

Chinese

GCSE

Edexcel

Structure & Specification

Two year GCSE course.

Syllabus details

Edexcel 1666 is followed.

What does the course include?

This is a two year intensive course both for complete beginners and those of you who have already learnt a little Chinese. It is based on developing the four important skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing.

At the end of the course you should feel confident in social situations, be able to ask for information and things you need, go shopping and read notices. You will be able to use simple texts and write basic letters.

How will I learn?

The lessons are lively and active with lots of pair work and small group work to practise speaking. New topics are introduced through everyday situations with listening exercises, dialogue practice, reading and finally written exercises.

You will also learn Chinese characters. You will find out about Pinyin and the different tones.

Outside lessons you are expected to practise dialogues, learn vocabulary and do short pieces of written work every week.

We are planning a language trip to China for either 2009 or 2010.

How will my work be assessed?

There is no coursework. The GCSE examination is at the end of the two academic years. There is a single tier of entry:

Listening 25% - 50 minutes

Speaking 25% - 8-12 minutes

Reading 25% - 55 minutes

Writing 25% - 1 hour and 15 minutes.

What skills will I need to be successful in this subject?

Above all you need to be committed, prepared to work hard and be reliable. You need to be pro-active and a fast learner. You will also need excellent attendance and especially to have a love of China, its language and culture.

What are the entry requirements?

The most important requirement is that you want to learn Chinese!

Strong motivation is one of the keys to successful language learning and that is what we will be looking for. Chinese is a very challenging subject- only students who are prepared to study very hard indeed inside and outside the classroom will be successful. Excellent attendance and weekly homework are essential to succeed on this course.

What are the opportunities after this course for further/higher education and employment?

Knowledge of foreign languages is a real asset in many jobs and can lead to exciting careers both in the UK and abroad. Chinese is one of the languages of the future. Learning Chinese will give you an amazing advantage in any career in the future.

After GCSE you could carry on to study Chinese at University or as part of an option to many courses.