



Cambridge Pre-U

MANDARIN CHINESE

9778/04

Paper 4 Chinese Culture

May/June 2022

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 importance of propaganda for the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) during the late stages of the Chinese Civil War (1945–49) and the early years of the People's Republic of China (PRC) (1949–53).

OR:

- (b) What policies did the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) implement to improve the lives of the Chinese peasants in the early years of the People's Republic of China (PRC) (1949–1953)? How effective were these policies in practice?

2 Chinese economic trends since 1978

EITHER:

- (a) China is sometimes described as the 'World's Factory'. To what extent has China managed to balance its export-driven economy with its improving standard of living and rising costs?

OR:

- (b) Economically speaking, to what extent can China still be regarded as a socialist country? Give specific examples from the past 40 years to support your answer.

3 Emerging China: population, environment and migration

EITHER:

- (a) Discuss the effect of the *hukou* system on Chinese society over the past 20 years. To what extent have attempts at reform been successful? Give specific examples to support your answer.

OR:

- (b) Analyse whether it is better to live in eastern China than in the west of the country. Justify your answer with geographical, social and economic evidence.

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) To what extent could it be argued that *Chronicle of a Blood Merchant* has a happy ending? Refer to the entire novel in your answer.

OR:

- (b) 'Xu Sanguan is more affected by personal weakness and family misfortune than he is by political turmoil.' To what extent do you agree with this assessment? Support your answer using evidence from the text.

5 *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow*, Wang Anyi

EITHER:

- (a) 'In Wang Anyi's *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow*, the men are villains and the women are victims.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Refer to at least two men and two women in your answer.

OR:

- (b) *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow* is a tale of complex relationships. Compare and contrast the way in which Wang Qiyao interacts with men and women in the novel and analyse the effect this has on the reader.

6 *The Blue Kite*, Tian Zhuangzhuang

EITHER:

- (a) Analyse the structure of *The Blue Kite*, focusing on why the director chose to separate the film into distinct chapters and what each of these sections adds to the film.

OR:

- (b) 'In the film *The Blue Kite*, dramatic symbolism is more important than historical accuracy.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Justify your answer, with close reference to the film.

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