



L-Università
ta' Malta

MATSEC
Examinations Board



SEC 47 Syllabus

Chinese (Mandarin)

2026

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Introduction

This syllabus is based on the curriculum principles outlined in *The National Curriculum Framework for All (NCF)* which was translated into law in 2012 and designed using the *Learning Outcomes Framework* that identify what students should know and be able to achieve by the end of their compulsory education.

As a learning outcomes-based syllabus, it addresses the holistic development of all learners and advocates a quality education for all as part of a coherent strategy for lifelong learning. It ensures that all children can obtain the necessary skills and attitudes to be future active citizens and to succeed at work and in society irrespective of socio-economic, cultural, racial, ethnic, religious, gender and sexual status. This syllabus provides equitable opportunities for all learners to achieve educational outcomes at the end of their schooling which will enable them to participate in lifelong and adult learning, reduce the high incidence of early school leaving and ensure that all learners attain key twenty-first century competences.

This programme also embeds learning outcomes related to cross-curricular themes, namely digital literacy; diversity; entrepreneurship creativity and innovation; sustainable development; learning to learn and cooperative learning and literacy. In this way students will be fully equipped with the skills, knowledge, attitudes and values needed to further learning, work, life and citizenship.

What is the subject? Give a general definition.

The study of languages enriches the mind and provides opportunities and challenges of the rapidly changing world. The **Chinese (Mandarin)** syllabus covers and gives equal importance to the four main language skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing. The main focus lies on the development of communicative language competences and communicative strategies.

Chinese (Mandarin) is the standard variety and the official language of China. **Chinese (Mandarin)** is one of the most spoken languages by native speakers in the world and learning **Chinese (Mandarin)** will open up opportunities in many different fields of work.

What does a study of the subject entail?

This subject is based on eight learning outcomes. All outcomes are distributed amongst the four skills having a number of criteria covering level 1, 2 and 3. Each scholastic year shall cover various criteria from all levels. SEC **Chinese (Mandarin)** as a foreign language entails the development of the ability to communicate in both speaking and writing. It also requires that learners develop the skill to listen to and understand spoken **Chinese (Mandarin)** and to read and understand different text types.

By the end of Year 11, learners are required to have carried out a number of assignments for the School-Based Assessment (SBA). The SBA for each scholastic year will be based on levels 1-2-3 or 1-2.

All tasks including texts and other resources are based on familiar topics as indicated in the list of themes as shown in Appendix 4. They include language that is regularly encountered in learners' immediate environments as well as in situations that are likely to be encountered in areas where the target language is spoken.

How is the subject related to candidates' lives, to Malta, and/or to the world?

The teaching and learning of **Chinese (Mandarin)** as a foreign language is necessary in Malta as the need to teach foreign languages is one of the 'Key Competences' listed in the *Malta National Lifelong Learning Strategy 2020* (page 93). The *Framework for the Education Strategy for Malta 2014-2024: Sustaining Foundations, Creating Alternatives, Increasing Employability* states that "we would also like our young people to be competent in other languages that have global outreach" (page 3).

The teaching and learning of **Chinese (Mandarin)** as a foreign language increases Malta's "global outreach" as it will equip candidates with the necessary linguistic and cultural knowledge to communicate in **Chinese (Mandarin)** for both business and pleasure.

The aspirational programme learning outcomes for this subject are:

At the end of the programme, I can:

1. develop the ability to use the language effectively for purposes of practical communication: this entails the development of the four basic skills and of a sound linguistic competence;
2. develop the ability to use learning strategies (learning how to learn) and to evaluate one's own learning: this entails fostering positive attitudes towards study, work and leisure;
3. offer insights into culture and civilisation in order to develop linguistic competencies and to foster respect for others;
4. contribute to the cognitive and affective development of the individual and enhance self-esteem;
5. provide enjoyment and develop interest towards Chinese (Mandarin) while stimulating one's intellectual abilities.

