



# Cambridge Pre-U

**MANDARIN CHINESE**

**9778/04**

Paper 4 Chinese Culture

**October/November 2020**

**2 hours 30 minutes**



You must answer on the answer booklet/paper.

You will need: Answer booklet/paper

## 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.
- If you have been given an answer booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet.
- Use a black or dark blue pen.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number on all the work you hand in.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.
- You may **not** take texts or films into the examination.
- At the end of the examination, fasten all your work together. Do **not** use staples, paper clips or glue.

## 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. 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) There were great social changes in China between 1949 and 1956, not least for women. Analyse the impact of these changes for women in the early years of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

**OR:**

- (b) 'The Chinese Civil War was not so much won by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) as it was lost by the Nationalists (GMD).' To what extent do you think this assessment is fair?

#### 2 Chinese economic trends since 1978

**EITHER:**

- (a) How far do you agree with the idea that China's economic policies since 1978 show a similar repetitive pattern: first a period of pushing forward quickly with rapid reform, followed by a period of more conservative policies? Use specific examples in your answer.

**OR:**

- (b) 'Agriculture was the first area to be reformed by Deng Xiaoping post-1978, but it has been largely ignored by recent economic policies.' Evaluate this statement in relation to the Chinese government's focus on agriculture in economic policy in the last 40 years.

#### 3 Emerging China: population, environment and migration

**EITHER:**

- (a) Is China one of the most environmentally unfriendly countries in the world or one of those most dedicated to finding green solutions to ecological challenges? Justify your answer with specific examples.

**OR:**

- (b) What impact have the migration and family planning policies since Reform and Opening Up had on ethnic minority groups in China? You may either focus on one ethnic group or use examples from several different groups in China.

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) Analyse the relationship between Xu Sanguan and his three sons in the novel *Chronicle of a Blood Merchant*. What can readers learn from these characters about family relationships in China during the period in which the novel is set?

**OR:**

- (b) Reputation and gossip are key themes in *Chronicle of a Blood Merchant*. Discuss how the idea of 'losing face' is presented in the novel and analyse what impact this has on the plot. Give specific examples from the text.

### 5 *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow*, Wang Anyi

**EITHER:**

- (a) Wang Anyi has stated, 'I personally feel that the face of history is not built by large-scale incidents; history occurs day after day, bit by bit transforming our daily lives.' Analyse the presentation (or absence) of major historical events in Maoist China versus individual character narratives in the novel *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow*.

**OR:**

- (b) Discuss the theme of nostalgia in *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow*. To what extent is the novel shaped by Wang Qiyao's preoccupation with the past?

### 6 *The Blue Kite*, Tian Zhuangzhuang

**EITHER:**

- (a) To what extent does the film *The Blue Kite* use individual tragedies to express national trauma? Make close reference to examples from the film.

**OR:**

- (b) Analyse the transformation of the character Tietou in *The Blue Kite*, focusing on his interactions with other characters in the film.

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