| **Required Course Numbers** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **Test Content Categories** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **I. Content Categories I, II, IV, and V** – **Language, Linguistics, and Comparisons (88%)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **A. Demonstrating language proficiency in the target language at the Advanced Low level for Listening and Speaking, and at the Intermediate High level for Reading and Writing (both levels as described in the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages [ACTFL] Proficiency Guidelines)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Knows how to communicate in the target language with native speakers unaccustomed to interacting with nonnative speakers, with sufficient accuracy, clarity, and precision to convey the intended message |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Knows how to communicate in the interpersonal mode (speaking) by participating actively in informal and formal conversations on topics covering home, school, leisure activities, and current events |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Knows how to communicate in the interpersonal mode (writing) by using Chinese characters in written exchanges on daily topics |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. Comprehends in the interpretive mode (listening) main ideas and supporting details of audio segments, such as news items, short stories, social notices, and reports on familiar topics that deal with factual information |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. Comprehends in the interpretive mode (reading) main ideas and supporting details of printed texts, such as news items, short stories, social notices, and reports on familiar topics that deal with factual information |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. Knows how to read effectively and understand written texts in traditional and simplified characters |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. Knows how to negotiate meaning in order to sustain an interaction |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8. Knows how to move beyond literal comprehension in the interpretive mode (listening) by inferring the meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases in new contexts, by inferring and interpreting the speaker’s intent, and by offering a personal interpretation of the message |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9. Knows how to move beyond literal comprehension in the interpretive mode (reading) by inferring the meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases in new contexts, by inferring and interpreting the author’s intent, and by offering a personal interpretation of the message |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10. Understands the gist of normal conversational speech on a variety of topics |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11. Knows how to communicate in the presentational mode (writing) by using Chinese characters to write routine social correspondence, as well as coherent narratives, descriptions, and summaries about familiar topics of a factual nature in paragraph length in present, past, and future time |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12. Knows how to communicate orally in the presentational mode (speaking) by delivering oral presentations on familiar literary or cultural topics and by incorporating extralinguistic support to facilitate oral presentations that are extemporaneous or prepared but not read |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **B. Understanding linguistics—linguistic features of the target language** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Understands the elements of phonetics and phonology and can demonstrate accuracy in pronouncing the four tones of Mandarin Chinese and transcribing the sounds of Mandarin Chinese using the Hanyu Pinyin phonetic transcription system |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Recognizes key cohesive devices (conjunctions and adverbs) used in connected discourse |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. Understands high-frequency idiomatic expressions and can infer the meaning of words and sentences |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. Knows how to explain the rules that govern the formation of words and sentences in the target language |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. Knows how to exemplify the rules with examples from the target language, such as the verbal system, pronouns, word order, and interrogatives, in terms of both regularities and irregularities |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. Knows how to identify and use pragmatic and sociolinguistic conventions and register (formal and informal forms of address) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **C. Comparison of target language with English** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Knows how to identify similarities and differences between the target language and English |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Knows how to contrast syntactical patterns of simple sentences and questions with those of English |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **II. Content Category III** – **Cultures, Literatures, and Cross-disciplinary Concepts (12%)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **A. Demonstrating cultural understanding—connections among the perspectives, practices, and products of the target culture** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. Knows the three Ps:  a. perspectives (such as attitudes, ideas, beliefs, and values) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| b. practices (patterns of behavior and social interaction, such as greetings, turn taking, and rites of passage) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| c. products (such as tools, foods, laws, art, literature, and music) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Recognizes the value and role of authentic literary and cultural texts—such as songs, poems, rhymes and chants, children’s books, narrative text, and novels—and the use of those texts to interpret and reflect on the perspectives of the target culture |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Listening Practice Section** – **Interpretive Listening with Cultural Knowledge** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| This section allows you to listen to an audio selection in Mandarin Chinese and to practice answering questions based on that selection in the time allotted. This section is timed separately from the Listening section that follows, and the time you spend practicing will not be counted toward the time allotted to answering the questions in the Listening section. The questions in this section will NOT be scored and will NOT affect your results in any way. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Section 1 - Interpretive Listening with Cultural Knowledge** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| In this section, you will hear a variety of audio selections, such as radio broadcasts, narratives, and dialogues, in Mandarin Chinese. Each selection will be played twice. After hearing a selection the first time, you will have 60 seconds to preview the questions before the selection plays a second time. You may take notes as you listen, using the scratch paper that is provided to you. Your notes will not be graded.  After listening to a selection the second time, you will see six questions (each with four answer choices) presented one at a time. For each question, choose the answer that is best according to the selection. The last two questions may test your cultural and linguistic knowledge.  The questions and answer choices will be displayed in simplified or traditional characters (according to the preference you selected) and in phonetic transcription (Hanyu Pinyin).  You will have 25 seconds to answer each question. A clock at the top of the screen will show how much time is remaining to answer the question. When the response time ends, you will automatically go on to the next question. You will not be able to return to previous questions.  The entire Listening section lasts approximately 50 minutes. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Section 2 - Interpretive Reading With Cultural Knowledge** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| In this section you will read a variety of text selections, such as newspaper articles and literary excerpts, in Chinese. You may take notes as you read, using the scratch paper that is provided to you. Your notes will not be graded. Each selection is accompanied by six questions, each with four answer choices. For each question, choose the answer that is best according to the selection. The last two questions may test your cultural and linguistic knowledge.  To assess your ability to read both simplified and traditional characters, some reading selections and the questions based on them will be displayed in simplified characters only, while others will appear in traditional characters only, regardless of the preference you selected.  This section also includes some individual cultural-knowledge questions based on visual images, such as paintings, drawings, and photographs. In these cases the question and answer choices will be displayed in simplified or traditional characters, according to the preference you selected.  You will have 50 minutes to complete the Reading section. A clock at the top of the screen will show how much time is remaining. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Cultural Knowledge** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Cultural knowledge questions are included as part of Section 1 (Listening) and Section 2 (Reading) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Cultural knowledge questions focus on connections among the perspectives, practices, and products of the target culture |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Section 3 - Phonetic Transcription, Interpersonal Writing, Presentational Writing, and Integrated Skills** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| This section includes four tasks designed to measure different aspects of your ability to write in Chinese. You should respond to each task as completely and appropriately as possible. You may take notes as you work on the tasks, using the scratch paper that is provided to you. Your notes will not be used in evaluating your responses.  For the first task (Phonetic Transcription), you will be writing your response in Latin letters and Arabic numerals, as you would when writing in English. For the remaining tasks, you will be writing your response in Chinese characters. Use the SHIFT key (press and release the SHIFT key without touching any other key on the keyboard) whenever you need to switch from Chinese input to English input or from English input to Chinese input.  Both Chinese text that is displayed for you to read and your written responses to the second, third, and fourth tasks will appear in simplified or traditional characters, according to the preferences you selected.  For the second, third, and fourth tasks, you will be writing your response in Chinese characters using the Microsoft Pinyin Input Method Editor (IME). You should familiarize yourself with this input method and practice using it before taking the test. For information on setting up the IME, click on this link: [Type in Chinese, Japanese, and other character-based languages](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/ee418266%28v%3Dvs.85%29.aspx).  You will have 60 minutes to complete the four tasks, so you will need to pace yourself as you work in order to allot an appropriate amount of time to each task. A clock at the top of the screen will show how much time is remaining. For the tasks where you will be writing your response in Chinese characters, a counter at the top of the typing area will show how many characters you have typed.  Your response to the Phonetic Transcription task will be evaluated on the accuracy of your spelling and tone indicators. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Your written responses to the other tasks will be evaluated on the following criteria |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * The extent to which the assigned task is completed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Overall comprehensibility to a native speaker of Chinese who is not accustomed to the writing of nonnative learners |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Accuracy and appropriateness of content |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Presentation of ideas in a related and logical manner |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Appropriateness of vocabulary |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Accuracy of grammar and mechanics |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Cohesiveness (including use of varied sentence structure and transitional expression, where appropriate) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Appropriateness of register for a given task and/or reader |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Phonetic Transcription |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| You will be asked to transcribe a text written in Chinese characters into Hanyu Pinyin using Latin letters and Arabic numerals (to indicate tones). At the end of each syllable (representing one Chinese character), type a numeral (1–4) to indicate the tone (no numeral for neutral tone) followed by a space (or punctuation) to separate it from the next syllable. Example: Ni3 hao3 ma? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Interpersonal Writing: Response to an E-mail or Letter |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| You will be asked to read an e-mail or letter and to write an appropriate response in Chinese. You should manage your time to allow for planning, writing, and revising your response. The length of your response should be at least 100 characters. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Presentational Writing: Opinion/Position Essay |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| You will be asked to write an essay in Chinese on a specific topic. Your essay should include reasons and/or examples to support your opinion. You should manage your time to allow for planning, writing, and revising your response. The length of your response should be at least 200 characters. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Presentational Writing: Integrated Skills |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| You will be asked to read a passage in Chinese and to complete a writing task based on that passage. You should manage your time to allow for planning, writing, and revising your response. The length of your response should be at least 200 characters. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Section 4 - Integrated Skills, Presentational Speaking, Interpersonal Speaking, and Phonetic Read-Aloud** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| This section includes four tasks designed to measure different aspects of your ability to speak Mandarin Chinese. Chinese text that is displayed for you to read will appear in simplified or traditional characters, according to the preference you selected.  You will be given specific directions for each task, including how much time you will have to prepare and how much time you will have to record your spoken response. You may make notes as you prepare your response, using the scratch paper that is provided to you. Your notes will not be used in evaluating your responses. For both preparation and response, a clock on the screen will show how much time is remaining.  At the end of the preparation time, a tone will signal you to begin speaking. Although you need not speak for the entire time allotted, you should respond as fully and appropriately as possible. When the response time ends, you will automatically proceed to the next task; you will not be able to return to any previous task. The Speaking section lasts approximately 20 minutes.  Your spoken responses (except for the Phonetic Read-Aloud task) will be evaluated on the following criteria: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * The extent to which the assigned task is completed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Overall comprehensibility to a native speaker of Mandarin Chinese who is not accustomed to interacting with nonnative speakers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Accuracy and appropriateness of content |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Presentation of ideas in a related and logical manner |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Appropriateness of vocabulary |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Accuracy of grammar and pronunciation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Fluency of delivery and cohesiveness (including use of varied sentence structure and transitional expressions where appropriate) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Appropriateness of register for a given task and/or listener |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| If you do not know specific vocabulary, you should try to express yourself as well as you can, using circumlocution if necessary. If you make a mistake and correct it soon afterward, it will not be considered a mistake.  Your response to the Phonetic Read-Aloud task will be evaluated on the accuracy of your pronunciation and the clarity of your reading. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Presentational Speaking: Integrated Skills |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| You will be asked to speak in Mandarin Chinese on a topic related to the same passage that you previously read for the Integrated Skills Writing task. First, you will read and hear the topic and the requirements for your response. You will have three minutes to review the passage and prepare your response. Then you will have two minutes to record your response. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Presentational Speaking: Express an Opinion or Make an Oral Presentation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| You will be asked to express your opinion or make an oral presentation in Mandarin Chinese on a specific topic. First, you will read and hear the topic and the requirements for your response. You will have two minutes to prepare your response. Then you will have two minutes to record your response. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Interpersonal Speaking: Simulated Conversation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| You will participate in a simulated conversation in Mandarin Chinese. First, you will read and hear the context of the conversation. Then you will have 30 seconds to read an outline of the conversation: in each pair of lines, the first line will give you an idea of what you will hear, and the second line (marked by a dot •) will give you an idea of what you will be expected to say. You will have five turns to participate in the conversation. Each time it is your turn to speak, you will have 25 seconds to respond. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Phonetic Read-Aloud |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| To assess your ability to read a phonetic transcription of Mandarin Chinese, you will be asked to read aloud a passage written in Hanyu Pinyin. You will have one minute to prepare by reading through the passage silently. Then you will have two minutes to record your reading. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |