

A Level Chinese

中文

暑假作业

A Level Chinese will build on the language you mastered at GCSE, and take your already well-practised skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening to the next level. During the next two years, we want you to be able to express yourself freely and spontaneously, i.e. say whatever you want, whenever you want in Chinese.

To this end, there are a number of things you should be doing.

The key to becoming conversant in a foreign language is to immerse yourself as much as possible in the language, whether it's changing the setting on your mobile phone to Chinese, reading and watching Chinese language news, or subscribing to a Chinese channel on Youtube. These things are not just nice extras, they are essential to help you to progress to A level standard, so why not start now as you mean to go on, and try some of the suggestions over the summer?

Recommended resources:

[Lost in Translation](#) (我的海漂时代) on Youtube – this is a fun entertainment channel that focuses on content for Chinese-American people and students studying in China. Their videos are quite diverse and include everything from mini-game shows and reaction videos to interviews. There are subtitles in English and Chinese.

[HunanTV](#) (湖南卫视) on Youtube – click on the 'channels' tab to explore different programmes, from drama to reality TV. Some videos have Chinese subtitles.

[BBC News Chinese](#) – shorter articles and videos on news and current affairs. Keep a notebook of new vocabulary.

[Xinhua News](#) – this is the official news outlet in China, with longer, more complex articles than BBC Chinese. I suggest printing out an article that interests you and annotating it, adding any additional vocabulary to your notebook.

[Chinese-English Dictionary plug-in](#) for Google Chrome – strongly recommended for Chinese A Level. This plug-in shows dictionary definitions of Chinese words as you hover over them and will speed up your reading online. It can be turned off at the click of a button to increase difficulty.

A Level Chinese Course Structure (Exam Board: Edexcel)

Year 12

Theme 1: Contemporary Chinese Society

Family: family structure, the generation gap, family planning (including the One Child Policy), ageing population

Education and work: school and student life, work opportunities, work life balance

Theme 2: Chinese Culture

Tradition: festivals (Spring Festival, Dragon Boat Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival, Qing Ming Festival), customs

Cultural activities: film, television, music, reading with relation to Chinese culture

Films: Beijing Bicycle (2001), Wang Xiaoshuai (dir.); Please Vote for Me (2007), Chen Weijun (dir.)

Literature: A Very Special Pigeon (2014), Cao Wenxuan

Independent Research Project

Year 13

Theme 3: Evolving Chinese Society

Communication and technology: Internet and social media

Economics and environment: economic development, environmental protection

Theme 4: 1978 Reform and Opening and its Effects

Social transformations: Wealth gap, supercities, urban migration

Sino-British relations: Trade, cultural exchange, educational exchange

Year 12 Summer Work

Task 1: Grammar

You will receive a new grammar booklet in September, and it is important that you have refreshed your knowledge of GCSE grammar before the start of Year 12.

Please review the following, using pp.164-173 of your GCSE textbook:

- Nouns
 - The use of measure words for nouns
 - Using 的 to link pronouns, adjectives, and noun phrases to nouns
- Verbs
 - The use of 过 after a verb
 - The use of 了 after a verb
 - The use of 在 to express an action in progress
 - Talking about the future
 - The use of 得 after a verb
 - Expressing coming and going
 - Using a suffix after the main verb to show the result of an action
 - Using 得 or 不 between the two parts of a verb
- Use of 了 at the end of a sentence
- Word order
- Conjunctions
- Question words

Task 2: Film

Ahead of your A Level film study, please watch the films [Beijing Bicycle](#) and [Please Vote for Me](#). ([Youtube link](#))

For both films, please produce the following:

1. A 10-15 point list in English of key plot points in the film
2. A vocabulary list of 20 key words in Chinese, either found in the film, or relevant to the film's themes.

Task 3: Mini-presentation

Film or record yourself talking in Chinese for 2-3 minutes **without reference to any notes**. The focus / topic is entirely your choice, so choose an issue or event that interests or inspires you.

Examples could include a personal commentary on a film you have seen, experience of a new sports activity, a visit to an amazing town, city or country, your hopes and fears for the sixth form, etc.

You will need to bring an electronic copy of the recording with you at the start of Year 12 for us to watch back / listen to as a group. We will then save this and play it back to you at the end of the year, as it is always interesting to compare the '以前' with the '以后'!

All three tasks must be completed before the start of next term!

INTRODUCTION

This section of the book does not aim to repeat all the grammar you will have covered; we have picked out some of the tricky bits to do with **the use of 的 and nouns, verbs and word order**. The section ends with a useful list of **conjunctions and question words**. Each grammar point has a clear description of how it works and when to use it, why it is important and things to watch out for. This is followed, where appropriate, by exercises for you to try out to brush up your ability to use the grammar correctly. This section covers:

- **Nouns** the use of measure words for nouns
using 的 to link pronouns, adjectives and noun phrases to nouns
- **Verbs** the use of 过 after a verb
the use of 了 after a verb
the use of 在 to express an action in progress
talking about the future
the use of 得 after a verb
expressing coming and going
using a suffix after the main verb to show the result of an action
using 得 or 不 between the two parts of a verb
- **Use of 了 at the end of a sentence**
- **Word order**
- **Conjunctions**
- **Question words**

名词 NOUNS

1 The use of measure words for nouns

When a number is used with a noun, then there must be a measure word between the number and the noun. (A small number of nouns are measure words in their own right and so do not take another measure word, e.g. 四天, 三年.) You will by now have learnt all about this. If in doubt, use 个, but if you want to try to use the correct measure word for the noun you are using, here is a list below to help you.

Measure word	Nouns
个 ge	the most frequently used measure word people: 人, 中国人, 哥哥, 朋友, 老师, 学生, etc. places: 学校, 中学, 工厂, 教室, 运动场, 房间, etc.
本 běn	books: 书, 英文书, 作业本, 日记, 杂志, etc.
匹 pǐ	horses: 马
头 tóu	cattle: 牛, 奶牛, etc.
只 zhī	some animals: 动物, 狗, 猫, 羊, etc.
双 shuāng	a pair of: 鞋子, 皮鞋, 运动鞋, 袜子, 眼睛, 手, 筷子, etc.
件 jiàn	clothes: 衣服, 夹克, 毛衣, 衬衣, T恤, etc.
条 tiáo	long, winding, flexible things: 领带, 裙子, 裤子, also: 鱼, 金鱼, etc.
张 zhāng	flat objects: 照片, 画儿, 地图, 纸, 报纸, 桌子, etc.
瓶 píng	bottles of: 牛奶, 汽水, 可乐, 酒, 水, 果汁, etc.
杯 bēi	a cup/glass of: 茶, 咖啡, 牛奶, 酒, etc.
家 jiā	restaurant/hospital/company/factory etc.: 饭馆, 医院, 公司, 工厂, etc.

2 Using 的 to link pronouns, adjectives and phrases to nouns

HOW DOES IT WORK AND WHEN DO I USE IT?

1 的 is used to link pronouns to nouns to make possessive adjectives. For example:

我的书在哪儿? = Where is my book?

的 is often omitted where the relationship between the nouns and possessive is close. For example:

我爸爸 = my father

我姐姐 = my older sister

2 的 also links adjectives to nouns where the adjective is not just a single syllable. For example:

很无聊的课 = boring lessons

新鲜的草莓 = fresh strawberries

的 is often not used if the adjective is a single syllable or a place name. For example:

中国地图 = map of China

一条黄裙子 = a yellow skirt

3 的 links noun phrases to nouns. For example:

我喜欢的电影 = the film that I like

的 is used to join the two parts: 'I like' and 'film'.

Moreover, in Chinese 'that I like' goes before 'the film', following the structure of 'I like' + 的 + 'film'.

It is often useful to think of the 的 as 'that (or which)' and then to remember that the 'that (or which)' clause must come before the noun.

4 的 + pronoun = possessive pronoun. For example:

那只狗是谁的? = (literally) That dog is whose?

这只狗是我的。 = That dog is mine.

