

# OxfordAQA

# International GCSE

## Chinese – First Language (9263)

## Switching guide

Switching from Pearson Edexcel or Cambridge International Examinations to  
Oxford International AQA Examinations

## Topic by topic comparison

OxfordAQA specification (9263)		Pearson Edexcel specification (4CN1)	Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) specification (0509)
<b>Number of papers</b>	2	3	2
<b>Number of topic areas</b>	5	5	0
<b>Topics</b>			
<b>Theme 1: Society</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family and friends</li> <li>Everyday life</li> <li>Free time activities</li> <li>Fitness and health</li> <li>The media</li> <li>Home, neighbourhood, town and region</li> </ul>		<b>Topic A: Home and abroad</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A1 Life in the town and rural life</li> <li>A2 Holidays, tourist information and directions</li> <li>A3 Services (e.g. bank, post office)*</li> <li>A4 Customs</li> <li>A5 Everyday life, traditions and communities</li> </ul>	<b>No specific topic or theme specified.</b> <p>Learners are encouraged to engage with a range of genres and types of texts, including fiction and non-fiction, essays, reviews and articles, as well as Classical Chinese texts. This study should include focus on writers' use of language and style.</p> <p>For the contemporary texts, learners should also focus on the ways in which writers achieve effects and influence readers.</p> <p>Learners should study how influence may include facts, ideas, perspectives, opinions and bias.</p> <p>Learners should also learn to create a discursive/argumentative letter, article or essay and a descriptive or narrative composition.</p>
<b>Theme 2: Education and work</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School life and routines</li> <li>Preparing for exams</li> <li>The education system</li> <li>Higher and further education</li> <li>Work career and ambitions</li> </ul>			<b>Topic B: Education and employment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B1 School life and routine</li> <li>B2 School rules and pressures</li> <li>B3 School trips, events and exchanges</li> <li>B4 Work, careers and volunteering</li> <li>B5 Future plans</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Theme 3: Culture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entertainment</li> <li>• Arts and literature</li> <li>• Customs and traditions</li> <li>• Festivals and special celebrations</li> <li>• Travel and tourism</li> <li>• Regional and ethnic diversity</li> </ul>		<p><b>Topic C: Personal life and relationships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C1 House and home</li> <li>• C2 Daily routines and helping at home</li> <li>• C3 Role models*</li> <li>• C4 Relationships with family and friends</li> <li>• C5 Childhood*</li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme 4: Science and technology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media</li> <li>• Artificial intelligence</li> <li>• Technology in everyday life and education</li> <li>• Scientific research and innovation</li> </ul>		<p><b>Topic D: The world around us</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• D1 Environmental issues</li> <li>• D2 Weather and climate*</li> <li>• D3 Travel and transport</li> <li>• D4 The media</li> <li>• D5 Information and communication technology</li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme 5: Global issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Environmental issues</li> <li>• Music events</li> <li>• Sports events</li> </ul>		<p><b>Topic E: Social activities, fitness and health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E1 Special occasions</li> <li>• E2 Hobbies, interests, sports and exercise</li> <li>• E3 Shopping and money matters</li> <li>• E4 Accidents, injuries, common ailments and health issues*</li> <li>• E5 Food and drink</li> </ul> <p><i>*These sub-topics will not be assessed in Paper 3: Speaking.</i></p>

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<b>Listening</b>		
<p>Written exam: Externally assessed Section A of Paper 1 Listening and reading Part 1 of 1 hour 45 minutes (including 5 minutes' reading time for the Listening section of the exam) 60 marks (20 marks for listening and 40 marks for reading) 60% of IGCSE</p>	<p>Externally assessed Written examination: 30 minutes, plus 5 minutes' reading time 40 marks 25% of IGCSE</p>	<p>Non-examined assessment</p>
<p><b>Section A of Paper 1:</b> 20 marks Questions in Chinese, to be answered in Chinese or non-verbally. Question 1 – 10 marks. MCQs on five recordings. Question 2 – 10 marks. Short answer questions on a monologue or a dialogue.</p>	<p>40 marks Questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally. The paper consists of seven tasks, which are a combination of multiple-choice, multiple-matching, note-taking and gap-fill questions; each based on a single recorded text. All five topic areas are assessed.</p>	
<p><b>Assessment objectives</b> AO1: understand and summarise ideas, details, opinions and attitudes from spoken sources</p>	<p><b>Assessment objectives</b> Understand and respond, in writing, to spoken language</p>	

