



AP[®] Chinese Language and Culture

Course Overview

About the Advanced Placement Program[®] (AP[®])

The Advanced Placement Program[®] has enabled millions of students to take college-level courses and earn college credit, advanced placement, or both, while still in high school. AP Exams are given each year in May. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible, in college, to receive credit, placement into advanced courses, or both. Every aspect of AP course and exam development is the result of collaboration between AP teachers and college faculty. They work together to develop AP courses and exams, set scoring standards, and score the exams. College faculty review every AP teacher's course syllabus. We commit to supporting educators and communities in their efforts to make AP courses widely available, advancing students in their plans for college and careers.

AP Chinese Language and Culture Course Overview

The AP Chinese Language and Culture course in Mandarin Chinese emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes interpretation of meaning, communicative abilities, research strategies, and cultural understanding. The AP Chinese Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication. To best engage with culturally relevant, real-world tasks, the course is taught almost entirely in the target language.

The AP Chinese Language and Culture course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. Drawing on the ACTFL *World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages*, the course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (tangible and intangible artifacts of a culture such as clothing, tools, food, monuments, artwork, and stories), practices (patterns of social behaviors and interactions of a culture such as how people greet each other, socialize, or celebrate holidays), and perspectives (underlying cultural values, beliefs, and attitudes that inform a culture's products and practices).

To deepen their understanding of these content areas and skills, students will embark on an individual course project. Students will be provided a cultural situation and a series of sources to use as part of their investigation into cultural products, practices, and perspectives. This will culminate in an exam day Project Presentation and simulated Project Q&A.

COLLEGE COURSE EQUIVALENT

The AP Chinese Language and Culture course is approximately equivalent to an intermediate college-level course in Mandarin Chinese language and culture.

PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites; however, students are typically in their fourth year of high school-level language study. In the case of native or heritage speakers, there may be a different pathway of study leading to this course.

AP Chinese Language and Culture Course Content

SKILLS

At the core of the AP Chinese Language and Culture course are skills identifying what students should know and be able to do to succeed in the course. Students develop and apply the described skills on a regular basis over the span of the course.

- **Interpretive Communication:** Comprehend written texts, audio, and visualizations of data.
- **Interpersonal and Presentational Communication:** Speak and write in interpersonal and presentational contexts.
- **Cultural Understanding:** Demonstrate cultural understanding.

Additionally, each skill has learning objectives associated with it; these are more specific capabilities that comprise the broader skill.

UNITS

The course is comprised of six thematic units that help teachers integrate language, content, and culture into a series of lessons and activities. Within each unit are recommended instructional contexts and overarching essential questions that engage students, guide their classroom investigations, and promote the use of language in a variety of contexts.

- **Unit 1:** Families and Communities
- **Unit 2:** Language and Culture
- **Unit 3:** Art and Creativity
- **Unit 4:** Science and Technology
- **Unit 5:** Contemporary Life
- **Unit 6:** Global Contexts

MODES OF COMMUNICATION

Foundational to the course are the three modes of communication—Interpretive, Interpersonal, and Presentational—as defined in ACTFL's *World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages*. Throughout the course, students demonstrate their abilities in the Interpretive mode by engaging with text, audio, and images, including visualizations of data; in the Interpersonal mode by speaking with and writing to others; and in the Presentational mode by speaking to and writing for an audience.

TASK TYPES

Each unit in the course features several of the multiple-choice and free-response question task types that students will encounter on the exam, which build in difficulty and complexity over time to the level that matches the exam's expectations. These task types include different formats of cultural and interdisciplinary sources: text, audio, and images, including visualizations of data, that engage students.

AP Chinese Language and Culture Exam Structure

AP CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EXAM:
~1 HOUR AND 50 MINUTES

Assessment Overview

The AP Chinese Language and Culture Exam assesses student understanding of the skills and learning objectives outlined in the course framework. The exam is around 1 hour and 50 minutes long and includes 4 free-response questions and 55 multiple-choice questions.

Format of Assessment

Section I: Free Response | 4 Questions | Approximately 45 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

- **Question 1:** Project Presentation (20% of Exam Score)
- **Question 2:** Project Q&A (15% of Exam Score)
- **Question 3:** Story Narration (7.5% of Exam Score)
- **Question 4:** Email Response (7.5% Exam Score)

Section II: Multiple Choice | 55 Questions | 1 Hour and 5 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

- **Part A:** Listening (25 Questions; 25% of Exam Score; 25 Minutes)
- **Part B:** Reading (30 Questions; 25% of Exam Score; 40 Minutes)

Exam Components

Free-Response Section

This section of the AP Chinese Language and Culture Exam includes four free-response questions. Each question is scored on an analytic rubric.

Question 1: Project Presentation

- This free-response question requires students to research the project topic that is published in January of the exam year and deliver a presentation about what they learned in their research. During the exam, students are allotted 3 minutes to prepare and 3 minutes to deliver their presentation. In addition to language control and forming a coherent discourse, students are asked to demonstrate cultural understanding through describing and explaining the specified cultural products, practices, and perspectives.

Question 2: Project Q&A

- This free-response question requires students to participate in a simulated question-and-answer session with a recorded interlocutor about their Project Presentation. After an introduction, the interlocutor poses four questions to students. Students are allotted 40 seconds to respond in each turn.

Question 3: Story Narration

- This free-response question requires students to write a complete and coherent story based on the sequence of four provided pictures. The story narration task asks students to demonstrate their ability to produce paragraph-level discourse with linguistic accuracy.

Question 4: Email Response

- This free-response question requires students to compose a reply in Chinese to an email received from a friend or member of the community. In their response, students must address all the questions and/or requests posed in the email, using language in a culturally appropriate manner. This writing task asks students to demonstrate their skills in deriving meaning from the text and responding in an appropriate manner based on the specified situation and cultural context.

Multiple-Choice Section

This section of the AP Chinese Language and Culture Exam includes 55 multiple-choice questions presented in 11 multiple-choice question sets. Each multiple-choice set includes five questions and one or two audio or written texts. Question sets within each part may appear in any order on the exam.

Part A: Listening

- Part A contains five different multiple-choice question set task types.

Part B: Reading

- Part B contains six multiple-choice question sets across five different task types that can vary each year.

For examples of free-response and multiple-choice questions, see the *AP Chinese Language and Culture Course and Exam Description*.