5 的 with no following noun. This can happen if the context is clear. For example:

我喜欢这件新的。 = I like this new one (probably clothing in this case).

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

的 is a key particle in Chinese and is one of the aspects of grammar that makes the language structurally very different from English. To be able to express yourself in Chinese and to be able to understand it, you need to understand 的。

THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR

我妈妈做的饭很好吃 = The food (that) my mother makes is really tasty.

Notice the difference in word order between the two languages. You need to think of 'my mother makes' as describing the noun 'food', and then you won't end up with the 的 in the wrong place!

Make sure you don't get 的 muddled up with measure words. In a standard noun phrase with an adjective, the word order is as follows:

一个很聪明的学生 = a very intelligent student = number + measure + adjective + 的 + noun.

TRY IT OUT

1 Sort out the word order for the following sentences and translate them into English.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1 那是我书的。 | 5 英国人的很多会说汉语。 |
| 2 弟弟房间的很小。 | 6 今天天气好极了的。 |
| 3 他写字的真漂亮。 | 7 这儿有两个苹果, 你的吃红, 我的吃绿。 |
| 4 她是一个的可爱女孩子。 | 8 要是的你不喜欢话, 就别买了。 |

2 Decide whether or not 的 is needed in the gaps (a, b, etc.) in the following sentences.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 这是我 a 书包。 | 6 我 f 妈妈是医生。 |
| 2 哥哥拿了一个大 b 箱子。 | 7 他住在一个很小 g 房子里。 |
| 3 饭是谁做 c ? | 8 她去过美国 h 。 |
| 4 我吃了两个 d 鸡蛋。 | 9 公园里 i 人不少。 |
| 5 那是一个美丽 e 地方。 | 10 那只小 j 狗真可爱。 |

动词 VERBS

1 The use of 过 after a verb to express having experienced an action

HOW DOES IT WORK AND WHEN DO I USE IT?

To say you have had the experience of doing something, place 过 after the verb. For example:

我去过马来西亚。 = I have been to Malaysia.

我吃过中国饭。 = I have eaten Chinese food.

To turn this into a negative statement, place 没 (not) in front of the verb and follow the verb with 过。

For example:

哥哥没去过日本。 = My brother hasn't been to Japan.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Although there are no tenses in Chinese, it is important that you know how to use different timeframes so that you can make yourself understood, and understand what other people are saying to you. 过 is used to express past experience.

THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR

Remember that 过 is used for past experience, whereas 了 after a verb is used for a completed action.

TRY IT OUT

Now is the chance for you to get some practice. Have a go at translating the sentences below and then decide whether it is grammatically correct if you change the 过 to 了. See if you can work out the difference in meaning between the 过 sentence and the 了 sentence. This is tricky, but it will help you when you come to reading Chinese.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1 姐姐当过医生。 | 4 这本书我读过三遍。 |
| 2 他弹过钢琴。 | 5 她说过那样的话吗? |
| 3 我从来没坐过飞机。 | |

2 The use of 了 after a verb to express completed action

HOW DOES IT WORK AND WHEN DO I USE IT?

1 When an event has happened/an action has been completed and the object of the sentence is specified or defined (that is, it has a number before it), then put 了 after the verb and before the number. For example:

今天早上我吃了三碗米饭和一条鱼。 = I ate three bowls of rice and a fish for breakfast today.

我昨天买了六本书。 = I bought six books yesterday.

2 To turn this into a negative statement, use 没有 without 了. For example:

他没买书。 = He didn't buy (any) books.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

No one is expected to have perfected the use of 了 at GCSE, but you do need to be able to show that you are aware of its use in this way to express completed action.

THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR

Remember that 了 does not express tense.

In Chinese, time expressions show the time of the action of the verb.

TRY IT OUT

1 Translate the following sentences into Chinese:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 He bought three bottles of beer. | 5 He drank two cups of coffee. |
| 2 Xiao Li learnt Chinese for five years. | 6 I went to the Great Wall yesterday. |
| 3 She made a big cake. | 7 The child slept for two hours. |
| 4 Uncle lost a bike. | 8 How long did she work as a teacher? |

2 Put 了 in the correct place (indicated by the letters a, b, c) and translate the sentences.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 他休息 a 好 b 几天。 | 4 他赚 a 很多 b 钱。 |
| 2 弟弟吃 a 二十个 b 饺子。 | 5 学校来 a 几个新学生 b 。 |
| 3 小鸭跑 a 一会儿, 就累 b 。 | 6 上星期他爬 a 两座高山 b 。 |

3 The use of 在 to express an action in progress

HOW DOES IT WORK AND WHEN DO I USE IT?

1 在 or 正在 is used before a verb to show that something is/was going on at a particular time. Sometimes you will also find 呢 at the end of a sentence. For example:

marked by 在: 她在睡觉。 = She is asleep.

marked by 正在 and 呢: 她正在睡觉呢。 = She is asleep.

2 在 before a verb in this way can also refer to a past timeframe. For example:

那是 1998 年, 她在上大学。 That was 1998. She was studying at university.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

If you want to express that someone is in the process of doing something, then you need to be able to use 在 in this way before the verb.

THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR

在 is used in this way now much more often than it was 20 years ago. However, you don't need to use it all the time. Remember that it is the time expressions that indicate the time of the action. In sentences like 你今天穿什么? (= What are you wearing today?), there is no need for 在, but in the sentence 你在穿什么? (= What are you wearing?), it needs to be there.

TRY IT OUT

Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

- 1 She is on the phone.
- 2 Dad is having supper.
- 3 At that time, he was studying at a secondary school.
- 4 The teachers are having a meeting.
- 5 The children are playing table tennis in the gym.

4 Talking about the future

HOW DOES IT WORK AND WHEN DO I USE IT?

1 If you want to talk about the future, simply put in a time phrase indicating future, such as next year, next week etc., and use verbs such as 想, 打算, 计划, 要. For example:

下个星期六我打算去博物馆。 = I am planning to go to a museum next Saturday.

2 会 is often used to indicate possibility/probability, that is, something may/is likely to happen. For example:

明天会下雪。 = It looks like it'll snow tomorrow.

3 Imminent future indicated by:

要...了 要下雨了。 = It's about to rain.

快要...了 快要下雪了。 = It's about to snow.

快...了 快到了。 = It's about to arrive.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

To use the Chinese language properly, you need to be able to demonstrate good use of different timeframes. In reading, if you don't know how these timeframes work, then you are likely to struggle when decoding reading passages.

THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR

Don't overuse these verbs to indicate the future. Often just one in a paragraph is enough to set the context. You certainly don't need 会 in every sentence.

TRY IT OUT

Complete the following sentences with 要 or 会 where the gaps are (a, b, etc.).

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 你 a 去哪儿? | 6 f 下雪了。 |
| 2 明天 b 冷吗? | 7 她就 g 大学毕业了。 |
| 3 我们 c 开学了。 | 8 快 h 到家了。 |
| 4 我 d 好好学习。 | 9 别担心, 她的身体 i 好起来的。 |
| 5 你 e 参加我的生日聚会吗? | 10 不用等了, 他不 j 来了。 |

5 The use of 得 after a verb

HOW DOES IT WORK AND WHEN DO I USE IT?

1 得 is used to express the manner in which an activity is usually carried out. The main verb of the sentence must be repeated and the repeated verb is directly followed by 得.

The structure goes as follows: verb + object + verb + 得 + adverb. For example:

他弹钢琴弹得非常棒。 = He plays the piano very well.

她说英文说得不太好。 = She doesn't speak English very well.

2 Sometimes you will see the object of the verb placed before the verb, so as to avoid the repetition of the verb. For example:

他钢琴弹得很好。

You need to be able to recognise both ways, even if you stick to just one way of doing it when writing yourself.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

You need to be able to express how an action is done; it will make your written work more interesting for you and for the reader.

THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR

Don't be tempted to miss out the 得.