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<b>Reading</b>		
<p>Written exam: Externally assessed</p> <p>Section B and C of Paper 1 Listening and reading</p> <p>Part 2 of 1 hour 45 minutes (including 5 minutes' reading time for the Listening section of the exam)</p> <p>60 marks (20 marks for listening and 40 marks for reading)</p> <p>60% of IGCSE</p>	<p>Externally assessed</p> <p>Section A of Paper 2 Reading and writing</p> <p>Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes</p> <p>80 marks (40 marks for reading and 40 marks for writing)</p> <p>50% of IGCSE</p>	<p>Externally assessed</p> <p>2 hours 15 minutes</p> <p>60 marks (35 marks for reading and 25 marks for directed writing based on reading texts)</p> <p>50% of IGCSE</p>
<p>60 marks</p> <p>Questions in Chinese, to be answered in Chinese.</p> <p><b>Passage Writing</b> – 12 marks Student writes two passages, one formal and one informal. Each passage is of approximately 50 characters.</p> <p><b>Guided Writing</b> – 20 marks Student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 200 characters in total. There is a choice of two questions.</p> <p><b>Composition Writing</b> – 28 marks Student responds to one title given, producing approximately 325 characters in total.</p> <p>There is a choice of two questions.</p>	<p><b>Paper 2 Section B Writing</b></p> <p>40 marks</p> <p>Writing questions and texts in both English and Chinese, to be answered in Chinese.</p> <p>Translation questions in English, to be answered in Chinese.</p> <p>Texts and questions are printed in both traditional and simplified characters on the question paper.</p> <p>There are two open-response writing tasks, each linked to a topic area.</p> <p>There is also a question involving translation of four sentences into Chinese. All four sentences are linked to one topic area.</p>	<p><b>Section 1</b></p> <p>Argumentative/Discursive</p> <p>25 marks</p> <p>Questions in Chinese, to be answered in Chinese.</p> <p>Candidates answer one question from a choice of four titles: two argumentative and two discursive.</p> <p>Candidates are advised to write about 400–600 characters.</p>

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		<p><b>Section 2</b> Descriptive/Narrative Writing</p> <p>25 marks</p> <p>Questions in Chinese, to be answered in Chinese.</p> <p>Candidates answer one question from a choice of four titles: two descriptive and two narrative.</p> <p>Candidates are advised to write about 400–600 characters.</p>
<p><b>Assessment objectives</b></p> <p>AO3: produce coherent writing that organises ideas, opinions and information clearly, effectively and imaginatively, using style appropriate to the task and in ways that engage the reader</p> <p>AO4: demonstrate technical accuracy in grammar, character writing and use of vocabulary, structures and idioms</p>	<p><b>Assessment objectives</b></p> <p>Communicate in writing, using a register appropriate to the situation, showing knowledge of a range of vocabulary in common usage and of the grammar and structures prescribed in the specification, and using them accurately.</p>	<p><b>Assessment objectives</b></p> <p>W1 communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively</p> <p>W2 synthesise information, sequence facts and develop ideas and opinions</p> <p>W3 use a range of appropriate vocabulary</p> <p>W4 use tone, style and register appropriate to audience and context</p> <p>W5 write characters correctly and make accurate use of characters, punctuation and grammar</p>

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<b>Speaking</b>		
Non-examined assessment	Internally conducted and externally assessed Spoken examination:  8–10 minutes series  40 marks  25% of GCSE	Non-examined assessment
	The examination is made up of three tasks (A, B and C). Students will present and answer questions on a picture that is related to one of the topic areas.  They will also discuss two different topics, chosen at random by Pearson.  The assessments are conducted by teachers in one session within a prescribed assessment window. The recordings are then submitted to Pearson for external marking.	
	<b>Assessment objectives</b> Communicate in speech, showing knowledge of a range of vocabulary in common usage and of the grammar and structures prescribed in the specification, and using them accurately.	