drawn from a variety of contexts and topic areas. The texts include past and future events and may include familiar language in unfamiliar contexts.
- Speaking** Candidates develop conversations and simple discussions that include past, present, and future events. They express opinions and show an ability to deal with some unpredictable elements. Although there may be some errors, they convey a reasonably clear message and their pronunciation and intonation are generally accurate.
- Writing** Candidates express opinions and write about a variety of topics that may be factual or imaginative and that may include different time frames. The style is basic but despite some errors, the writing conveys a clear message.

Grade F

- Listening** Candidates identify and note main ideas and extract some details from simple language spoken clearly at near normal speed.
- Reading** Candidates identify main ideas and extract some information from short, simple texts. They may use context to work out the meaning of words.
- Speaking** Candidates take part in simple conversations showing some ability to communicate simple information in response to straightforward questions. Their pronunciation is understandable. Although there will be grammatical inaccuracies, the main messages are usually communicated.
- Writing** Candidates write short sentences and communicate simple ideas. Although there may be mistakes in spelling and grammar, the main messages are usually communicated.

6. Curriculum Content

6.1 The *Defined Content Booklet*

A language-specific *Defined Content Booklet* is provided to guide teachers and candidates preparing for this examination. It should be downloaded from the Cambridge website at **www.cie.org.uk** and includes the following sections:

- *Topic Areas*: the list of topic areas from which all textual material used in the examination will be drawn.
- *Minimum Core Vocabulary*: the list of vocabulary to be tested in Sections 1 and 2 of Papers 1 and 2, Role Plays A of Paper 3, and Section 1 of Paper 4.
- *Grammar and Structures*: the list of grammar and structures that candidates aiming at grades C to G are expected to learn, and a supplementary list for those aiming at grades A* to B.

The table below summarizes the relationship between the Defined Content and the question papers.

Paper	Section	Topic areas	Minimum Core Vocabulary	Grammar and structures
Paper 1	1	A, B, C	✓	Part 1
	2	A, B, C, D*, E*	✓	Part 1
	3	A, B, C, D, E		Parts 1 and 2
Paper 2	1	A, B, C	✓	Part 1
	2	A, B, C, D*, E*	✓	Part 1
	3	A, B, C, D, E		Parts 1 and 2
Paper 3	Role Plays A	A, B, C	✓	Part 1
	Role Plays B	A, B, C, D, E		Part 1
Paper 4	1	A, B, C, D [†] , E [†]	✓	Part 1
	2	A, B, C, D, E		Parts 1 and 2

* Where Section 2 of this paper features passages based on Topic areas D and E, only vocabulary from the Minimum Core Vocabulary List will be tested.

† Where Section 1 of this paper features questions based on Topic areas D and E, only vocabulary from the Minimum Core Vocabulary will be tested.

6.2 Topic List

Candidates will be required to show knowledge and understanding of the five Topic areas listed below. These provide contexts for the acquisition of vocabulary and the study of grammar and structures. Through the study of these Topic areas, candidates gain insight into target language countries and communities. For further guidance on these Topic areas, please refer to the Mandarin Chinese *Defined Content Booklet*. In the Speaking examination, candidates also have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of a topic of their own choice, which might be outside the list below.

	Topic areas	Examination topics
Area A	Everyday activities Home life and school	Home life A1
		School routine A2
		Eating and drinking A3
		Health and fitness A4
Area B	Personal and social life Self, family, and personal relationships	Self, family, personal relationships, pets B1
		Everyday life B2
		Eating out B3
		Vacations B4
Area C	The world around us Home town and local area	Home town and geographical surroundings C1
		Clothes C2
		Shopping C3
		Public services, customs, etc. C4
		Natural and made environment Weather C5
		Finding the way C6
		Meeting and greeting phrases C7
		Travel and transportation C8
		Famous sites and famous cities C9
		Animals C10
Area D	The world of work Continuing education	Further education and training D1
		Careers and employment Future career plans D2
		Employment D3
Area E	The international world Tourism at home and abroad	Vacation travel and transportation (see also C8) E1
		Geographical surroundings (see also C1) E2
		Weather (see also C5) E3
		Places and customs E4
		Food and drink (see also A3) E5
		Meeting people (see also C7) E6
	Life in other countries	

7. Description of Components

All examination papers are set in the target language: this includes rubrics (directions) and all questions. All questions requiring written answers, including questions testing Listening and Reading Comprehension, are to be answered in the target language.

