



**Chinese: Second Language  
ATAR course**

**Practical (oral)  
examination requirements**

**2017**

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## Chinese: Second Language ATAR course Practical (oral) examinations

This document contains general advice to teachers, candidates and parents on the Chinese: Second Language ATAR course Practical (oral) examination.

Students who are enrolled in a Year 12 ATAR course pair of units are required to sit both the practical and written ATAR course examination. There are no exemptions and if candidates fail to sit and do not have an approved sickness/misadventure claim then the grades for the course units will not contribute to any of the WACE requirements.

The practical (oral) examinations for Chinese: Second Language ATAR course will be held on **Saturday, 14 October, 2017**. Candidates must be available to complete their practical (oral) examination on this day. A *Personalised practical examination timetable* (Appendix 1) for each candidate will be made available from **Friday, 8 September 2017** for schools/providers to download via SIRS and for students to download via the Authority's student portal. Non-school candidates will be notified directly by mail. Country candidates are expected to take their practical (oral) examination via telephone. If the candidate chooses to travel to the examination centre then they do so at their own cost.

For Chinese: Second Language, the ATAR course examination weightings are:

- Written examination paper 70%
- Practical (oral) examination 30%

### 1. Reporting achievement

Teachers are responsible for ensuring the practical (oral) requirements are met and making sure candidates are adequately prepared for the practical (oral) examination. Teachers must ensure they are using the current syllabus. Any further advice on matters related to the syllabus or assessment will be published in the *11to12 Circular*, which is available on the Authority website at <http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circular-ecircular>.

Teachers should also refer to the ATAR course examination information published in Section 6 of the *WACE Manual 2017*, which is available on the Authority website at <http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual>.

For all ATAR courses with a practical examination, for the pair of units, schools are required to submit to the Authority a:

- course mark out of 100 (weighted for each component)
- mark out of 100 for the written component
- mark out of 100 for the practical component
- grade for the completed pair of units.

### 2. Candidates with an injury, illness or disability

Candidates who have a permanent disability that could prevent them demonstrating their knowledge, understanding or skills in a standard practical examination may apply to be assessed under special examination arrangements. Candidates with a long-term injury or illness which existed prior to the beginning of Term 3 are to apply for special arrangements to be examined in an alternative format if the injury or illness will affect their participation in the standard practical examination. Application is made on the form available at all schools and must be received at the Authority by **Friday, 28 July 2017**. These candidates will not be

granted sickness/misadventure approval. Additional application forms may be obtained on request or from the Authority website at <http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms>.

### **3. Provisions for sickness/misadventure**

Consideration may be given to candidates (except non-school candidates) who believe their performance in a practical examination may have been affected by an unexpected sickness, or unforeseen event beyond their control, close to or during the examinations. Such candidates may apply for sickness/misadventure consideration. Application is made by the candidate by the prescribed date using the form available in schools or from the Authority website at <http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms>. A candidate with an injury or illness existing at the start of Term 3 is not entitled to apply for sickness/misadventure consideration on the basis of the existing injury or illness.

### **4. Principles of external assessment**

The marking process preserves the anonymity of the candidate and the candidate's school. This requires that the candidate is identified only by their SCSA student number.

Markers apply a consistent standard to assess the candidate's work. This requires:

- a marking key for the practical (oral) examination
- attendance at a marker training meeting prior to the commencement of marking
- trial marking of sample oral recordings to ensure a common understanding of the marking key
- the practical (oral) examination to be marked independently by two markers who then reconcile any differences between them
- the chief marker to ensure consistency throughout the marking by monitoring the marking process and reconciling significant differences where necessary.

### **5. Criteria for marking**

Practical (oral) performance is assessed on what a candidate is able to demonstrate through each part of the interview. The practical (oral) examination marking key 2017, published on the Authority website, identifies the assessment criteria suited to each part of the interview task and describes levels of candidate performance for each criterion. Therefore, students are advised to familiarise themselves with the marking key as preparation for their performance in the examination. For Part C of the interview, the candidate is strongly advised to participate in a conversation with the marker, rather than attempt to recite a prepared response that resembles a monologue. In the interest of the candidate, such monologues will be interrupted by the marker at an appropriate point.

A numerical scale is used to assess candidate performance in the practical (oral) examination. All candidates are examined against the following criteria:

- comprehension
- response (relevance and depth of information)
- language range (vocabulary and grammar)
- language accuracy (grammar)
- speech (flow, pronunciation and intonation).

## 6. Marking procedure

Each candidate's practical (oral) examination is marked independently by two markers. One marker conducts the interview while the second marker sits in the background and makes notes on the candidate's performance. An audio recording of each candidate's performance is made. The audio recordings are used to ensure comparability between markers. Selected samples may also be included as exemplars for standards purposes.

## 7. Examination procedure

On the day of the practical (oral) examination, the candidate must bring their *Personalised practical examination timetable*.

The candidate may bring one combined print dictionary (one Chinese/English and English/Chinese dictionary) or two separate print dictionaries (one English/Chinese dictionary and one Chinese/English dictionary). Dictionaries must not contain any notes or other marks. No electronic dictionaries are allowed.

If a candidate is found with any unauthorised materials during the examination, they may be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules committee.

The candidate must ensure that nothing they carry or wear can identify either them, their school, club or achievements. If this does occur, the candidate may be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules committee.

The candidate is required to report to a supervisor at the examination centre at the scheduled reporting time. This reporting time is 20 minutes before the scheduled examination time. The scheduled examination time is the time at which the candidate begins their preparation. The practical (oral) examination includes both the preparation time and interview.

A candidate who has not reported to a supervisor once their scheduled examination time has commenced will not be admitted to the practical (oral) examination and the examination cannot be rescheduled.

At the scheduled reporting time, the candidate reports to the registration desk with their *Personalised practical examination timetable*. Prior to the scheduled examination time, a supervisor directs the candidate to leave any unauthorised materials at the registration desk. The supervisor accepts no responsibility for these materials. The supervisor takes the candidate to a preparation room. There may be more than one candidate being supervised in the preparation room.

At the commencement of the scheduled examination time, a supervisor gives the candidate a choice of stimulus item and a preparation booklet. During the preparation time, the candidate prepares for the interview by making notes in their preparation booklet and, if they wish, by referring to their dictionary.

Following the preparation time, the candidate, along with their preparation booklet and dictionary, is taken to an interview room. Each candidate must hand their stimulus item to the supervisor.

The candidate must leave the examination area once they have completed the examination and must not have contact with candidates waiting to be examined, or teachers, or other parties who are seeking feedback from the examination until all the examinations have concluded. Failure to do so could result in a breach of examination rules.

## 8. Breach of examination rules

An alleged breach of examination rules is referred to the Breach of Examination Rules committee. Further information related to breaches of examination rules can be found at <http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/year-12-information>.

A breach of one of these rules can result in cancellation of a part or all of the practical raw examination mark.

## 9. Structure of the practical (oral) examination

Examination	Duration
Part A: Viewing and preparation of stimulus	15 minutes
Part B: Discussion of stimulus	approximately 3 minutes
Part C: Conversation	approximately 9 minutes

## 10. Conduct of the practical (oral) examination

### Part A: Viewing and preparation of stimulus (15 minutes)

At the start of the preparation time, the candidate is handed five stimulus items by the supervisor. Each stimulus has an image and a focus question/statement in Chinese and English related to the topics of Unit 3 and Unit 4. The candidate chooses one stimulus and returns the others to the supervisor.

During the preparation time, the candidate prepares responses to the stimulus and makes notes in the preparation booklet provided. These notes may be taken into the interview room and may be referred to during Part B of the examination; however, the candidate must ensure they do not read from the notes. The candidate may refer to a dictionary during the preparation time.

Following the preparation time, the candidate hands their chosen stimulus to the supervisor and is taken to the interview room. The candidate takes with them their preparation booklet and dictionary. Dictionaries must not be used during Part B or Part C of the practical (oral) examination.

### Part B: Discussion of stimulus (approximately 3 minutes)

When the candidate enters the interview room, the marker begins with a greeting to the candidate in Chinese and then asks them in English to state their School Curriculum and Standards Authority student number. The candidate reads out their number in English.

Marker: 早上好

Candidate: 早上好

Marker: 准备好了吗?

Candidate: 准备好了，不过我有点紧张。

Marker: *I am your interviewer for the Chinese Practical (oral) examination today. Can you read me your School Curriculum and Standards Authority student number please?*

Candidate: *Yes, my number is ...*

Marker: *Thank you. I'll repeat that number (repeats numbers to confirm).*

The marker initiates Part B of the examination with the following question:

Marker: 请谈谈你挑的图片／照片／道具，好吗？

The marker asks the candidate a question to confirm the chosen stimulus item. The marker then reads the focus question/statement provided with the stimulus as a prompt to initiate discussion:

Marker: 你挑的是哪个图片？

Candidate: 我挑的是第一号／图片一号。

Marker: 第一号图片的主题是……

The candidate responds to the question by talking in Chinese about the stimulus, and explaining how it relates to the topics of Unit 3 and/or Unit 4.

The marker then asks questions about the stimulus that provide the candidate with the opportunity to express ideas and opinions. The candidate uses their responses to support the discussion and should also aim to display a flexible use of a range of linguistic structures and vocabulary during this time.

At the end of Part B, the marker asks the candidate whether they have any more to add to the discussion and then asks for their preparation booklet.

Marker: 你还有什么想说的吗？

Candidate: 没有了。

Marker: 谢谢！请把你的草稿本给我，好吗？

### **Part C: Conversation** (approximately 9 minutes)

In Part C, the candidate participates in a conversation in Chinese with the marker drawing on a range of topics from Unit 3 and Unit 4.

The marker initiates Part C of the examination with one of the following questions:

Marker: 你刚才说你很喜欢学中文，你是怎样学中文的……？

or

你说你去过北京／上海／西安，你最喜欢……？

or

你认为珀斯和北京不一样，因为……？

The marker asks questions to encourage the candidate to speak about the topics from Unit 3 and Unit 4. Neither the number of questions nor the number of topics covered by the examination is predetermined. However, the candidate can expect to be asked a range of questions about the content of both course units. The questions the marker asks may relate to a previous response made by the candidate or introduce a new topic. The range and depth of questions asked are sufficient to allow an accurate assessment of the candidate's linguistic ability. The candidate uses their responses to demonstrate their Chinese oral communication skills and understandings of the topics of each of the course units.

At the end of Part C, the marker stands, thanks the candidate and states that the examination has concluded.

Marker: 谢谢！今天的考试就到这儿。再见！

### 11. Key dates

5 April 2017	Last date for upload into SIRS of changes to student enrolment for the practical (oral) examination
28 July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last date for receipt by the Authority of application for special examination arrangements (alternative format examination)</li> <li>• Last date for receipt by the Authority of changes to student enrolment for practical examinations</li> </ul>
8 September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personalised timetables can be downloaded by schools/providers from SIRS</li> <li>• Students can access their personalised examination timetables via the Authority's student portal</li> </ul>
14 October	Chinese: Second Language ATAR course Practical (oral) examination

## Appendix 1: Personalised practical examination timetable



Government of **Western Australia**  
School Curriculum and Standards Authority



### 2017 ATAR Course examinations Personalised practical examination timetable

Practical (oral) examination in  
**Chinese: Second Language**

SCSA student number:

2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
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Candidate: Sample Candidate

School name: Sample School

School code: 4188

#### Examination details

Course: Chinese: Second Language

Date: Saturday, 14 October 2017

Reporting time: 8:25AM

Examination time: 8:45AM

Venue: Sample Venue

Reporting Location: Reception

Refer to the map on the back

**These examination details are final and no changes can be made.**

Candidates who have not reported to a supervisor once their scheduled examination time has commenced will not be admitted to the practical (oral) examination and the examination cannot be rescheduled.

Candidates must not wear or carry anything that identifies either them, their school, club or achievements. If this does occur, candidates will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules committee. This does not apply to phone interviews.

Candidates are required to sign this sheet prior to the examination. This signed timetable is shown to the supervisor when registering at the examination venue for the practical (oral) examination.

Candidates must leave the examination area once they complete the examination. Candidates must not have contact with candidates waiting to be examined, or teachers, or other parties who are seeking feedback from the examination. Failure to do so may result in a breach of examination rules.

Candidates must not contact the venue about the examination arrangements. Any queries must be directed to the School Curriculum and Standards Authority on 9273 6377.

Signature .....Date .....

**Emergency contact for candidates: Phone 9273 6377**