List of Learning Outcomes

At the end of the programme, I can:

- LO 1. talk in Chinese (Mandarin) about a familiar subject provided I can prepare beforehand.
- LO 2. express personal opinions and exchange information on familiar subjects and matters related to everyday life.
- LO 3. react to a situation verbally (accept, refuse, agree, disagree, apologise, thank, propose, confirm etc.)
- LO 4. read straightforward factual texts on familiar subjects, identifying gist and extracting specific information.
- LO 5. understand straightforward factual information about familiar subjects provided speech is clearly articulated in a standard accent.
- LO 6. write on a range of familiar subjects.
- LO 7. communicate in writing to ask for and convey information on familiar subjects in emails, notes, messages, etc.
- LO 8. react to a situation in writing (accept, refuse, apologise, thank, propose, confirm etc.)

List of Subject Foci

1. Speaking
2. Writing
3. Listening
4. Reading

Programme Level Descriptors

This syllabus sets out the content and assessment arrangements for the award of Secondary Education Certificate in **CHINESE (MANDARIN)** at Level 1, 2 or 3. First teaching of this programme begins in September 2022. First award certificates will be issued in 2025.

The following refers to the qualification levels that can be obtained by candidates sitting for SEC examinations. These are generic statements that describe the depth and complexity of each level of study required to achieve an award at Level 1, 2 or 3 in Chinese (Mandarin). (Level 1 being the lowest and level 3 the highest).

Level 1

At the end of the programme the candidate will have obtained basic knowledge, skills and competences in the subject such as basic repetitive communication skills and the ability to follow basic, simple instructions to complete tasks. Support is embedded within the task.

Level 2

At the end of the programme the candidate will have obtained good knowledge, skills and competence in the subject such as the interpretation of given information and ideas. The candidate will have developed the ability to carry out relatively complex tasks. Limited support may be embedded within the task.

Level 3

At the end of the programme the candidate will autonomously apply knowledge and skills to a variety of complex tasks. Candidates will utilise critical thinking skills to analyse, evaluate and reflect upon their own work and that of others. Problem solving tasks may be part of the assessment process.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Subject Focus: Spoken Production		
Learning Outcome 1: Paper I and Paper II	I can talk in Chinese (Mandarin) about a familiar subject provided I can prepare beforehand.	
Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 1)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 2)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 3)
1.1a I can utter basic, brief, mostly intelligible phrases on a prescribed topic.	1.2a I can talk about a prescribed topic, by clearly developing a number of points.	1.3a I can talk about a prescribed topic by presenting ideas in a clear and linear manner.
1.1b I can express likes or dislikes about a familiar topic.	1.2b I can give a reason to explain my opinion about a familiar topic.	1.3b I can give reasons to explain my opinion about a familiar topic.
1.1c I can present some basic points about a topic, which may not be linear.	1.2c I can build coherence of most parts of a presentation through sequencing of ideas.	1.3c I can generally ensure coherence through clearly related reference to a familiar topic.
1.1d I can use basic language with basic linguistic structures.	1.2d I can use simple, often correct phrasal structures.	1.3d I can use generally correct language with some complex phrasal structures.
1.1e I can use elementary and often repetitive vocabulary.	1.2e I can use high-frequency vocabulary.	1.3e I can use common vocabulary with some varied terms and/or expressions.
1.1f I can, with support, demonstrate limited use of the correct particles according to the context, to express the right tenses.	1.2f I can, with limited support, generally use the right particles according to the context to express the correct tenses.	1.3f I can generally use the correct particles according to the context to express the right tenses. ¹

¹ Assessment criteria “f” outlined in Learning Outcome 1 (Spoken - Production) are to be applied also to Learning Outcomes 2 and 3 (Spoken – Interaction).

Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 1)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 2)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 3)
1.1g I can, with support, demonstrate limited target language pronunciation, intonation, and tone.	1.2g I can, with limited support, demonstrate acceptable target language pronunciation, rhythm, intonation, and tone.	1.3g I can demonstrate generally good target language pronunciation, rhythm, intonation, and tone.

Subject Focus:	Spoken Interaction
Learning Outcome 2:	I can express personal opinions and exchange information on familiar subjects and matters related to everyday life.
Paper I and Paper II	

Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 1)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 2)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 3)
2.1a I can use, with prompts*, basic phrases and/or basic sentences to communicate about familiar subjects. ²	2.2a I can maintain simple conversations. ³	2.3a I can maintain conversations by asking and answering questions.
2.1b I can, with prompts, exchange information by asking and answering questions.	2.2b I can, with prompts make suggestions.	2.3b I can exchange information by suggesting alternatives and explain preferences.
2.1c I can say what I like and/or dislike using a limited range of expressions, when addressed clearly, slowly and directly.	2.2c I can give my opinion about familiar subjects in everyday situations.	2.3c I can give a reason/s for my opinion/s about familiar subjects.
2.1d I can, with prompts, use basic phrases to take part in very short social exchanges.	2.2d I can, with prompts, take part in very short social exchanges.	2.3d I take part in social exchanges carried out in clearly articulated speech.

² With prompts in Level 1 means that communication is totally dependent on repetition, rephrasing and repair.

³ With prompts in level 2 means that conversation carries on with the help of the interlocutor.

Subject Focus:	Spoken Interaction
Learning Outcome 3:	I can react to a situation verbally (accept, refuse, agree, disagree, apologise, thank, propose, confirm etc.)
Paper I and Paper II	

Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 1)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 2)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 3)
3.1a I can, with prompts, react to a situation by accepting and/or declining using basic words and/or basic phrases when addressed clearly, slowly and directly. ⁴	3.2a I can react to a situation by accepting and/or declining by using simple phrases and/or sentences. ⁵	3.3a I can react to a situation by accepting and/or declining and giving a justification.
3.1b I can, with prompts, make a proposal in a basic way.	3.2b I can make a proposal in a simple way by making suggestions, without prompts.	3.3b I can suggest an alternative proposal, giving reasons and/or asking for a reply.
3.1c I can, with prompts, ask and/or react to basic questions related to the situation at hand.	3.2c I can verbally react and express my opinions related to the situation at hand.	3.3c I can justify my reactions related to the situation at hand.
3.1d I can express in basic phrases my feelings and/or opinions on a familiar topic.	3.2d I can express my feelings and/or opinions in some detail.	3.3d I can justify my thoughts/opinions and/or emotions by giving reasons.
3.1e I can compare things and/or people using basic language.	3.2e I can compare things and/or people using simple language in some detail.	3.3e I can make comparisons between situations and/or events giving reasons.
3.1f I can agree or disagree by saying yes or no.	3.2f I can agree or disagree with others by giving some detail.	3.3f I can agree or disagree with others by giving reasons.

⁴ With prompts in Level 1 refers to: communication is totally dependent on repetition, rephrasing and repair.

⁵ With prompts in level 2 refers to: is able to continue conversation with the help of the interlocutor.

Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 1)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 2)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 3)
3.1g I can ask for repetition if necessary.	3.2g I can ask for clarification if necessary, by using simple questions and/or simple phrases.	3.3g I can ask for further information as necessary by probing the interlocutor.

Subject Focus:	Reading
Learning Outcome 4	I can read straightforward factual texts on familiar subjects, identifying gist and extracting specific information.
Paper I and Paper II	

Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 1)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 2)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 3)
4.1a I can find familiar names, words or basic information in basic texts.	4.2a I can find simple information in simple text/s.	4.3a I can find specific information in longer, more complex text/s.
4.1b I can identify one opinion in short texts.	4.2b I can identify different opinions in longer texts.	4.3b I can distinguish different opinions in longer texts.
4.1c I can follow the line of argument in short and basic texts.	4.2c I can follow the line of argument in longer texts.	4.3c I can follow the line of argument/s in a text, identifying the different points of view.
4.1d I can answer basic referential questions on short texts.	4.2d I can answer referential questions on longer texts.	4.3d I can answer specific, referential questions on longer texts.
4.1e I can identify the main topic/theme in basic text/s.	4.2e I can identify the main topics/themes in more detailed text/s.	4.3e I can distinguish sub topics/themes from the main topics/themes in text/s.
4.1f I can follow very basic instructions.	4.2f I can follow straightforward instructions and/or directions.	4.3f I can follow detailed instructions and/or directions.

Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 1)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 2)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 3)
4.1g I can skim through short and basic texts for information.	4.2g I can skim through longer texts for relevant information.	4.3g I can elicit specific information through longer texts. ⁶

⁶ Texts in reading may include timetables, postcards, adverts, flyers, brochures, correspondence, online content, articles, recipes, instructions/directions, etc.

Subject Focus:	Listening
Learning Outcome 5:	I can understand straightforward factual information about familiar subjects provided speech is clearly articulated in a standard accent.
Paper I and Paper II	

Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 1)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 2)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 3)
5.1a I can identify basic general information in basic texts delivered in slow and clear speech with long pauses to assimilate meaning. ⁷	5.2a I can identify general information in simple spoken texts provided speech is slowly and clearly articulated.	5.3a I can identify the general information of short spoken texts delivered at a regular speaking rate.
5.1b I can follow slow, clearly articulated conversations consisting of basic vocabulary.	5.2b I can follow clearly articulated conversations consisting of simple vocabulary.	5.3b I can follow clearly articulated conversations consisting of a wider range of vocabulary.
5.1c I can identify others' views/opinions/preferences in shorter spoken text/s.	5.2c I can identify others' views/opinions/preferences in longer spoken text/s.	5.3c I can distinguish between others' views/opinions/preferences in longer spoken text/s.
5.1d I can identify basic words and basic phrases provided that there are pauses for assimilation of meaning, and speech is clearly and slowly articulated.	5.2d I can identify straightforward speech that provided that it is slowly articulated.	5.3d I can identify straightforward factual information provided that speech is clearly articulated in Standard Chinese Mandarin.
5.1e I can identify basic details in basic spoken texts provided speech is clearly and slowly articulated.	5.2e I can identify specific details in simple spoken texts provided speech is clearly and slowly articulated.	5.3e I can distinguish specific details in more complex spoken texts delivered at standard speed.
5.1f I can follow the explanation of basic instructions and/or directions.	5.2f I can follow detailed explanations of instructions and/or directions.	5.3f I can follow detailed explanations of multiple instructions and/or directions.

⁷ Texts imply: announcements, instructions, conversations, monologues, descriptions, audio recordings, narratives, etc.

Subject Focus:	Writing – Production
Learning Outcome 6:	I can write on a range of familiar subjects.
Paper I and Paper II	

Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 1)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 2)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 3)
6.1a I can write a short basic text by using basic sentence structure and by linking words or groups of words with basic linear connectors. e.g. 'and', 'but'.	6.2a I can write a short, simple text by using some connected sentences. e.g. 'because', 'then'.	6.3a I can write short cohesive text/texts or paragraph/paragraphs in a linear sequence using a series of connected sentences.
6.1b I can give my opinion using basic phrases and/or sentences.	6.2b I can express my opinion giving one reason.	6.3b I can justify my opinion giving more than one reason.
6.1c I can use basic vocabulary specific to the context.	6.2c I can use a limited range of vocabulary specific to the context.	6.3c I can make use of a good range of vocabulary specific to the context.
6.1d I can make use of basic language structures with a basic command of syntax.	6.2d I can make use of simple language structures with some command of syntax.	6.3d I can generally make use of language structures with good command of syntax.
6.1e I can make use of very basic punctuation.	6.2e I can make use of simple punctuation.	6.3e I can make use of punctuation which is accurate enough for a text to be followed most of the time.
6.1f I can use a limited number of grammatical structures, which may not be entirely accurate.	6.2f I can use grammatical structures with limitations in accuracy.	6.3f I can use generally accurate grammatical structures, which may be complex to some degree.