Dictionaries are not permitted in the examination.

For detailed guidance on how the papers are marked, please refer to the published specimen mark schemes which are available on our public website.

7.1 Paper 1: Listening

Approximately 35 minutes, 30 marks

The Listening examination will be provided to Centers on a pre-recorded CD. All listening material will be heard twice by candidates, and appropriate pauses for candidates to write their answers will be included on the recording.

All candidates must attempt all three sections.

The goal of this paper is to test candidates' listening comprehension skills and every effort will be made to minimise the amount of reading and writing candidates are required to do in the examination.

The examination is divided into three sections, each worth 10 marks, and there is progression as higher grades are targeted.

Section 1 (10 marks)

One or two exercises, consisting of short recordings (one or two sentences), some involving two speakers, tested mainly by visual material (pictures, line drawings, etc.).

Section 2 (10 marks)

Two or three exercises.

Candidates hear recordings containing largely factual information, about travel, weather, opening times, facilities available, etc.

Section 3 (10 marks)

Two or three exercises.

Candidates hear recordings containing information which is of interest to the candidate: conversations, discussions, interviews, factual reports are likely sources.

Questions are usually objective requiring non-verbal responses. Test-types include multiple-choice, matching, box ticking. Visuals are used wherever possible.

Five of the 20 marks allocated to Sections 2 and 3 correspond to questions requiring answers in Chinese. These questions are phrased in such a way that answers can be brief and candidates are allowed to write their answers in either Chinese characters or pinyin. As long as communication is achieved, candidates are

not penalized for language which may be incorrect. Where candidates write their answers in pinyin, they do not need to be correct for the mark to be awarded. Answers written in any language other than Chinese will be ignored.

Administration of the Listening Test

Cambridge will supply Centers with one audio CD for every 20 candidates, and one spare. These can be kept by the Center after the examination. Centers are strongly advised to hold the test in rooms that are suitable for up to 30 candidates at a time. If Centers have equipment that is especially powerful, more candidates may be accommodated without special permission, but no special appeals will be considered. In exceptional circumstances, Centers may transfer material from CD to audiocassette, but this should be done under strict security conditions with adequate supervision.

CDs must be spot-checked as soon as they are received. Shortly before the examination day (e.g., the teaching day before), CDs must be spot-checked again, in the room to be used for the examination, to test the acoustics.

In the examination, the invigilator should instruct candidates to open the Question Paper as s/he starts the recording. Once the recording is started, it must run without interruption. The recording must not be "rewound" to go back for a question that may have been missed because of noise from outside (e.g., aircraft), and candidates should be warned of this before the test is started. The recording may be stopped/paused only if there is a serious emergency (e.g., a candidate fainting), and must then be restarted from exactly the same place, once the emergency has been dealt with. In such cases, an application for Special Consideration must be made and sent directly to Cambridge (see the *Cambridge Handbook*). Centers must state the point on the recording at which any interruption took place and the reasons for and length of the interruption. If, as a result of the interruption, there is reason to believe that candidates may not have clearly heard parts of the recording, a note of the question numbers affected should also be included.

Transcripts of the recording are issued with the published mark scheme.

7.2 Paper 2: Reading

1 hour 15 minutes, 36 marks

All candidates must attempt all three sections.

Candidates will encounter a variety of question types on the Reading Paper. The Paper is designed to test comprehension skills and includes objective questions and questions that require candidates to write answers in the target language. Where candidates are required to produce written answers in the target language, they are not penalized for incorrect or inaccurate language unless it makes their answers ambiguous. It is important that they write briefly, relevantly, and concisely. Provided that answers are unambiguous, long answers in full sentences are often not required. Candidates should be encouraged to paraphrase and manipulate the language in order to answer questions appropriately. They are unlikely to score high marks on this paper if they simply copy large chunks from the stimulus material, with no attempt to select what is relevant.

Candidates should write their answers in characters. Answers written in any language other than Chinese are ignored.

Section 1 (12 marks)

- *Exercise 1* (5 marks): candidates read a series of short notices, signs, instructions, messages, advertisements, etc., and answer multiple-choice questions.
- *Exercise 2* (4 marks): candidates read a series of short statements and complete a matching exercise that tests the main words in these statements.
- *Exercise 3* (3 marks): candidates read a short text in the form of an email, message, postcard, letter, etc. Questions are objective and test the main ideas and some detail.

