

Mandarin Excellence Programme: Teaching Resources

To help schools deliver the programme, a list of resources put together by a group of independent teachers has been created. The list draws on the best available resources from a wide variety of organisations.

Each list is split into two sections, the first showing resources that are particularly recommend for pupils on the Mandarin Excellence Programme and the second showing other resources that are suitable for students who may or may not be taking part in the programme.

The lists are divided into:

1. Textbooks
2. General teaching resources (covering a range of skills within Mandarin study)
3. Online tools (usually covering one specific skills)/reference sources
4. Apps
5. Television/videos

The following points should also be noted:

- some of the recommended resources carry a cost. Schools will wish to balance their competing priorities in deciding whether to purchase these resources;
- the use of any particular resource is not compulsory for schools participating in the programme;
- schools are not prohibited from using resources not on these lists. Schools may already have invested in other effective resources;
- UCL IoE will record which resources participating schools are using to enable an iterative discussion on their effectiveness.

Textbooks

Whichever textbook(s) a school chooses to use, the advice is that each pupil on the programme should have their own individual textbook, to enable further progress during independent study.

Particular recommendations

Name	Focus
Jinbu 1 & 2 (pupil book, workbook, listening tracks)	Suitable for beginners. Allows for a good speed of progress. Less emphasis on Pinyin, so good for encouraging character recognition. A challenging faster pace in Book 2.
Edexcel A/AS	Very challenging with some good texts
Easy Steps to Chinese 1-8	Books 7 and 8 are suitable for higher level students, with exercises for practice and revision
Easy Steps to Chinese books 6, 7 & 8	Good level of language for post-GCSE study
Chinese Made Easy	For use in KS3-5

Other suitable resources

Edexcel GCSE	Suitable for mid-level students. A mixture of different exercises, easy for students to follow and to use for revision.
GCSE Chinese trilogy plus sound files	Book 1 for complete beginners. Covers same age groups as Jinbu, but can extend into full preparation for Edexcel GCSE
AS for Chinese	
Chinese Breeze Graded Reader Series (Level 1 - 300 characters; Level 2 – 500; Level 3 – 750; Level 4 – 1000 characters)	<p>Text selected to contain the most useful words for communication in Chinese. Each book only contains 5% new vocabulary, repeated at least 8 times throughout the book.</p> <p>Content is mostly original stories covering a wide variety of genres. Each book in the series comes with a mini CD with recordings of the text in both normal and slower speeds. We normally let Year 10 students borrow it as extra reading.</p>

<p>My Little Chinese Story Books, by Beijing University Press (total 40 series)</p>	<p>Very good reading materials for Year 9 and above. They are in Simplified Chinese and heavily illustrated, being aimed at learners with knowledge of 300-500 characters. Each story is about 500 characters long, with small Pinyin script above the characters. The end of each story is repeated on a single page, just using the Chinese characters. There is a vocabulary list at the back of the book.</p> <p>There is also an accompanying CD with a flash program that "reads" through the story, page by page, with the words being highlighted.</p>
<p>Ni Hao</p>	<p>For use in KS3-5</p>
<p>Discover China Books 2-4</p>	<p>These books have sections that can be adapted to suit advanced classes. They are also supported by a good range of freely available extra materials on the website: http://www.mydiscoverchina.com/</p>

General teaching resources

Particular recommendations

Name	Focus
<p>Chinese Pod</p> <p>https://chinesepod.com/ (MONTHLY PAYMENT REQUIRED)</p> <p>Chinese Pod TV</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/user/ChinesePodTV (FREE)</p>	<p>Podcasts of around 20 minutes including dialogue in Chinese and discussion of the vocabulary and grammar introduced in the dialogue. Excellent resource for independent study - improving listening skills and gaining new vocabulary or consolidating vocabulary and grammar.</p> <p>Each podcast comes with a PDF document which includes a breakdown of new vocabulary and grammar structures. Also has podcasts discussing culture of China. Suitable for all levels with podcasts based on the following levels: Newbie, Elementary, Intermediate, Upper Intermediate, Advanced.</p> <p>As above in video format. No accompanying PDF documents</p>
<p>Slow Chinese</p> <p>http://www.slow-chinese.com/shop (WEBSITE - FREE, PODCASTS – PAYMENT REQUIRED)</p>	<p>Contains blog posts about different aspects of Chinese culture and language. Frequently updated and can be used for both listening and reading practice. Podcasts also available at cost that read the articles and are therefore good for listening skills. Suitable for intermediate level and above students.</p>
<p>Go Chinese</p> <p>http://www.gochinese.net/</p> <p>(Annual subscription - £400 a year for <100 users, £600 a year for over 100)</p>	<p>Vocabulary/reading/listening/character input exercises, along with past papers to use alongside Easy Steps to Chinese, Edexcel, IB Ab Initio, IB Standard, A Level, etc.</p> <p>Excellent for independent learning and differentiation and also for teachers inputting own texts/resources, which can be immediately segmented into words, Pinyin added and words translated as necessary by the platform.</p>

