

Exam Structure

You will be allowed 3 hours to complete this exam. This exam consists of the following seven parts, for a total of 100 points:

- Part 1: Grammar, 20 multiple-choice questions, 1 point each
- Part 2: Vocabulary, 20 multiple-choice questions, 1 point each
- Part 3: Reading, 10 multiple-choice questions, 1 point each
- Part 4: Culture, 10 multiple-choice questions, 1 point each
- Part 5: Listening, 10 multiple-choice questions, 1 point each
- Part 6: Writing, 3 writing prompts, 5 points each
- Part 7: Speaking, 3 speaking prompts, 5 points each

Part 1: Grammar

This section relates to grammar, or the rules of language, associated with the Chinese language. There are 20 questions in the section. Each question is worth 1 point, for a total of 20 points.

Grammar Study Tips:

Familiarize yourself with the following topics and when/how they are used:

- Adjectives used as predicates; e.g., 你会打网球吗?
- Alternative interrogatives; e.g., 他喜不喜欢这本书?
- Conjunctions; e.g., 还是, 和, 跟, 可是
- Consecutive verbs, such as “want to do,” “wish to do;” e.g., 你想不想来我家?
- Declarative sentence word order (subject – verb – object) • Expression of abilities; e.g., 我会说中文也会说英文。

- Expression of relative positions; e.g., 在右边, 往右走。
- Interrogative clauses beginning with wh-; e.g., 你的小狗叫什么名字?
- Measure words; e.g., 个, 只, 节, 件, 条, 把, 本, 辆, 支, 棵, 顿
- Negations; e.g., 我不要打羽毛球。
- Plurals; e.g., 我有三只小猫。
- Possessives; e.g., 他是我的朋友。
- Tag questions; e.g., 你呢?
- Yes/no interrogative word order; e.g., 你想不想来我家?

Part 2: Vocabulary

This section targets your understanding of specific Chinese words and how they are used. There are 20 questions in the section. Each question is worth 1 point, for a total of 20 points. Note: You will also be required to demonstrate your knowledge of vocabulary in other parts of the exam. Review the tips for the other parts in this guide for additional vocabulary preparation help.

Vocabulary Study Tips:

Familiarize yourself with Chinese vocabulary associated with the following topics:

- Adjectives; e.g., both, some, tall, short, cold, hot
- Adverbs; e.g., very, well, much
- Colors
- Counting words
- Date including year, month, and day

- Days of the week
- Expressions for gratitude and apology; e.g., “Thank you!” “No problem.” “I’m sorry.”
“Don’t worry about it.”
- Family members
- Foods and drinks; such as milk, juice, tea, bread, rice, fruit
- Greetings and farewells
- Introductions; e.g., where you live, what languages you speak, and how old you are
- Major city, state, and country names; particularly, China, United States, America, Texas, Florida, Beijing, Houston
- Measure words
- Nationalities and languages; particularly, Chinese, English, American
- Numbers up to 100 and the correct way to say a three-digit number such as 156
- Occupations; e.g., teacher, accountant, chef, doctor
- Position words; e.g., left, right, front, back
- Question words (who, what, where, when, why, how)
- School subjects and phrases; e.g., biology, math, “I don’t have much homework.”
- Seasons
- Sports and hobbies; e.g., playing computer games, reading, swimming
- Telling time
- Time-related expressions; e.g., today, yesterday, tomorrow, everyday, next year, last year, year before last, meal times, birthday
- Transportation words; e.g., aircraft, automobile, subway, train
- Verbs used in daily life; e.g., ride, buy, play, read, swim, use, write
- Weather-related descriptions; e.g., hot, cold, warm, warmer

Part 4: Culture

This section consists of multiple-choice questions about Chinese practices, perspectives, and products. It is designed to test your basic understanding of key topics related to Chinese culture. There are 10 questions in the section. Each question is worth 1 point, for a total of 10 points.

