

## Cambridge Pre-U: A student's perspective

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### Introduction: My journey with Chinese

- GCSE Chinese
- AS Chinese
- Pre-U Chinese
- Currently a Philosophy & Economics undergraduate at the London School of Economics
- Chinese diploma certificate at LSE
- Scope for working in China/a Chinese company in Europe?

### Why do Pre-U? The importance of having a goal

#### CIE Cambridge Pre-U Diploma

Select a different Tariff table  
CIE Cambridge Pre-U Diploma

Grade	Principal Subject	Global Perspectives and Research	Short Course
D1	TBC	TBC	TBC
D2	145	140	TBC
D3	130	126	60
M1	115	112	53
M2	101	98	46
M3	87	84	39

### Why do Pre-U? The importance of having a goal

- Applying for Chinese at university
- Potential of working in a Chinese company
- Gap year in China
- A broad subject with scope to play to your strengths
- Preparing for university: working independently, doing research, lack of strict guidelines
- Can be used in Personal Statement

### Keeping the structure of the course in mind

- Paper 1: Speaking
- Paper 2: Listening, Reading and Translation
- Paper 3: Writing and Usage
- Paper 4: Chinese Culture

### Using mark schemes and Appendix Vocabulary

- Core topics are the same across the three papers
- E.g.
  - Family
  - Young people
  - Education
  - Tourism
  - Urban and Rural Life
  - Environment

### Paper 1: Speaking

- **Components:**
  - Prepared topic
  - General conversation
- **Methods:**
  - Speaking in class
  - Planning your presentation early on
  - Writing out the prepared speech in pinyin
  - Typing in Chinese on laptops using pinyin

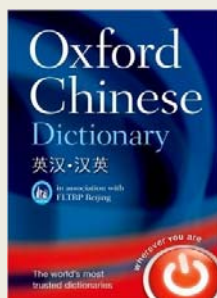
### Paper 2: Listening, Reading and Translation

- Reusing words encountered in different subsections
- Chengyu– have fun with it!



### Using the dictionary in the exam

- DO encourage using vocabulary to enhance quality of writing
- DO NOT encourage overreliance on finding basic words in the exam



### Paper 3: Writing and Usage

- Grammar
- Building a strong base of vocabulary
- Short piece of writing – nearly always writing a letter
- Learning together as a class

### Paper 4: Culture

- **Methods:**
  - Independent research
  - Class discussions
  - Mutual learning
- DO aim to attain an overall understanding of the Chinese culture
- DO NOT concentrate on simply passing this part of the exam!

### Topics in Chinese culture

- Eg History, Economics, Politics, Geography
  - DO concentrate specifically on one of the available topics
  - DO encourage students to choose the options they are most interested in
  - DO NOT insist on taking the topics that the student is most familiar with
- **Methods:**
    - ✓ Independent research
    - ✓ Class discussions
    - ✓ Mutual learning

### Chinese literature and film

- Books or film?
- My experience:  
**Yellow Earth,**  
Chen Kaige
- Bilateral learning
- Methods:
  - ✓ Independent research
  - ✓ Class discussions
  - ✓ Mutual learning



### General tips

- Get an overview
- Concentrate on what is important for the exam
- Use the dictionary
- “Recycle” the material
- Enjoy the freedom that the course provides

Thank you!