TRY IT OUT

Work through the following exercise, but beware: it involves 的 too! Fill in the gaps with 的 or 得 and translate into English. You might need to work with a friend to puzzle out the ones near the end.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1 他跑 a 真快! | 6 去上海 f 票没有了。 |
| 2 她的中文说 b 很好。 | 7 昨天晚上雨下 g 很厉害。 |
| 3 弟弟玩儿 c 很高兴。 | 8 她跳舞跳 h 忘了时间。 |
| 4 同学们做 d 认真。 | 9 她气 i 脸都红了。 |
| 5 他 e 字太漂亮了! | 10 这个小商店 j 东西都卖完了。 |

6 Expressing coming and going

HOW DOES IT WORK AND WHEN DO I USE IT?

1 从...来 Normally a place is inserted between the two parts of this structure to show where you come from.

For example:

她从美国来。 = She comes from America.

你从什么地方来? 我从山东来。 = Where are you from? I am from Shandong.

2 去 and 来 are verbs of movement. When stating the purpose of going or coming, we can use the structure subject + 去 or 来 + (somewhere) + action. For example:

我去公园玩儿滑板。 = I go to the park to skateboard.

你们明天来我家看电视吧? = Why don't you come round to my house tomorrow to watch TV?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Chinese is slightly stricter about the use of 去 (movement away from the speaker) and 来 (movement towards the speaker) than we are in English with 'going' and 'coming'. It is important to differentiate clearly.

THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR

Consider the position of the speaker when working out whether to use 去 or 来.

7 Using a suffix after the main verb to show the result of an action

HOW DOES IT WORK AND WHEN DO I USE IT?

The structure verb + e.g. 好 or 完 shows the result of the completion of an action and it very often has 了 at the end. For example:

我看完了。 = I've finished (watching).

新做好的饺子 = newly made/finished dumplings

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

These endings on a verb are commonly used to show the result of a completion of an action. For instance, 找 is 'look for' and 找到 is 'to find' (that is, to look for with the result of finding). There is not a completely separate verb for 'find', so it is important to know how these endings work.

THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR

You need to learn the meanings of these resultative endings, otherwise you may come to the wrong conclusion. Only a few will be used at GCSE.

TRY IT OUT

Choose an appropriate character from the box below for each sentence. Use each character once. 完, 饱 (full, replete); 好, 醉 (drunk, intoxicated); 见 (after 听, i.e. 听见, or 看, i.e. 看见, means hear or see respectively); 错 (incorrect); 到 (arrival, attainment).

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 1 作业写 a 了。 | 6 衣服穿 f 了。 |
| 2 饭做 b 了。 | 7 我吃 g 了。 |
| 3 他喝 c 了。 | 8 你准备 h 了吗? |
| 4 他踢 d 了足球。 | 9 你的钱包找 i 了吗? |
| 5 这个字写 e 了。 | 10 我说的话, 你听 j 了没有? |

8 Using 得 or 不 between the two parts of a verb

HOW DOES IT WORK AND WHEN DO I USE IT?

Ability to do something or inability to do something is often expressed by a 得 or a 不 between the two parts of the verb. For example:

老师, 我看不见。 = Teacher, I can't see.

我听得懂。 = I understand.

我听不懂。 = I don't understand.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The structure of a 得 or a 不 between the parts of a verb is widely used in Chinese, but at this stage it is just important that you recognise it. It is quite distinctive.

9 了 at the end of the sentence

HOW DOES IT WORK AND WHEN DO I USE IT?

1 了 can be used at the end of a sentence to indicate a new situation, progression or a change of state.

The speaker is updating the listener:

我不去。 = I am not going. (statement of fact)

我不去了。 = I was going, but now have changed my mind and am not going. (changed situation)

他去北京了。 = He has gone to Beijing. (He was here until recently.)

Negation by 没有 and without 了 = 他没(有)去北京。 = He didn't go to Beijing.

2 A further use of 了 at the end of a sentence is to express 'too' (meaning excessive).

To express 'too ...', use the structure 太 (adjective) 了! For example:

T恤太小了! = The T-shirt is too small!

我们的校服太不好看了! = Our school uniform looks really bad! (Literally: It's too bad-looking.)