Section 2 (12 marks)

- *Exercise 1* (4 marks): candidates read a short text in the form of a brochure, guide, etc. Questions are objective and test the main ideas and specific detail.
- *Exercise 2* (8 marks): candidates read a longer text in the form of a letter, email, etc. Questions test general understanding of the main ideas, which includes recognizing simple attitudes and opinions. Questions require short answers in the target language.

Section 3 (12 marks)

- *Exercises 1 and 2* (12 marks): candidates read two longer, more complex texts. Questions test general and specific comprehension. They will also require candidates to identify attitudes, emotions and ideas, the main ideas or themes, and to draw conclusions. Some of the questions are objective; some require short answers in the target language.

7.3 Paper 3: Speaking

Approximately 15 minutes, 100 marks

The Speaking examination consists of a single interview with three mandatory parts:

- Test 1: Role Plays
- Test 2: Topic Presentation/Conversation
- Test 3: General Conversation.

The Role Play tasks are provided by Cambridge, but individual Centers are responsible for administering the tests and for the initial assessment. This assessment is then subject to moderation by Cambridge.

Full instructions on the administration and assessment of the Speaking examination are provided in the *Teachers' Notes Booklet* and *Role Play Cards*. These items are dispatched to Centers on the basis of their Estimated Entries and it is therefore important that Centers submit Estimated Entries for this syllabus by the deadline published in the *Cambridge Administrative Guide*.

Specimen copies of the *Teachers' Notes Booklet* and *Role Play Cards* can be downloaded from the Cambridge Teacher Support website. The specimen *Teachers' Notes Booklet* contains the instructions for the administration and assessment of the Speaking examination. It is crucial that teachers/examiners study these instructions well in advance of their first examination session so that any doubts or queries can be resolved in good time.

A *Speaking Test Training Handbook* can be ordered from Cambridge Publications and provides the opportunity for teachers/examiners to receive feedback on their administration and assessment of the Speaking examination before they undertake their first live tests. Although accreditation by Cambridge is not mandatory for teachers administering and assessing this Speaking examination, Cambridge recommends that teachers/examiners new to Cambridge IGCSE/Cambridge International Certificate complete this training.

Structure of the Speaking Examination

Test 1: Role Plays (approximately 5 minutes, 30 marks)

Cambridge supplies a number of alternative *Role Play Cards*, which the teacher/examiner allocates at random to candidates during each session of examining. Each candidate is given **one** card containing two role play situations, each of which consists of five tasks. Each candidate is examined in both role play situations on the card s/he has been given. The first role play (Role Play A) is more straightforward than the second (Role Play B). Candidates should be allowed approximately 15 minutes to prepare their two role play situations. They may not take any written notes into the preparation room nor may they make any notes during their preparation time. Candidates should have a copy of the Role Play Card they have prepared to refer to in the examination room but must not be allowed to take it away with them after the examination.

Each role play situation specifies the roles of the teacher/examiner and candidate. Teachers/Examiners must conduct the role plays in accordance with the instructions and script provided in the *Teachers' Notes Booklet*. They must prepare the situations carefully so that the candidate's tasks follow on naturally from the teacher's/examiner's response. As marks can only be awarded for the stipulated tasks, the teacher/examiner must not create extra tasks, and if a candidate omits a task, should try to guide him/her back to it, in as natural a way as possible. It does not matter that this may lead to tasks occurring in a different order, as long as they are all attempted.

For the mark scheme, see the Appendix, Table A, of the Marking Instructions.

Test 2: Topic Presentation/Conversation (approximately 5 minutes, 30 marks)

This part of the examination starts with a one-to-two minute presentation by the candidate on a topic of their choice that they will have prepared in advance. The teacher/examiner will follow up the presentations with specific spontaneous questions on the topic, bringing the total time for the Topic Presentation and Topic Conversation to approximately five minutes.

Candidates are encouraged to choose a topic in which they have a personal interest. Suitable subjects might be, for example: "School life," "Hobbies and pastimes" (general or specific), "My country," "Life in another country," "My ambitions," "Vacations." Topics dealing with politics or social and economic issues are ambitious for this level of achievement and may disadvantage candidates if they do not possess the linguistic skills and maturity of ideas that such topics necessitate. Candidates should be encouraged to prepare different topics within a Center and should not be allowed to present "Myself" or "My life" as topics, as these can often pre-empt the General Conversation section. **Candidates may use illustrative material, e.g. photographs, if this seems appropriate to their topic, but are not allowed to use written notes of any kind.**

The teacher/examiner will allow the candidate to speak for one to two minutes uninterrupted on his/her chosen topic before starting the Topic Conversation. Where a candidate has been talking for two minutes and shows no sign of finishing his/her presentation, the teacher/examiner must interrupt and start the Topic Conversation.