Subject Focus:	Writing – Interaction
Learning Outcome 7:	I can communicate in writing to ask for and convey information on familiar subjects in emails, notes, messages, etc.
Paper I and Paper II	

Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 1)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 2)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 3)
7.1a I can express my feelings and/or opinions on a familiar topic, using very basic phrases.	7.2a I can express my feelings and/or opinions using simple connected sentences by giving at least one reason.	7.3a I can express my feelings and/or opinions using more complex connected sentences by giving multiple reasons.
7.1b I can write very basic and short sentences about an everyday situation.	7.2b I can describe briefly an experience/event using simple connected sentences.	7.3b I can describe a series of events using more complex connected sentences.
7.1c I can ask for and/or pass on information in written form using short phrases/sentences on personal matters.	7.2c I can ask for and/or pass on information in written form using simple connected sentences.	7.3c I can ask for and/or pass on information in written form using complex connected sentences.
7.1d I can use a limited range of vocabulary, which may be repetitive to some extent.	7.2d I can use vocabulary which is generally appropriate to the task, with some attempt at variety.	7.3d I can use a variety of mostly appropriate vocabulary.

Subject Focus:	Writing – Interaction
Learning Outcome 8:	I can react to a situation in writing (accept, refuse, apologise, thank, propose, confirm etc.)
Paper I and Paper II	

Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 1)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 2)	Assessment Criteria (LEVEL 3)
8.1a I can accept or refuse a situation by using basic words and/or phrases.	8.2a I can accept or refuse a situation by making simple suggestions.	8.3a I can suggest an alternative proposal, giving reasons.
8.1b I can give a reason for accepting/refusing a situation in basic words/phrases.	8.2b I can give reasons for accepting/refusing a situation in simple connected sentences.	8.3b I can justify my acceptance/refusal in more complex connected sentences.
8.1c I can express gratitude and/or apology using basic, standard phrases.	8.2c I can express gratitude and/or apology giving simple reasons.	8.3c I can express gratitude and/or apology by briefly explaining my thoughts and feelings.
8.1d I can make basic requests for clarification by using basic words/phrases.	8.2d I can make simple requests for clarification by using simple sentences.	8.3d I can make requests for clarification by using more complex sentences.
8.1e I can give basic information on an event and/or feelings using very basic words/phrases.	8.2e I can give simple information on an event and/or feelings in simple connected sentences.	8.3e I can give detailed information on an event and/or feelings in more complex connected sentences.
8.1f I can ask for basic information/personal details.	8.2f I can ask simple questions for information on a familiar topic/s.	8.3f I can ask multiple questions for detailed information on a familiar topic/s.
8.1g I can convey basic information about an experience in the past using basic sentence structure.	8.2g I can convey simple information about an experience in the past using simple connected sentences.	8.3g I can recount detailed information about an experience in the past using more complex connected sentences. ⁸

⁸ Assessment criteria “e”, “f”, “g” outlined in Learning Outcome 6 (Writing – Production) refer to writing communicative texts are to be applied also to Learning Outcomes 7 and 8 (Writing – Interaction).

Scheme of Assessment

School Candidates

The assessment consists of Paper I and Paper 2. Paper I consists of unmoderated School-Based Assessment (SBA) that is to be set and assessed by the school. Paper II consists of a controlled assessment that will take place at the end of the three-year programme.

School-based assessment (SBA): is any type of assessment of a candidate made by the school relevant to the respective SEC syllabus contributing to the final level awarded in the subject.

Controlled assessment: is comprised of a two-hour written exam and a 8-10-minute oral examination, set at the end of the programme and differentiated between two tiers:

- a. Levels 1 and 2;
- b. Levels 2 and 3.

Candidates are to satisfy the examiner in Paper I and Paper II to obtain a level higher than 1.