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Although Chinese has no tenses, you need to be able to demonstrate that you know how to recognise or express a change of state, a progression or a new situation.

THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR

了 is quite tricky to get to grips with and many native speakers of Chinese differ a little in how they use it. The updating 了 is used far more in spoken than in written Chinese. Avoid having a 了 at the end of every sentence in your written work and keep checking your usage with your teacher.

TRY IT OUT

The following exercises will ensure you get the idea and know when to try to include a 了 in your written or spoken Chinese.

- 1 Make changes, where necessary, to the Chinese sentences below to make them into correct translations of the English.
- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 天很冷。It is getting cold. | 6 我喜欢学中文了。I like learning Chinese. |
| 2 不要生气。Don't be angry any more. | 7 她太好! She is very nice. |
| 3 我明白了。I understand now! | 8 他生病。He is ill. |
| 4 他去游泳。He's gone swimming. | 9 我不等他。I won't wait for him any longer. |
| 5 这本书我不想看。I don't want to read this book anymore. | 10 春天到了。Spring has arrived. |
- 2 Translate the following sentences into English showing the change of state/updating function of 了.
- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 他不抽烟。— 他不抽烟了。 | 6 我很饿。— 我太饿了。 |
| 2 我看书呢! — 我看完了。 | 7 关门! — 门关上了。 |
| 3 我不想去电影院。— 我不想去电影院了。 | 8 我在吃早饭。— 我吃过早饭了。 |
| 4 爷爷的头发是白的。— 爷爷的头发白了。 | 9 我会唱歌。— 我会唱歌了。 |
| 5 我在北京工作。— 我在北京工作三年了。 | 10 她上过大学。— 她上大学了。 |

词序 SOME ASPECTS OF WORD ORDER

Word order is important in Chinese. In particular, you should make sure that you remember that 'time when' comes at the beginning of a sentence, whereas 'time how long' comes after the verb. You should also ensure that you are completely confident in the use of time, manner, place sentences, such as:

他明天坐火车去上海。 = He tomorrow (time) by train (manner) go (verb) Shanghai (place).

It is important that you try to get these aspects of word order correct. Try to improve your word order knowledge by putting the characters in the sentences below into the correct order.

TRY IT OUT

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 明天我去学校骑自行车。 | 5 我们去明天那所大学坐公共汽车。 |
| 2 哥哥去了北京开车昨天。 | 6 坐飞机你去英国下个月是吗? |
| 3 我打的去了天安门上星期六。 | 7 去莫斯科, 我打算明年暑假做火车。 |
| 4 你走路吧今天到我家来下午! | 8 跟丈夫美国一起去了一个月前她。 |

连词 CONJUNCTIONS

Examiners are very keen on conjunctions. This is a list from the Edexcel exam specification to refresh your memory. Remember they often go in pairs and try to slip them into your written work where possible. Remember 和 only links nouns and pronouns.

和	and	也..., 也	both...and
虽然..., 但是	although	除了..., 以外	apart from
要是..., 就	if	越..., 越...	the more...the more
因为..., 所以	because		

问问题 ASKING QUESTIONS

Forgetting how to ask a question when learning a foreign language is very common. In class, it is more often you who are answering the questions rather than asking them. Below is a quick revision of question types and words as a reference for you. The great thing is that where question words are used, you just take out the question word and put in the answer – no worrying about word order in Chinese. For example:

你是哪国人? = (literally) You are which country person?

我是英国人。 = (literally) I am England country person.

Using 吗	他来吗? = Is he coming?
Verb 不 verb	他来不来? = Is he coming (or not)?
是不是	你是不是北京人? = Are you from Beijing (or not)?
有没有	你有没有电脑? = Do you have a computer (or not)?
Verb adjective 不 verb adjective	你累不累? Are you tired (or not)?
Using question words :	谁 (who) 谁的 (whose) 哪 (which) 哪儿 (where) 几 (how many) 多少 (how many) 为什么 (why) 怎么样 (how) 什么 (what) 什么样的 (what kind of) 什么时候 (when) 几点 (what time)
Using 吧	你是中国人吧?