

HSK Chinese Proficiency Test (Post-GCSE)



at RHB Sixth Form

If you want to continue your Mandarin after GCSE and gain a qualification that is globally recognised — especially in China and by universities and employers worldwide — the HSK (Hànyǔ Shuǐpíng Kǎoshì) is the perfect next step. Unlike UK-only exams, HSK provides an international, standardised credential that proves your level of Chinese in a way understood across the world. It is also aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), giving you a clear sense of your level compared to other European languages.

Most students reach HSK Level 3 or 4 after GCSE, which already represents a solid benchmark of practical ability. This elective builds on that foundation and provides a structured pathway to higher levels. By the end of the course, you will have consolidated HSK 4 (around 1,200 words) and gained experience of HSK 5 content (around 2,500 words), giving you the confidence to read modern texts, follow authentic Chinese media, and express yourself fluently in both academic and professional contexts.

Course Content

- Strengthen core skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Expand your vocabulary significantly, moving beyond GCSE level to HSK 4/5.
- Build confidence in practical communication, including real-life scenarios for study, travel, and business.
- Prepare for the official HSK examination, gaining a certificate (HSK 4/5) recognised internationally.
- A globally recognised qualification, widely respected in China and beyond.
- Strong evidence for UCAS applications and interviews, showing commitment, discipline, and cultural interest.
- Tangible language skills that support study, travel, and career opportunities, especially in China and Asia.
- A direct pathway to further university study, exchanges, or work placements in China.

The course runs for one year in the Lower Sixth, with four lessons per fortnight. This allows you to make rapid progress beyond GCSE level and prepare thoroughly for the HSK examination.

Many students who have taken HSK alongside their A levels have gone on to study Chinese further at university. One former student is now preparing to continue her studies in China — a clear example of how this qualification can open doors.

Taking the HSK in Chinese shows not only that you have advanced linguistic skills, but also that you are ready to engage with the global stage. It is one of the strongest post-GCSE language qualifications you can achieve, respected across the world and highly valued by universities and employers.



ROYAL HIGH
BATH

GDST
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

For Girls. For Life.