In the Topic Conversation, candidates should be able to respond to the teacher's/examiner's questions in a spontaneous and natural manner. It is the extent to which candidates can manipulate their prepared material according to the needs of the teacher/examiner that determines their marks and they must not be allowed to deliver a prepared monologue or a series of obviously prepared replies.

The teacher/examiner **must** try to lead the candidate into using other time frames. For a mark of 7 or above to be awarded for Language, candidates must show that they can convey past and future meaning, and teachers/examiners need to ask questions that allow them to do this. In order to extend the candidate as far as possible, the teacher/examiner should probe, explore, ask for explanations, justifications, enlargements, descriptions (*how? when? why? tell me a bit more about . . .*, etc.).

For the mark scheme, see the Appendix, Tables B and C of the Marking Instructions.

Test 3: General Conversation (approximately 5 minutes, 30 marks)

The Topic Conversation will lead into a spontaneous discussion of a more general nature. The teacher/examiner will announce the transition to the General Conversation and should ease the candidate into the General Conversation by starting out from any point of interest noted earlier or by asking a couple of general "starter" questions relating to the candidate's everyday life, e.g., school, home, town, trip to and from school, free time (evenings, weekends), vacations, hobbies. All candidates can reasonably be expected to have the command of vocabulary and idiom necessary for this.

The teacher/examiner should aim to cover two or three of the Defined Content Examination Topics in this section of the examination (listed in the Syllabus Content section). With weaker candidates, it may be necessary to cover a greater number of topics superficially, but with more able candidates, the teacher/examiner should ask a series of linked questions on just two or three topics, in order to explore these in greater depth. Precise factual information or knowledge is not required and candidates must not be penalized for lack of such knowledge. Questions must be adjusted to the candidate's ability and the teacher/examiner should be ready to move quickly to another subject if candidates are obviously out of their depth.

Candidates are expected to give natural replies to questions; their answers need not therefore be in the form of complete sentences. The teacher/examiner should avoid asking questions that can be answered with "yes" or "no" and should instead use a variety of question types and interrogative adverbs, ranging from a basic level of simple questions which demand short predictable responses, e.g., *when? how many? how long? with whom? with what? how?* etc., to more searching questions such as *why? tell me about . . . , what do you think about . . . ?* Questions should be adjusted to the candidate's ability. However, as in the Topic Conversation, the teacher/examiner must try to extend candidates as far as possible by giving them the opportunity to explain and justify their opinions.

As in the Topic Conversation, the teacher/examiner must try to lead the candidate into using other time frames (themes could be visits to other countries, plans for the future, etc.) and he or she can then be extended as far as possible. For a mark of 7 or above to be awarded for Language, candidates must show that they can convey past and future meaning and teachers/examiners need to ask questions that allow them to do this.

For the mark scheme, see the Appendix, Tables B and C, of the Marking Instructions.

Impression (10 marks)

At the end of the Speaking examination, based on the candidate's overall performance, the teacher/examiner awards a mark for pronunciation, intonation, and fluency.

For the mark scheme, see the Appendix, Table D, of the Marking Instructions.

Administration of the Speaking Examination

Dates for Speaking Examination

The Speaking examination takes place before the main examination period. Each Center decides on a convenient time within the following dates for its Speaking examinations:

- between March 1 and April 30 for the June examination.

Appointment of Teacher/Examiner

Each Center selects its own teacher/examiner to administer and assess the Speaking examination. This is normally a teacher from within the Languages Department, but could be someone from outside the Center.

In the interests of standardization, only one teacher/examiner should be appointed per Center.

Where a Center wishes to use additional teachers/examiners because it has large numbers of candidates, permission to do so **must** be sought from the Languages Group at Cambridge well before the start of each Speaking examination period. Permission to use more than one teacher/examiner will be granted only on the understanding that (i) teachers/examiners at the Center work together to ensure a common approach to the administration of the Speaking examination and the application of the mark scheme and (ii) the Speaking examinations for all candidates at the Center are recorded. The sample the Center submits to Cambridge must include the work of each teacher/examiner and a Speaking examination *Working Mark Sheet* must be submitted for each teacher/examiner, with candidate names and numbers clearly entered. Guidelines for the internal standardization/moderation of Speaking examinations are available from Cambridge.

Arrangements for the Examination

It is the Center's responsibility to make available a suitable room(s) and good quality equipment in order to ensure the smooth-running of the Speaking examination. Examination conditions must prevail in the area where the Speaking examination takes place and adequate supervision must be provided to ensure that each candidate can prepare his/her role plays alone and in silence. Dictionaries and writing materials are not allowed in the preparation room.

Preparation of Confidential Test Materials

Confidential test materials (*Teachers' Notes Booklet* and *Role Play Cards*) are sent to Centers approximately two to three weeks before the start of the assessment period and include full instructions on how to administer and assess the Speaking examination. These should be opened in the four working days before the Center's assessment starts and studied carefully by the teacher/examiner before conducting his/her first Speaking examination. Teachers/Examiners who have prepared their own roles fully and are confident in what they are doing are better able to help candidates should they experience any difficulty. Once the materials have been opened, the Speaking examinations must be completed as soon as is realistically possible. Once the Center has completed the Speaking examinations, the materials remain confidential and must be kept in a secure place by the Center until the end of the examination period. Candidates must not have knowledge of the role play situations in advance of the examination.

Composition of Sample for External Moderation

In order to allow Cambridge to check accurately the standard of assessment, each Center must record and send to Cambridge a recorded sample as follows:

- **Centers entering 1–16 candidates** must send the recordings of all candidates
- **Centers entering 17 or more candidates** must send:
 - (i) the recordings of the first 10 candidates according to candidate number
 - and**
 - (ii) the recordings of 6 candidates spread evenly across the ability range. The candidates selected should be representative of the range of marks awarded by the Center and should be spread as evenly as possible across that range. If possible, the recordings of the strongest and the weakest candidates at the Center should be included, with the other recordings spaced at equal intervals in between.

Note: Centers entering 17 or more candidates must send a total of 16 recordings. The category (ii) candidates must be chosen from candidates who do not fall into category (i). In Centers with just over 17 candidates, Cambridge accepts this may mean that the category (ii) candidates are not fully representative of the range.

Recording of Sample for External Moderation

Moderation samples must be recorded at normal speed onto either a C90 audiocassette or a standard format CD. Mini cassettes/mini CDs must not be used. **The Center is responsible for supplying cassettes/CDs for the recording of its moderation sample: these will *not* be supplied by Cambridge.** All recording equipment, including cassettes/CDs, must be of as high a standard as possible to ensure that moderation samples are clearly audible. **Where Centers make use of digital recording software, each candidate's file must be saved individually and saved as .mp3 so that it can be accessed for the purposes of moderation.**

Centers wishing to submit recordings as digital files to Cambridge for External Moderation will find more detailed guidance in the Exams Officer area of the website www.cie.org.uk

Feedback on Administration and Assessment of Speaking Examinations

Centers will receive a brief report on the outcome of moderation (*Form CW/C/REP*).

7.4 Paper 4: Writing

1 hour 15 minutes, 45 marks

All candidates must attempt both sections.

Answers written in any language other than that being tested are ignored.

Section 1 (20 marks)

- *Question 1* (5 marks): candidates are required to write a series of single words linked to a topic. Any words relevant to the topic produced by the candidate in the examination will be considered for reward.
- *Question 2* (15 marks): a directed writing task. 80–100 characters in total are required. 10 marks are available for Communication and 5 marks for Language.

Marks are only awarded for material that addresses the set tasks. Marks are never deducted: candidates are given every opportunity to gain marks for what they can do.

Section 2 (25 marks)

- *Question 3* (25 marks): candidates are offered a choice of three tasks (an email/letter, an article, and a narrative) and must complete one of these. 150 characters in total are required.

Candidates are expected to communicate accurately and should make use of a wide variety of idiom, vocabulary, structure, and show that they can convey past and future meaning. A system of positive marking is used. Irrelevant material is not rewarded.

Questions in Section 2 are marked out of 25 under the following three headings:

- Communication 5 marks
- Accuracy of Language 15 marks
- Impression 5 marks

8. Other Information

Equality and Inclusion

Cambridge has taken great care in the preparation of this syllabus and assessment materials to avoid bias of any kind. To comply with the UK Equality Act (2010), Cambridge International Examinations has designed this qualification with the aim of avoiding direct and indirect discrimination.

The standard assessment arrangements may present unnecessary barriers for candidates with disabilities or learning difficulties. Arrangements can be put in place for these candidates to enable them to access the assessments and receive recognition of their attainment. Access arrangements will not be agreed to if they give candidates an unfair advantage over others or if they compromise the standards being assessed.

Candidates who are unable to access the assessment of any component may be eligible to receive an award based on the parts of the assessment they have taken.

Information on access arrangements is found in the *Cambridge Handbook*, which can be downloaded from the website **www.cie.org.uk**

Language

This syllabus and the associated assessment materials are available in English only.

Grading and Reporting

Cambridge IGCSE Certificate results are shown by one of the grades A*, A, B, C, D, E, F, or G indicating the standard achieved, grade A* being the highest and grade G the lowest. "Ungraded" indicates that the candidate's performance fell short of the standard required for grade G. "Ungraded" will be reported on the statement of results but not on the certificate. The letters Q (result pending), X (no results), and Y (to be issued) may also appear on the statement of results but not on the certificate.

Entry Codes

To maintain the security of our examinations we produce question papers for different areas of the world, known as "administrative zones". Where the component entry code has two digits, the first digit is the component number given in the syllabus. The second digit is the location code, specific to an administrative zone. Information about examination timetables, administrative instructions, and entry codes for your administrative zone can be found in the *Cambridge Guide to Making Entries*.

9. Appendix: Speaking (Paper 3)

9.1 Marking Instructions for the Speaking Examination and the Working Mark Sheet

9.1.1 Marking instructions for the Speaking Examination

General Principles

- You are urged to use the full range of marks, bearing in mind that it is not necessary for a candidate to be of native speaker standard to be given maximum marks within any single category.
- Adopt a positive approach: award marks based on what the candidate can do rather than deducting marks for errors.
- Above all else, please be consistent in your marking. The moderation process allows for adjustments to be made to consistently harsh or consistently generous marking. If you are unsure of the mark to award, err on the side of generosity.

It is important that teachers/examiners award marks positively. In order to ensure that they reward achievement rather than penalize failure or omissions, teachers/examiners should get in the habit of starting at the bottom of the mark schemes and working upwards through the descriptors when awarding marks.

The teacher/examiner should adopt a “best-fit” approach. For each of the assessment criteria, Communication (Table B), Language (Table C), and Impression (Table D), the teacher/examiner must select the set of descriptors provided in the mark scheme that most closely describes the quality of the work being marked. As the teacher/examiner works upwards through the mark scheme, s/he will eventually arrive at a set of descriptors that fits the candidate’s performance. When s/he reaches this point, the teacher/examiner should always then check the descriptors in the band above to confirm whether or not there is just enough evidence to award a mark in the higher band.

When awarding the marks for the Topic Presentation/Conversation the teacher/examiner may find that the quality of the work produced in the presentation is superior to that produced in the conversation (or vice versa). In such cases, the teacher/examiner will need to award a mark that takes into account both the strengths and weaknesses of the performance.

To select the most appropriate mark within each set of descriptors, teachers/examiners should use the following guidance:

- If most of the descriptors fit the work, then the teacher/examiner will award the middle mark in the band.
- If the descriptors fully fit the work (and the teacher/examiner had perhaps been considering the band above), the highest of the three marks will be awarded.
- If there is just enough evidence (and the teacher/examiner had perhaps been considering the band below), then the lowest mark in the band will be awarded.

Where there are only two marks within a band, the choice will be between work that in most respects meets the descriptor and work that just meets the descriptors.

Table A—Mark Scheme for Test 1: Role Plays (30 marks)

In this part of the Speaking examination, the teacher/examiner plays the part of a patient and well-disposed foreigner with no knowledge of the candidate's first language.

The Role Plays test the ability of candidates to communicate needs, information, requests, etc., in plausibly life-like situations. Intelligibility is therefore more important than grammatical or syntactic accuracy. However, only verbal communication is assessed: credit is not given for gestures, facial expressions, or other non-verbal forms of communication.

Candidates are required to give natural responses, not necessarily in the form of full sentences. The use of appropriate register and correct idiom is rewarded.

Each of the ten Role Play tasks (five tasks in Role Play A and five in Role Play B) completed by the candidate is assessed on the scale below. When awarding marks, teachers/examiners should start at the bottom of the mark scheme and work upwards.

An accurate utterance that not only conveys the meaning but that is expressed in native idiom and appropriate register. Minor errors (adjective endings, use of prepositions, etc.) are tolerated. The utterance is intelligible and the task of communication is achieved.	3
The language used is not necessarily the most appropriate to the situation and may contain inaccuracies that do not obscure the meaning.	2
Communication of some meaning is achieved, but the native speaker would find the message ambiguous or incomplete.	1
The utterance is unintelligible to the native speaker.	0

Notes

1. If there are two elements in a task and only one is completed, then a maximum of one mark only may be awarded.
2. Short utterances, if appropriate, can be worth three marks.

Tables B and C—Mark Schemes for Test 2: Topic Presentation/Conversation and Test 3: General Conversation (2 × 30 marks)

Each of Tests 2 (Topic Presentation/Conversation) and 3 (General Conversation) is awarded two marks:

- a mark out of 15 for Communication (see Table B)
- a mark out of 15 for Language (see Table C).

Table B—Mark Scheme for Communication

This assesses the candidate's response in terms of comprehension of the teacher/examiner, immediacy of reaction/response, and successful transmission of messages (including presentation of material in the topic).

Outstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A spontaneous interchange between candidate and examiner. Candidate responds fully and confidently to all question types. • Can justify and explain routinely. • Very consistent performance. Not necessarily of native speaker standard. 	14–15
Very good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally understands questions first time, but may require occasional rephrasing. Can respond satisfactorily to both straightforward and unexpected questions. • Regularly develops own ideas and opinions and provides justifications. 	12–13
Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has no difficulty with straightforward questions and responds satisfactorily to some unexpected ones. • Communicates essential elements and can expand occasionally. • Regularly expresses opinions with some simple justifications. 	10–11
Satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands most straightforward questions, but has difficulty with some unexpected ones and needs some rephrasing. • Communicates most of the essential elements. • Can convey simple, straightforward opinions. 	7–9
Weak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has difficulty with many straightforward questions, but still attempts an answer. • Communicates simple pieces of information. 	4–6
Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequently has difficulty understanding the questions and has great difficulty in replying. • Communicates a few facts. 	1–3
	Communicates no relevant information.	0

Table C—Mark Scheme for Language

This assesses the linguistic content of the candidate's answers in terms of complexity, accuracy and range of structures, vocabulary, and idiom.

Outstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very accurate use of a wide range of structures, vocabulary and idiom with occasional errors in more complex language. Not necessarily of native speaker standard. 	14–15
Very good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wide range of mostly accurate structures and vocabulary. 	12–13
Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good range of generally accurate structures, varied vocabulary. 	10–11
Satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate range of structures and vocabulary. Can convey past and future meaning. Some ambiguity. 	7–9
Weak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some manipulation of structures and awareness of verbs, though often faulty and/or incomplete. Shows elementary, limited vocabulary. 	4–6
Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows very limited range of structures and vocabulary. 	1–3
	Nothing coherent or accurate enough to be comprehensible.	0

Table D—Mark Scheme for Impression (10 marks)

A mark out of 10 is awarded for Impression. This mark assesses the candidate's performance across the whole Speaking examination in terms of punctuation, intonation, and fluency.

Very good pronunciation, intonation, and fluency; an occasional slight mistake or hesitation. Not necessarily of native speaker standard.	9–10
Good pronunciation and fluency; makes a fair attempt at correct intonation and expression; some mistakes and/or hesitation.	7–8
A fair degree of fluency and accuracy in pronunciation despite quite a number of errors; some attempt at intonation and expression.	5–6
Conveys some meaning despite a lack of fluency and many errors; pronunciation strongly influenced by first language.	3–4
Many gross errors; frequently incomprehensible.	1–2
Nothing comprehensible.	0

9.1.2 Completing the Speaking Examination *Working Mark Sheet*

The Speaking examination *Working Mark Sheet* can be found on the next page and should be photocopied as required.

1. Complete the information at the top of the form.
2. List the candidates in an order that will allow easy transfer of information to the *Internal Assessment Mark Sheet (MS1)* or to computer at a later stage (i.e., in candidate number order, where this is known).

3. (a) Test 1 Role Plays

Enter the Role Play Card number for each candidate in the column provided.

Enter the mark out of 3 for each task, in columns 1–10.

(b) Test 2 Topic Presentation/Conversation

- (i) Award a mark out of 15 for Communication

Enter the mark in column 11.

- (ii) Award a mark out of 15 for Language

Enter the mark in column 12.

(c) Test 3 General Conversation

- (i) Award a mark out of 15 for Communication

Enter the mark in column 13.

- (ii) Award a mark out of 15 for Language

Enter the mark in column 14.

(d) Impression

Enter the mark (maximum 10) in column 15.

4. Add the marks and enter the total in the column headed "Total Mark." Please double check the addition as even small errors create problems.

5. Internal Moderation

Centers with large numbers of candidates are required to request permission from Cambridge if they wish to use more than one teacher/examiner to administer and assess the Speaking examination for their candidates. This permission is granted only on the understanding that Internal Moderation must be carried out at the Center. This is in order to ensure that marks submitted by the Center are consistent for all candidates, irrespective of which teacher/examiner administered and assessed the examination. The final column on the *Working Mark Sheet* (Internal and/or External moderation) should be used to record the results of Internal Moderation, and details of Internal Moderation procedures must be enclosed with the materials for External Moderation.

Cambridge IGCSE Mandarin Chinese (US) 0534. Syllabus for examination in 2015.

General Conversation (max 30)		Impression (max 10)	Total Mark	Internal and/or External Moderation
	14	15		
	15	10	100	

Appendix: Speaking (Paper 3)

Center Number					Center Name		June	2	0

[illegible]

Name of examiner

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9.2 Arrangements for External Moderation

- Cambridge sends a computer-printed *Internal Assessment Mark Sheet (MS1)* to each Center (in late March for the June examination) showing the names and candidate numbers for each candidate. Transfer the total mark for each candidate from the *Working Mark Sheet* to the *MS1 Mark Sheet*.
- The top copy of the *MS1 Mark Sheet* must be sent in the envelope provided to arrive as soon as possible at Cambridge. It must arrive no later than **May 15** for the June examination.
- As an alternative to the submission of the *MS1 Mark Sheet*, Centers may submit Speaking marks in electronic format. Details of how to submit Speaking marks electronically are provided in the *Cambridge Administrative Guide*.
- Complete the *Cover Sheet for Moderation Sample*, which can be found on the next page and should be photocopied as required.
- Record a sample of the candidates' work as specified in this syllabus and in the *Teachers' Notes Booklet* which you will receive at the time of the examination. Send the recordings with a copy of the completed *Working Mark Sheet* and *Cover Sheet for Moderation Sample*, and the Moderator copy of the *MS1 Mark Sheet*, to reach Cambridge by no later than **May 15** for the June examination. If marks have been submitted to Cambridge as an electronic file, a signed print-out of the marks file must be submitted in place of the second copy of the *MS1 Mark Sheet*. Once the Speaking examination has been completed, do not wait until the end of the assessment period before sending these items.

Cambridge IGCSE Mandarin Chinese (0534/3): Cover Sheet for Moderation Sample

A copy of this cover sheet must be completed by the Center and enclosed with the Moderation documentation and recorded sample to be dispatched to Cambridge.

Center name:

Center number:

1 Tick to confirm that the required moderation documents are enclosed:

☐

(i) Moderator copy of MS1.

☐

(ii) Copy of completed Working Mark Sheet(s) (WMS).*

(* One WMS per Examiner in Centres using more than one Examiner)

If any other documents are enclosed for Cambridge's attention, please list them below:

.....

2 Tick to confirm that documentation has been checked for arithmetical and transcription errors:

☐

(i) Addition of marks on WMS has been checked and Total Mark is correct for each candidate.

☐

(ii) Total Mark for each candidate has been correctly transferred to the MS1.

3 Tick to confirm that the recording quality of Moderation samples has been checked:

☐

All sample recordings are clearly audible.

☐

Samples are recorded on standard size CDs/cassettes and recorded at normal speed.

☐

Digital recordings only: each candidate saved individually and files saved as .mp3.

4 Tick to confirm that the correct number of candidates has been submitted for moderation:

For Centers with 16 or fewer candidates, the following are enclosed:

☐

Recordings of the complete Speaking test for all candidates.

For Centers with 17 or more candidates, the following are enclosed:

☐

(i) Recordings of the complete Speaking test for 6 candidates across the range

AND

☐

(ii) Recordings of the complete Speaking test for the first 10 candidates by candidate number.

5 CENTERS USING MORE THAN 1 EXAMINER — tick to confirm Internal Moderation procedures:

☐

Copy of permission from Cambridge to use more than 1 Examiner enclosed.

☐

Internal moderation carried out and details of Internal Moderation procedures enclosed.

Materials checked by:

(name)
(signature)

Date:

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