<p>Confucius Institute online resources</p> <p>http://www.chinesecio.com/?lang=en</p> <p>http://www.chinesecio.com/cms/zh-hans/culture-lessons-list</p>	<p>Cultural information and various topics of interest. Suitable for all levels.</p>
<p>Mock HSK exam level 1 – 6, use the exercises for practice listening and reading comprehension</p> <p>http://www.lse.ac.uk/CIBL/resources/Mock-HSK-tests-levels-1-6.aspx</p>	<p>For A level</p>
<p>Cambridge Pre-U Chinese, use as listening and reading comprehension exercise</p> <p>http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-pre-u-mandarin-chinese-9778/</p>	<p>For A level</p>

Other suitable resources

<p>BBC Learning Zone – Chinese</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese</p>	<p>There are videos and clips regarding all different areas of real life topics. Suitable for all levels.</p>
<p>Beginner Chinese Games</p> <p>http://howdoilearnchinese.com/</p> <p>http://www.thechinesestaffroom.com/resources/games</p>	<p>Games for practising basics such as numbers, days/months, colours. For beginners.</p>
<p>Easy Chinese lessons video from CCTV</p> <p>http://english.cntv.cn/program/learnchinese/easychinese/index.shtml</p>	<p>For beginners</p>
<p>Rosetta Stone</p> <p>http://www.rosettastone.co.uk/lp/h1/?pc=cop&language=chi</p> <p>(PAYMENT REQUIRED)</p>	<p>Comprehensive language learning software, available as downloadable software or as online resources for computers, tablets and smartphones</p>

<p>ULearn Chinese teaching Youth Chinese Test packs levels 1-6</p>	<p>Each text book has five themed units introducing new vocabulary supported with reinforcement exercises. Designed in A5 format and can be printed locally from the supplied pdfs.</p> <p>Workbook - activities linked to the text book are completed by students. Each workbook has a variety of activities suited for a wide age range and these can be printed as required from the supplied pdfs.</p> <p>Teacher's Guide - with a summary of the objectives and key vocabulary for each unit the detailed teaching notes provide support for both Chinese (a Chinese version of the Teacher's guide is provided for Packs 1 and 2) and non-Chinese speaking teachers.</p>
<p>Michel Thomas Language Course Mandarin</p> <p>http://www.michelthomas.com/learn-mandarin-chinese.php</p> <p>(PAYMENT REQUIRED)</p>	<p>Largely audio CD-based, with a visual review course and interactive exercises for PC or Mac. Very clear presentation for beginners.</p>
<p>Collins Easy learning Chinese characters</p> <p>https://www.amazon.co.uk/Learning-Mandarin-Chinese-Characters-Collins/dp/0007450060</p>	<p>Learn how to write 250 of the commonest Chinese characters, with stroke by stroke guidance on every page.</p>

Online tools/reference sources

Particular recommendations

Name	Focus
Quizlet https://quizlet.com/	Website and app for learning characters and vocabulary. Includes games based on characters. Characters can be put together in sets by teachers or by students. Suitable for all levels. Quizlet Teacher costs, but allows you to check student progress.
The Chairman's Bao http://www.thechairmansbao.com/ (NOW REQUIRES PAYMENT)	Online newspaper in simplified Chinese. Good for practising reading skills, authentic listening material, can save vocabulary lists. Suitable for students at HSK Level 1- 6.
Skritter https://html5.skritter.com/ (PAYMENT REQUIRED)	Website or app that allows you to practise writing characters using the correct stroke order. Suitable for all levels.
Memrise https://www.memrise.com/ (FREE)	App and website for learning characters and vocabulary. Also has pronunciation of each character so is good for oral and visual recognition of characters. Suitable for all levels.
MDBG http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php (FREE)	Online Chinese dictionary. Gives example sentences of how a word is used. The user can draw the character to search for its meaning and can copy the image of the character and put it into a Powerpoint slide which then shows you the moving graphic of how the character is written using the correct stroke order and detailing the radical in a different colour. Suitable for all levels.

<p>All set learning Grammar Wiki ps://resources.allsetlearning.com/chinese/grammar/Main_Page (FREE)</p>	<p>Website (and now a book too) detailing comprehensive information about a wide range of grammar points in Chinese. Suitable as a reference resource for both students and teachers, from beginner level to advanced level.</p>
<p>Bing Chinese dictionary http://cn.bing.com/dict/search?q=welcome&FORM=BDVSP6&mkt=zh-cn (FREE)</p>	<p>Online Chinese dictionary which is good for example sentences. Suitable for all levels.</p>
<p>Chinese Tools http://www.chinese-tools.com (FREE)</p>	<p>Website with cultural information but key thing is it allows you to type in Chinese characters if the computer doesn't allow you to. Also allows you to type in Chinese characters which then produces the pinyin with tone marks. Suitable for all levels.</p>
<p>Online English to Chinese, Chinese to English dictionary www.nciku.com</p>	
<p>Sentence of the week – poems or phrases http://www.lse.ac.uk/CIBL/resources/Sentence-of-the-Week.aspx</p>	<p>For A level</p>
<p>HSK and YCT (Youth Chinese Test) past papers http://www.chinesetest.cn/godownload.do</p>	<p>Good revision materials for all levels</p>

Other suitable resources

Hanlexon http://www.hanlexon.org/index.htm (PAYMENT REQUIRED)	Website which allows you to create PDF documents of characters with accompanying boxes to practise writing the characters accurately and with the correct stroke order. More suitable for teachers but could be used by students at all levels.
Arch Chinese http://www.archchinese.com/how_to_write_chinese.html (PAYMENT REQUIRED)	Similar website to Hanlexon but generates a different type of character worksheet. Also generates flashcards. Suitable for teachers or students at all levels.
Chinese characters input online tool www.inputking.com	Suitable for all levels.
Chinese to Pinyin converter http://www.chinesetools.eu/tools/chinese-to-pinyin/index.php#transcribe	Helps students with pronunciation and preparation for speaking exams. Suitable for all levels.
Learning radicals of Chinese characters http://www.chtsai.net/radicals/	Animations to show radical stroke order to form characters.
Mind Snacks Mandarin (PARTLY FREE, MOSTLY PAID)	Games to practice character/Pinyin recognition. Suitable for all learners and levels

<p>Clicker 6</p> <p>http://www.cricksoft.com/support/clicker6.aspx</p>	<p>Build sentences from characters by clicking on them from a box. Allows characters to be presented in the sequence they will be needed, but gives pupils a choice at each stage</p>
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Apps

Particular recommendations

Name	Focus
Pleco https://www.pleco.com (FREE)	Chinese dictionary app which is usable offline. Allows the user to draw the character to search for its meaning. Useful with flashcard and sound and stroke order plug-ins which cost extra. Suitable for all levels.
Outlier (forthcoming add-on to Pleco) (PAID FOR)	Dictionary of Chinese characters – not yet released but looks very good, particularly accessible for beginners. Will be available as an add-on to Pleco and on Outlier's website. Full explanations and break down of characters in picture form. Could be revolutionary for character learning.
Word Tracer (PAID, iTunes only)	Chinese characters and phrases

Other suitable resources

Du Chinese	Reading app with a range of levels. FREE, though additional premium content is to be added. Suitable for GCSE upwards.
Chinese Writer	Short activities for writing Chinese characters
Anki	All-purpose flashcards, that can be adapted for learning vocabulary
Chinese Gems App	An animated, audio-enhanced game that helps the user learn the appearance, meaning, Pinyin spelling and pronunciation of Chinese characters. The "professor's portal" enables teachers to track pupil achievements.

TV/videos

Name	Focus
Happy Chinese – Season 1 Daily Life Chinese TV show , 116 episodes	Enables learning of Chinese vocabulary and grammar, and listening practice from native speakers in conversational situations. Mainly targeted at students from beginner to intermediate levels
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VhOCX5WLpw	Carton film: 36 characters 36 个字. Used for end of the year 9 revision sessions. Accompanying worksheet contains all 36 characters for students to find out the meaning of the characters.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AleSzxDE_NI http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQ3ISlIjpAY	For beginners
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NknxZInDDVw https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjB MXKerVK4	Understanding and recognising Chinese characters
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ks_hRFXi7lw https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fw7dOfBatsU https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRKTOZmX2cE	Teaching culture and traditions through learning Chinese songs