Paper I - School Based Assessment: (30% of the total mark)

The school-based assessment shall be marked out of 100 each year (9, 10 and 11). The assessment for each year will contribute to 10% of the overall mark and will be reported to MATSEC by the school in Year 11. Therefore, each year will equally contribute to the final mark of the school-based assessment. The school-based assessment shall reflect the MATSEC syllabus covered in Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11.

School-based assessment can be pegged at either of two categories:

- SBA at categories 1-2 must identify assessment criteria from these two levels. It is suggested that ACs are weighted at a ratio of 40% at Level 1 and 60% at Level 2;
- SBA at categories 1-2-3 must identify assessment criteria from each of Levels 1, 2, and 3. It is suggested that ACs are weighted at a ratio of 30% at each of Levels 1 and 2, and 40% at Level 3.

The mark for SBA at level categories 1-2 presented for a qualification at level categories 2-3 will be calculated to 60% of the original mark. The mark stands in all other cases.

Paper II - Controlled Assessment (70% of the total mark)

Written Examination (100 marks; 2 hours)

Controlled Assessment will:

- cover all learning outcomes including all learning outcomes which are not indicated to be covered through SBA;
- be marked out of 100.

Details about the controlled assessment can be found in the Appendix.

Private Candidates

Private Candidates will not be expected to carry out any school-based assessment as school candidates. Instead, private candidates need to sit for another Controlled paper as an alternative to the school-based assessment. Private candidates will be assessed through the means of **TWO** Controlled papers, one of which is common with school candidates.

Paper I – Controlled Assessment - Private Candidates Only (30% of the total mark)

Paper I for private candidates shall be a controlled assessment assessing levels 1, 2 and 3 as described in the respective syllabus and set and marked by MATSEC. It shall mainly focus on the learning outcomes marked in the respective syllabi as suggested for school-based assessment.

Learning outcomes with assessment criteria in the psychomotor domain can be assessed by asking questions in pen-and-paper format seeking understanding of the activity.

Paper II is common with school candidates.

Appendices

Appendix 1: CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT – FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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Skill	Levels 1-2	Levels 2-3
	40% Level 1 + 60% Level 2	40% Level 2 + 60% Level 3
<p>SPEAKING 25 marks</p>	<p>Duration: 8-10 minutes 10 min preparation time for tasks 1, 2, 3 Number of exercises: 3</p> <p>Task 1 (5 marks) Self-presentation. Candidates to choose 4 questions/prompts from the Corridor Paper. NO interaction needed; however, prompting may be required. (1 min)</p> <p>Task 2 (10 marks) Personal experience with/without picture prompts OR Picture comparison. Five prompting questions (past and present). Clear Rubric and prompts according to level. (3-4 mins)</p> <p>Task 3 (10 marks) Role play OR Discussing/answering questions about a topic with/without with prompts. (4-5 mins)</p> <p>2 papers: Examiner’s Paper and Candidate’s Paper.</p> <p>Each of the 3 parts may include visuals.</p> <p>Themes for speaking to be drawn from syllabus list of themes.</p>	<p>Duration: 8-10 minutes 10 min preparation time for tasks 1, 2, 3 Number of exercises: 3</p> <p>Task 1 (5 marks) Self-presentation. Candidates to choose 4 questions/prompts from the Corridor Paper. NO interaction needed; however, prompting may be required. (1 min)</p> <p>Task 2 (10 marks) Personal experience with/without picture prompts OR Picture comparison. Five prompting questions (past, present and future). Clear Rubric and prompts according to level. (3-4 mins)</p> <p>Task 3 (10 marks) Role play OR Discussing/answering questions about a topic with/without picture prompts. (4-5 mins)</p> <p>2 papers: Examiner’s Paper and Candidate’s Paper.</p> <p>Each of the 3 parts may include visuals.</p> <p>Themes for speaking to be drawn from syllabus list of themes.</p>
<p>LISTENING 25 marks</p>	<p>Duration: 40 minutes Number of characters in all texts: 250-350 Number of texts**: 3-4 Number of items: 20-25</p> <p>1, 2 marks may be used</p> <p>Person/s conducting the recording may be a native speaker.</p>	<p>Duration: 40 minutes Number of characters in all texts: 300-600 Number of texts **: 3-4 Number of items: 20-25</p> <p>1, 2 marks may be used</p> <p>Person/s conducting the recording may be a native speaker.</p>

