



Cambridge Pre-U

MANDARIN CHINESE

9778/04

Paper 4 Chinese Culture

May/June 2023

2 hours 30 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **two** questions in total:
 - Section 1 Topics in Chinese culture: answer **one** question.
 - Section 2 Chinese literature and film: answer **one** question.
- There are instructions about how to answer the questions, and which language to answer the questions in, on the question paper.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.
- You may **not** take texts or films into the examination.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- Each question is worth 30 marks.

This syllabus is regulated for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

You must answer **ONE** question from **Section 1** and **ONE** question from **Section 2**.

SECTION 1: TOPICS IN CHINESE CULTURE

Choose **EITHER** Question (a) **OR** Question (b) from **ONE** of the topics 1–3 and answer in **English**.

Recommended word length: 600–750 words.

Your answer will be marked out of 30, with 25 marks for content and 5 marks for structure.

1 The founding of the People's Republic of China

EITHER:

- (a) Evaluate the impact of the war with Japan (1937–1945) on the eventual victory of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in the Civil War.

OR:

- (b) Discuss the relationship between Mao and Stalin. What impact did this relationship have on the early years of the People's Republic of China (PRC)?

2 Chinese economic trends since 1978

EITHER:

- (a) Outline the key developments in China's transport infrastructure since 1979 and analyse how improvements in road, rail and air travel have contributed to China's economic development.

OR:

- (b) 'Low unemployment rates are crucial for social stability in China.' What measures have the Chinese government taken to maintain high levels of employment in the past forty years? To what extent have these measures been successful?

3 Emerging China: population, environment and migration

EITHER:

- (a) Discuss China's use of coal in power generation over the past two decades. Evaluate China's success in reducing coal usage in its efforts to lower CO₂ emissions.

OR:

- (b) Analyse the impact of the one-child policy on the social and economic status of women in China in the past three decades.

You must answer **ONE** question from Section 1 and **ONE** question from Section 2.

SECTION 2: CHINESE LITERATURE AND FILM

Choose **EITHER** Question (a) **OR** Question (b) from **ONE** of the topics 4–6 and answer in **English**.

Recommended word length: 600–750 words.

Your answer will be marked out of 30, with 25 marks for content and 5 marks for structure.

4 *Chronicle of a Blood Merchant*, Yu Hua

EITHER:

- (a) '*Chronicle of a Blood Merchant* is more a comic novel than a tragedy.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Support your answer using evidence from the text.

OR:

- (b) *Chronicle of a Blood Merchant* is set in a small town in China but many of the characters come from the countryside. How does Yu Hua portray differences between urban and rural attitudes and values? Evaluate the role of this urban-rural divide in the novel.

5 *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow*, Wang Anyi

EITHER:

- (a) Discuss the character of Jiang Lili in the novel *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow* and analyse the role she plays in the novel.

OR:

- (b) In the novel *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow*, Wang Anyi states 'Opportunities are severely limited in this city of freedom'. To what extent do you think that this is true? Discuss with reference to **two** characters.

6 *The Blue Kite*, Tian Zhuangzhuang

EITHER:

- (a) Discuss how the director Tian Zhuangzhuang uses children and their games as a backdrop to the action in the film *The Blue Kite*. Evaluate the importance of this backdrop to the film's narrative and atmosphere.

OR:

- (b) 'Mealtimes are key dramatic moments in the film *The Blue Kite*.' To what extent do you think this is true? Discuss with close reference to scenes involving meals.

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