



Cambridge Pre-U

MANDARIN CHINESE

9778/04

Paper 4 Chinese Culture

For examination from 2020

SPECIMEN PAPER

2 hours 30 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
 - Section 1 Topics in Chinese culture: answer **one** question.
 - Section 2 Chinese literature and film: answer **one** question.
- There are instructions about how to answer the questions, and which language to answer the questions in, on the question paper.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.
- You may **not** take set texts or films into the examination.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- Each question is worth 30 marks.

This specimen paper has been updated for assessments from 2020. The specimen questions and mark schemes remain the same. The layout and wording of the front covers have been updated to reflect the new Cambridge International branding and to make instructions clearer for candidates.

The specimen paper is for general illustrative purposes. Please see the syllabus for the relevant year of the examination for details of the options available in that year.

You must answer **ONE** question from **Section 1** and **ONE** question from **Section 2**.

SECTION 1: TOPICS IN CHINESE CULTURE

Choose **EITHER** Question (a) **OR** Question (b) from **ONE** of the topics 1–3 and answer in English.

Recommended word length: 600–750 words.

Your answer will be marked out of 30, with 25 marks for content and 5 marks for structure.

1 The founding of the People's Republic of China

EITHER:

- (a) To what extent did the wider international situation (1937–1949) help to ensure that the Communist Party of China (CCP) won the Civil War, leading to the founding of the People's Republic of China?

OR:

- (b) How far were the policies and ideology developed in the Yan'an period implemented in the early years of the People's Republic of China?

2 Chinese economic trends since 1978

EITHER:

- (a) 'China has become the world's second-largest economy, but its income per head is very low with large disparities between the richest and the poorest provinces.' Discuss the problems which this presents for China's government and the extent to which these problems are being addressed.

OR:

- (b) To what extent are the Chinese economy and the global economy interdependent? Illustrate your answer with examples.

3 Emerging China: Population, Environment and Migration

EITHER:

- (a) To what extent can China's 'One Child' policy, introduced in 1979, be called a success?

OR:

- (b) How far do you agree that sustainable cities are an unattainable dream for the People's Republic of China?

You must answer **ONE** question from Section 1 and **ONE** question from Section 2.

SECTION 2: CHINESE LITERATURE AND FILM

Choose **EITHER** Question (a) **OR** Question (b) from **ONE** of the topics 4–6 and answer in English.

Recommended word length: 600–750 words.

Your answer will be marked out of 30, with 25 marks for content and 5 marks for structure.

4 *The Picador Book of Contemporary Chinese Fiction*

EITHER:

- (a) ‘The stories in this anthology illustrate both aspects of Communist Party ideology and individual struggles for survival.’ Discuss this comment with close reference to **two or three** of the stories.

OR:

- (b) Looking closely at the language, discuss the portrayal of the main characters in *The Tall Woman and Her Short Husband* and one other story.

5 *Red Dust, Ma Jian*

EITHER:

- (a) ‘Ma Jian remains unchanged by his travels.’ Discuss this comment with reference to *Red Dust*, giving examples to support your views.

OR:

- (b) To what extent does *Red Dust* provide an insight into China’s western regions? Discuss with reference to *Drifting Through the West* and one other section of the novel.

6 *Yellow Earth, Chen Kaige*

EITHER:

- (a) Discuss the reasons why *Yellow Earth*, on its release in 1984, was regarded, at home and abroad, as the most significant stylistic breakthrough in new Chinese cinema. How far do you agree with this view?

OR:

- (b) ‘The portrayal of the Eighth Route Army’s relationship with the peasantry in *Yellow Earth* highlights the gap between communist ideology and practice.’ To what extent do you agree with this statement? Illustrate your answer with close reference to the film.

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