	Texts referring to Level 1 will be read 3 times. Texts referring to Level 2 will be read twice.	Texts referring to Levels 2 and 3 will be read twice.
READING 25 marks	Duration: 40 minutes Number of tasks: 3-4 Number of characters in all texts: 450-600 May contain visuals Number of items: 20-25 1, 2 marks may be used In each task there may be more than one text.	Duration: 40 minutes Number of tasks: 3-4 Number of characters in all texts: 550-700 May contain visuals Number of items: 20-25 1, 2 marks may be used In each task there may be more than one text.
READING and LISTENING question typologies	<p>Type of questions for READING and LISTENING may include the following close-ended items (one item is equivalent to one answer):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multiple choice questions with 3 options to choose from; 2. Matching; 3. Choosing the correct sentences which contain information present in the text/picture. Distractors should total one less than the number of correct sentences required. 4. Single words or phrases in answers. 5. Fill in grid. 6. Fill in the gaps (with/without suggestions). 7. True/False and referential answer to justify. Justification can be in multiple choice or one-word answer (1 item). Applies to READING ONLY. <p>Multiple question typologies may be used in one task. An example can be provided for each of the typologies in the exam. Tasks may contain distractors.</p>	
WRITING 25 marks	Duration: 40 minutes Task 1 – 30-40 (to write about 3 points)* Task 2 – 80-100 (to write about 4 points)* Total number of characters: 110-140 Number of tasks: 2 Both tasks should be communicative (short messages, letter, chat/dialogue, email, write/reply to an invitation, instructions/directions, announcement, advert etc.) * Students may opt to follow or to develop their own as long as they address the task. 1 title only for each task	Duration: 40 minutes Task 1 – 40-60 (to write about 3 points)* Task 2 – 100-130 (to write about 4 points)* Total number of characters: 140-190 Number of tasks: 2 Both tasks should be communicative (short messages, letter, chat/dialogue, email, write/reply to an invitation, instructions/directions, announcement, advert etc.) * Students may opt to follow or to develop their own as long as they address the task. 1 title only for each task

READING/LISTENING Controlled papers distribution – TYPE 1

Level 1-2

Level 2-3

Total marks 25 Number of items: 20-25 Number of tasks: 3 Task 1 –Level 1 40% (10) Task 2 –Level 2 30% (7) Task 3 –Level 2 30% (8)	Total marks 25 Number of items: 20-25 Number of tasks: 3 Task 1 –Level 2 40% (10) Task 2 –Level 3 30% (7) Task 3 –Level 3 30% (8)
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OR

READING/LISTENING Controlled papers distribution – TYPE 2	
Level 1-2	Level 2-3
Total marks 25 Number of items: 20-25 Number of tasks: 4 Task 1 –Level 1 20% (5) Task 2 –Level 1 20% (5) Task 3 –Level 2 30% (7) Task 4 –Level 2 30% (8)	Total marks 25 Number of items: 20-25 Number of tasks: 4 Task 1 –Level 2 20% (5) Task 2 –Level 2 20% (5) Task 3 –Level 3 30% (7) Task 4 –Level 3 30% (8)

Appendix 2: Themes

Sociocultural knowledge is to be embedded in teaching and learning. Candidates will **not** be assessed on cultural content knowledge.