Culture Study Tips:

As you might imagine, there are many, many aspects to Chinese culture. The exam will cover the

following topics specifically:

- Capital city of China: 北京

- Celebrations and holidays among the Chinese community and their meaning, purpose, and duration;

particularly, Chinese New Year, Lantern Festival, Dragon Boat Festival, Spring Festival, and Mid-Autumn

Festival

- Chinese calendar; particularly, how the Chinese character for beginning is used

- Chinese calligraphy; particularly, the recommended technique for writing Chinese

characters legibly, accurately, and speedily and “The Four Treasures of the Study”

- Chinese zodiac; particularly the symbols used and which one begins the zodiac

- Omens and symbols within Chinese culture and what they are supposed to bring; e.g.,

eating noodles on your birthday to help influence longevity; serving a whole, cooked fish for Chinese

New Year’s Eve to symbolize having enough to go around; numbers that are lucky because of their

association with other words

- Polite ways to address or greet people; particularly, older people, strangers, family members

(including the extended family), or teachers

- Polite ways to ask someone personal information; particularly, asking for a surname or asking

someone's age

- Seating arrangements traditional for meals; particularly, the person who sits at the most honorable

seat

- Writing system; particularly, the symbol-per-syllable structure of the Chinese system

Part 6: Writing

For this part of the exam, you will respond to several writing prompts using Chinese. There are 3 writing prompts in the section. Each response is worth 5 points for a total of 15 points. The questions are written in English; however, you must answer the questions in Chinese. See below for a bank of questions from which your questions will appear. On the next page, you will find a rubric that indicates how your instructor will grade this portion of the exam.

Writing Study Tip:

- You will receive three prompts from the following set of six.
- You will NOT be allowed to choose which three prompts you answer, so prepare by writing a Chinese response to all six.
- Use complete sentences with correct grammar and appropriate vocabulary.
- Reread, edit, and rewrite your answers until you are comfortable responding in Chinese.

Writing Prompts:

You will receive three of the following prompts.

- 1. In Chinese, describe 3–4 objects a person might find in a classroom along with a short description of each. (One example you might use is, in Chinese, “There is a red book. It is a biology textbook.”)**
- 2. In Chinese, list at least four subjects you take in school, and describe those subjects and teachers. (One example you might use is, in Chinese, “I take Biology with Mr. Peterson. It is my favorite course.”)**
- 3. In Chinese in 3–4 sentences, describe one of the popular Chinese artistic traditions and its purpose, such as paper cutting, the Peking Opera, Chinese painting, or calligraphy.**
- 4. Suppose you are applying to help Chinese speakers at a local elementary school. The following is your application. Write your answers in the spaces provided in Chinese. (The application includes blanks you fill in with your name, age, school name, grade level, hometown, favorite subject, and 2–3 sentences about why you would be a good volunteer.)**
- 5. In Chinese in 3–4 sentences, describe your room and explain where three things are (such as the bed, a lamp, or a desk).**
- 6. Suppose a friend of yours wants to take another friend out to dinner. In Chinese in 3–4 sentences, recommend the best Chinese restaurant and explain why your friend should take his or her friend there.**

Part 7: Speaking

For this part of the exam, you will respond to several written prompts by speaking Chinese. There are 3 writing prompts in the section. Each response is worth 5 points for a total of 15 points. The questions are written in English; however, you must answer the questions in Chinese. See below for a bank of questions from which your questions will appear. On the next page, you will find a rubric that indicates how your instructor will grade this portion of the exam.

Speaking Study Tips:

- You will receive three prompts from the following set of six.
- You will NOT be allowed to choose which three, so prepare by answering all six.
- Write a response to each of the following prompts in Chinese.
- Use complete sentences with correct grammar and pronunciation.
- Practice reading your responses in Chinese. You may wish to record your responses and play them back to listen to yourself.
- When you are taking the exam, it may help to write your responses and then read what you have written.

Speaking Prompts:

You will receive three of the following prompts.

- 1. In Chinese, in 3–4 sentences, describe what you are wearing right now. (Describe your clothes and their colors.)**
- 2. Suppose you meet someone from China. In Chinese, ask this person 3–4 questions to find out what it's like to live and work in that country. For example, you might ask if he likes living there, what he does for a living, whether he works a lot, etc.**
- 3. In Chinese, list 2–3 items that exist in the United States but NOT in China. Then list 2–3 things that exist in China but NOT in the United States.**
- 4. You have just landed at Beijing Capital International Airport, and you are meeting your host family for the first time. Introduce yourself in Chinese by stating your name, age, school name, and something you enjoy.**
- 5. In Chinese, describe one of your closest friends or family members and 3–4 things you like about this person.**
- 6. Suppose you have a friend who is interested in learning Chinese. In Chinese in 3–4 sentences, describe your experience with the language. For example, you might describe how you learned the language, where are you learning the language, what have you learned, who your teachers have been, what you like about the language, and so on.**