



OXFORD  
HIGH SCHOOL

GDST  
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

Sixth Form study options

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Chinese

## Welcome to the Chinese Department at Oxford High School GDST

In September 2006, Chinese was introduced to the curriculum starting in Year 7. This exciting development allows all pupils to explore this rich language and discover a different culture at the same time. China, a large country with a rich history of over 5,000 years, has also significantly contributed to the progress of human civilization. It plays an important role in the global economy nowadays. OHS is now the Swire Chinese Teaching Excellence Centre in Oxford in partnership with Radley College. OHS students have the opportunity to continue experiencing this part of the world and its language in the Sixth Form.

The aim of this leaflet is to introduce you to the subject, provide an outline of the course and ensure that, if you opt for it, you will be aware of what the Pre-U or HSK courses contain.

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Examining Board: Cambridge CIE Pre-U

## What is the Pre-U course?

The Cambridge Pre-U Mandarin Chinese syllabus equips learners who are learning Mandarin Chinese as a foreign language with the skills to survive in a Chinese environment. The syllabus also provides a stepping stone for university courses in Chinese and Chinese Studies. As well as allowing learners to develop their language skills, the syllabus fosters an awareness of Chinese culture and history.

The Pre-U Principal Course covers many issues such as family, young people, education, employment, Chinese festivals, education, equality, Chinese culture, society, Chinese literary texts and history.

## How will it be studied?

You will learn the language through oral work, listening, reading, writing, video clips, DVDs, internet and a variety of books, texts, newspapers and magazines. There is a biennial trip to China.



## Should I choose this subject?

You will learn the Chinese language to express facts, ideas, explanations, opinions and information in both speech and writing. You will study aspects of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of one or more of the Chinese-language countries or communities.

## What is the expected learning outcome of the Pre-U Course?

At the end of the Pre-U course, you will take exams which include:

1. Paper 1 (speaking): presenting a researched topic, discussion and response, expressing opinions, and the general conversation.
2. Paper 2 (listening, reading and translation): comprehension, inference, idiom, transfer of meaning, summary skills.
3. Paper 3 (writing in Chinese): accuracy, comprehension, range, development and organisation of ideas, use of relevant examples.
4. Paper 4 (cultural knowledge written in English): use of books, film, etc. to ensure acquisition of a broad cultural knowledge; development and organisation of ideas; literary and historical analysis.

## What is the HSK course?

Alternatively, you can study HSK at OHS. The Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) is an official examination designed to assess the Chinese language proficiency of non-native speakers from beginners to advanced level (divided into levels 1-6). It is an internationally recognised standard in assessing your Chinese language level and the result can be used to apply for scholarships in China. It is also accepted by universities and international companies as proof of Chinese proficiency. The HSK tests include writing, listening and reading and speaking skills. There will be 3 periods per week in OHS' HSK course. Students will take HSK Level 4 in Year 12 and Level 5 in Year 13. Some students may go even higher.

## How will Chinese be useful in the future?

China plays a major role in world affairs. China has become a huge market, and business leaders are looking for people who can speak Chinese and operate successfully in a Chinese cultural context. Proficient speakers of Mandarin Chinese can find jobs in a great range of fields, including business, government, international relations, information technology, tourism, education, translation and much, much more. Fluency in the language opens up another world, as well as its history and culture.



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