Candidates are expected to be able to express themselves and understand others on the matters related to:

- 1 **Greetings:** greet people according to time of day, use formal and informal greetings, thank others, accept, refuse.
- 2 **Myself and others (Myself, Family, Pets, Friends, People):** Say who they are, state their address, give their telephone number, say when and where they were born, state their age, sex, and nationality, speak of their family and their relatives, state their likes and dislikes, say what other people are like (physical and character description), refer to personal relations (family, friend, boy/girlfriend, acquaintance, stranger), participate in social life, deal with matters of correspondence, talk/describe pets. They are also to elicit/understand similar information from other people they meet (this includes jobs and professions).
- 3 **Leisure, hobbies and interests:** Say when they are free and what they do in their spare time with reference to indoor and outdoor hobbies and interests, entertainment and private pursuits, music, TV, gadgets, cinema, sports, reading and youth groups, express preferences, comparisons.
- 4 **Time and Calendar (Days of the week, Weather and Seasons, Months, Time, Feasts and Celebrations):** Describe their daily routines, at home and at school. Describe some events in the present and in the past, tell/ask for the time, talk about the weather and refer to a weather forecast, climate and weather conditions.
- 5 **Places (my environment) Home, School, Towns and Countries, Natural environment):** Describe a house or a flat, the rooms in it and their contents. Describe a town and country. Ask the way and give directions (location, relative position, distance, direction and traffic). Refer to the school and/or work environment and to educational matters, school subjects and/or roles at work, etc. Describe the natural environment (including plants and animals). Ask information at counters (tickets, post office, tourist office etc.).
- 6 **Environmental awareness:** provide brief information about environmental issues (pollution, animal protection, energy saving, recycling, etc.).
- 7 **Travel (Daily commute, transport, holiday, destinations):** Use and refer to means of transport; travel by road, rail, sea and air for holiday and/or business purposes (includes the basic vocabulary necessary in hotels, luggage, entering and leaving a country, travel documents, airports, bus/train stations, sea ports, underground.)

- 8 Food and drink:** Refer to and order various kinds of food and beverages in a café, a restaurant, etc. express preferences, dislikes, interact with others.
- 9 Healthy Lifestyle (Physical exercise, at the clinic/hospital, parts of the body):** Refer to personal matters, stating whether they feel well, are hungry, tired, etc. Refer to matters of personal hygiene, matters of health, illness medicine and remedies, talk with professionals in the field. Make reference to a healthy lifestyle in relation to food, fitness, etc.
- 10 Use of Media and Technology:** Refer to the use of various devices including the home computer/s, laptops, tablets, smartphones and other digital devices, etc. Refer to them briefly, indicating which ones they use most frequently for various purposes, at home, at school, with friends, etc. Refer to the use of social networks, and discuss their advantages and disadvantages.
- 11 Shops and Shopping (Dealing with money, Weights, measures, sizes):** Make use of shopping facilities and retail outlets particularly buying foodstuffs, clothes, household articles, etc. Interacting with others, refer to the basic vocabulary regarding payments, weights, measures.
- 12 Work and Job related matters:** Refer to vocabulary related to jobs and professions, talk about skills, studies, qualifications required, talk about a desired job, summer job, ask others about future jobs.

Appendix 3: Glossary

LO 2

2.1a I can use, with prompts, simple phrases and/or simple sentences to communicate about familiar subjects.

*with prompts in Level 1 means that communication is totally dependent on repetition, rephrasing and repair.

2.2a I can, maintain simple conversations.

*with prompts in Level 2 means that conversation carries on with the help of the interlocutor.

LO 3

3.1a I can, with prompts, react to a situation by accepting and/or declining using simple words and/or simple phrases when addressed clearly, slowly and directly.

*with prompts in Level 1 refers to: communication is totally dependent on repetition, rephrasing and repair.

3.2a I can react to a situation by accepting and/or declining by using simple phrases and/or sentences.

*with prompts in level 2 refers to: is able to continue conversation with the help of the interlocutor.

LO 5

5.1a I can identify basic general information in simple texts* delivered in slow and clear speech with long pauses to assimilate meaning.

*Texts imply: announcements, instructions, conversations, monologues, descriptions, audio recordings, narratives, etc.