



From Head of Mandarin: Gao Zhang

14 September 2018

Dear Parents & pupils

HSK Course

The Chinese Department would like to offer a HSK course to all Lower sixth formers who have passed GCSE at A -A* level. This would be in addition to your usual three or four A level subjects.

1. HSK Course Introduction

The Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) is an official examination launched by Hanban, which is a public institution affiliated with the Chinese Ministry of Education.

HSK is designed to assess the Chinese language proficiency of non-native speakers from beginner to advanced Level (divided in levels 1-6). It is an internationally recognised standard in assessing your Chinese language level and the result can be used to apply for Confucius Institute Scholarships (CIS).

Levels 3-6 include writing, listening and reading skills. UK students who have passed GCSE Chinese are encouraged to study towards HSK Level 3 onwards.

Applicants who are able to pass the HSK (Level 3) which requires 600 words, can communicate in Chinese at a basic level in their daily, academic and professional lives. They can manage most communication in Chinese when travelling in China.

Applicants who are able to pass the HSK (Level 4) which requires 1200 words can converse in Chinese on a wide range of topics and are able to communicate fluently with native Chinese speakers.

2. **Lesson schedule:** Twice a week or a double lesson per week

3. **Exams:**

- Exam Dates: Lower sixth former: *HSK Proficiency Test level 3, summer 2019*
Upper Sixth Former: *HSK Proficiency Test level 4, summer 2020*
- Exam Centre: The Confucius Institute, Oxford Brookes University
- Exam Fee paid directly to the exam center online by pupils: Level 3 £35. Level 4 £45

4. **Benefit of HSK tests:**

- a. A reference for an educational institution's decision-making concerning recruiting students, assigning students to different classes, allowing students to skip certain courses and granting academic credits to students.
- b. A reference for employers' decision-making concerning the recruitment, training and promotion of test takers.

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c. To participate in the Annual Chinese Proficiency Tests Programme and activities, including but not limited to, Summer/Winter Camps, scholarships, symposiums and seminars.

5. Test Results and Certificate

Applicants will receive the results for the new HSK issued by Hanban within one month after taking the test. Currently HSK Exam is allowed to be retaken within the same year.

Level	Duration (Minutes)	Vocabulary (Words)	Total Score	Passing Score
HSK Level 3	90	600	300	180
HSK Level 4	105	1200	300	180

Practice papers can be found on LSE website below for your reference before deciding to register the course. <http://www.lse.ac.uk/cibl/chinese-tests/test-resources>

Please register your interest on the following Google Form by **Wednesday 19 September**.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdH6Ygbnn5adKokoXxrYjgxrJ1jd1o-kvjJT4hwEEW8MP7jTA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Yours sincerely

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