

MANDARIN AB INITIO

1. Summary

In accordance with the international and multicultural ethos of the Diploma Programme, all candidates are expected to learn at least one foreign language.

The Mandarin AB Initio course is a language learning course for beginners, designed to be followed over two years by students who have no previous experience of learning the target language. The main focus of the course is the acquisition of language required for purposes and situations usual in everyday social interaction.

2. Aims and Objectives

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

Mandarin AB Initio course aims to develop a variety of linguistic skills, and a basic awareness of the culture using Mandarin, through the study of a core syllabus and language-specific syllabus.

The overall objective of this course is for students to achieve communicative competence in a variety of everyday situations.

At the end of the Mandarin AB Initio course candidates will be expected to demonstrate ability to:

- Communicate information and some basic ideas clearly and effectively, in a limited range of situations.
- Understand and use accurately the essential spoken and written forms of the language in a limited range of situations

- Understand and use a limited range of vocabulary in common usage
- Use a register that is generally appropriate to the situation
- Show an awareness of some elements of the culture(s) related to the language studied.

Language

The four primary language skills to be developed in an integrated way are: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

The balance between these four skills should be appropriate to the needs of the students, but none should be neglected.

Core Syllabus

It is divided into seven topics with which the students should become familiar in order to develop a vocabulary range that covers the most common situations in everyday life. These topics are:

Topic	Sub-topic
1. The individual	The self and others The home
2. Education and work	School Future plans
3. Town and services	Shopping Public services and communication

4. Food and drink	Shopping Eating out Food
5. Leisure and travel	Hobbies and free time The area Holidays and travelling Accommodation
6. The environment	Weather Physical geography / the world Environmental concerns
7. Health and emergencies.	Physical health Emergencies

Principles of course design

Applying high order skills

In designing Mandarin AB Initio course, the teachers pay attention to variety, integration, whole-class projects, learning beyond the classroom, transparency and personal development.

Through a student-centred approach, the teachers ensure that their students are given the opportunity to develop characteristics such as self-confidence, self-expression and sensitivity to others. Students are given the opportunity to bring their own interests to the classroom.

Students are encouraged to become independent learners. Different ways of encouraging learner autonomy are:

- Eliciting grammar and/or pronunciation rules from given texts.
- Writing a learner's diary and reflecting on how the language works.
- "Reading for gist" activities, where the students are trained to deal with texts that contain previously unseen vocabulary.

- Role plays
- Information gap activities
- Extra-curricular activities

3. Semester by semester calendar

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Intake</u>
5	28 th Jan- 1 st Feb	Internal assessment 1: Interactive activity 1	January 07
7-8	11 th Feb- 22 nd Feb	Subject Evaluation 1	January 07 and June 07
13-14	31 st March - 11 th April	Subject Evaluation 2	January 07 and June 07
15	14 th April- 18 th April	Internal assessment 2: Interactive activity 2	January 07
18-20	8 th May - 22 nd May	Mid Year Examinations	January and June 07 within lessons
22	16 th June - 20 th June	Internal Assessment 3: Interactive oral activity 3	January 07
26-27	15 th July - 25 th July	Subject Evaluation 3	June 07 and June 08
29-30	4 th Aug - 15 th Aug	Mock examinations	January 07
32	2 nd Sept - 5 th Sept	Individual Oral Exams	January 07
33	8 th Sept - 12 th Sept	Individual Oral Exams	January 07
37-38	6 th Oct - 17 th Oct		June 08 and January 08

		End of Year Examinations	
	2 nd Nov - 22 nd Nov	IB Examinations	January 07

4. Assessments

External Assessment: Written Component 70%

Two written papers externally set and externally assessed

Paper 1: Text Handling 1½ hours 40%

Text-handling exercises based on four written texts

A short writing exercise in response to the fourth text

Remark:

1. For Mandarin, the texts in paper 1 may contain only up to 20% of vocabulary that does not appear in the language-specific syllabus. The candidates will not be tested on these words, unless their meaning can be derived from the context without difficulty.
2. A minimum of 48 Mandarin characters is expected for the written response exercise.

Paper 2: Written Production 1½ hours 30%

Section A: Short writing task

One writing task from a choice of two

Remark:

1. A minimum of 72 Mandarin characters is expected for this task.

Section B: Extended writing task

One writing task from a choice of three

Remark:

1. A minimum of 144 Mandarin characters is expected for this task.

Internal Assessment: Oral Component 30%

Two oral activities to be internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IBO

Individual Oral 15%

Short interview with the teacher

Interactive Oral Activity 15%

The mark of one interactive oral activity

Assessment Criteria

The method of assessment used by the International Baccalaureate Organization is criterion referenced, not norm-referenced. It judges candidates by their performance in relation to identified assessment criteria and not in relation to the rest of the candidates.

A number of assessment criteria have been identified for each part of the assessment for which there is no paper-specific markscheme—paper one (written response), paper 2 (written production) and internal assessment (oral). These criteria are related to the objectives established for the language *ab initio* course.

The written response in paper 1 is externally assessed according to the following assessment criterion.

Criterion A Communication skills

Paper 2 (written production) is externally assessed according to the following three assessment criteria.

Criterion A Language

Criterion B Communication skills

Criterion C Presentation

The oral component is internally assessed according to the following three assessment criteria.

Criterion A Language

Criterion B Communication skills

Criterion C Interaction

5. Resources

Books

1. New Practical Chinese Reader Textbook 1, By Liu Xun, Zhang Kai, Liu SHEhui, Chen Xi, Zuo Shandan & Shi Jiawei, Beijing Language and Culture University Press, China
2. New Practical Chinese Reader Textbook 2, , By Liu Xun, Zhang Kai, Liu SHEhui, Chen Xi, Zuo Shandan & Shi Jiawei, Beijing Language and Culture University Press, China
3. Experiencing Chinese, Higher Education Press, China
4. Chinese Conversation Made Easy, Chinese For Daily Interaction, Pelanduk Publications
5. Learn to Speak Chinese, By Wang Guo'an, The Commercial Press (H.K.) Ltd.
6. Chinese Make Easy, By Dr Anita, Crescent News (K.L) Sdn. Bhd.

Reinforcing grammar, dictionaries, reading

1. New Century Chinese-English Dictionary, Learner Publishing, Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press
2. Times All Colour First Learners' Chinese Dictionary, Federal Publications
3. Oxford Starter Chinese Dictionary, Make Chinese easy to learn, Oxford University Press

Multimedia Resources

1. Interactive Chinese Mandarin, China International Publishing Group, Sinolingua, Beijing Huawenshengshi Education Development Co., Ltd.
2. Learn to Speak Chinese in 30 Days, Shanghai Tendery Music Production Co., Ltd.
3. Learn 100 Chinese Sentences with 300 Essential Words, Shanghai Tendery Music Production Co., Ltd.
4. Easy Chinese Speak Out, Peking University Press, Audio-Visio Press China Central Radio & TV University

Links in Mandarin

Self-learning

www.hanyu.com.cn

www.elanguage.cn/course/

<http://chinesepod.com/>

www.eblcu.net/newenglish/other/demo.html

www.mymandarin.com

Dictionary, Grammar, Chinese character

www.mandarintools.com/chardict.html

www.zhongwen.com/

Tourism and travelling, food, culture

www.csulb.edu/~txie/online.htm