

A Level Chinese for Native and Near-Native Speakers



at RHB Sixth Form

If Mandarin is already your home language, or you are a near-native speaker, this course offers you the chance to turn that skill into a formally recognised A level qualification. By dedicating just one lesson a week in the Lower Sixth, you will receive specialist preparation for the specification requirements and, in particular, the literature and film components. This support ensures that you are fully equipped to access the very highest grades.

Taking A level Chinese as a native or near-native speaker brings many advantages. It provides formal recognition of your existing skills, strengthens your university applications and career prospects, and allows you to deepen your cultural identity with confidence. It is an efficient use of your study time, offering high potential for excellent results while still fitting comfortably alongside your other A levels.

Over the course, you will explore a wide range of themes. These include changes in modern Chinese society such as family, education, youth culture, and economic change; Chinese culture through festivals, philosophy, and significant historical figures; contemporary issues such as urbanisation, environmental challenges, and technology; and the influence of the 1978 reform, looking at topics such as wealth disparity, the rise of super-cities, migration, trade, and cultural exchange.

The course also develops important skills. You will demonstrate your ability to think, write, and express yourself fluently in two languages, gain cultural literacy and deep insight into global contexts, and sharpen your analytical and critical thinking through the study of literature and film. Language learning complements science, humanities, and social sciences, and this qualification shows the breadth of your abilities. For many students, it is also a source of personal pride, turning a home language into an academically and professionally recognised qualification.

The course runs throughout your Lower Sixth year requiring you to commit to two taught lessons per fortnight as well as directed individual study time. Most students who have taken A level Chinese at RHB have achieved excellent results and report that the course has given them a deeper appreciation of their culture as well as a powerful academic asset for their future. Choosing to take A level Chinese as a native or near-native speaker is a way of celebrating your language ability, gaining top-level results, and adding real strength to your academic portfolio.



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