



Chinese: Second Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination requirements

2026

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

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Chinese: Second Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination

This document provides general advice to teachers, candidates and parents/carers/guardians about the Chinese: Second Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination.

Where a Year 12 ATAR course has both a written and a practical examination, students are required to sit for both of these examinations. Students who do not sit an ATAR course examination and do not have an approved sickness/misadventure application for that course will not have the grades for the pair of units completed in that year contribute to the calculation of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).

The practical (oral) examination for the Chinese: Second Language ATAR course will be held during the period from **Saturday, 26 September to Sunday, 25 October 2026** (Saturdays, Sundays and the public holiday included) at metropolitan locations. Candidates must be available to complete their practical (oral) examination during this time. A *Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable* (Appendix 1) for each candidate will be made available from **Tuesday, 8 September 2026**.

Examination timetables can be downloaded by schools/providers via SIRS and by students from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) [student portal](https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au/) (<https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au/>). Country candidates are expected to sit their practical (oral) examination via telephone or may choose to travel to the examination centre at their own cost.

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

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

1. Reporting achievement

Teachers are responsible for ensuring the practical (oral) examination requirements are met and candidates are adequately prepared. 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 [7to12 Circulars](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circulars/7to12-circulars) (<https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circulars/7to12-circulars>) on the Authority website.

Teachers should also refer to the ATAR course examination information published in Section 6 of the [WACE Manual](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual) (<https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual>) on the Authority website.

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

- school mark out of 100 (weighted for each component)
- school mark out of 100 for the written component
- school 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 or condition that could prevent them demonstrating their knowledge, understanding or skills under standard examination conditions may apply to be assessed with equitable access adjustments.

Application is made through the school on the form available from the [Applications and Order Forms page \(https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms\)](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms) on the Authority website. Adjustments requested for the written examinations do not apply to the practical examinations. Requests for adjustments in the practical examinations must be stated separately in the application, and relate directly to the nature and duration of the practical examination. Applications should be received by the Authority by **Thursday, 26 March 2026**.

3. Provisions for sickness or misadventure

Consideration may be given to candidates (with the exception of non-school candidates) suffering from a temporary sickness or misadventure close to or during the examinations. The candidate may submit a *Sickness/Misadventure Application* if they believe their performance in an examination has been affected by the sickness or misadventure.

If a candidate misses or cannot complete an examination session for health reasons, it is important that medical evidence be provided to verify the nature and severity of the illness/injury. In most cases, that will mean producing evidence from a medical professional who was consulted on the day of the examination or the day before.

Applications will be considered only if made on the correct form, available from the [Application and Order Forms page \(https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms\)](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms) on the Authority website from September. Applications that relate to the practical component must be submitted immediately following the practical examination.

Only one form should be used to cover all practical examinations for which the application is being made. The completed form and all supporting evidence must be received by the Authority by **4.00 pm Thursday, 29 October 2026**.

4. Principles of external assessment

The marking process preserves the anonymity of candidates and their school. This requires that candidates are identified only by their Western Australian student number (WASN).

Markers apply a consistent standard to assess the candidate's performance. 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 *Chinese: Second Language ATAR course practical (oral) marking key 2026*, published on the Authority website, identifies the assessment criteria suited to each part of the interview and describes levels of candidate performance for each criterion. Candidates are therefore advised to familiarise themselves with the marking key as preparation for their performance in the examination. Candidates are strongly advised to participate in a discussion and 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 (fluency, pronunciation and intonation).

6. Marking procedure

Each candidate's practical (oral) examination is marked independently by two markers. One marker leads 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 when necessary.

7. Examination procedure

On the day of the practical (oral) examination, the candidate **must** bring a signed hard copy of their *Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable* (Appendix 1) to the examination as proof of enrolment. An image of their *Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable* on their mobile phone will **not** be accepted as proof of enrolment. Candidates must also present a form of photographic identification; an image of the candidate's identification on a phone is acceptable.

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 will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee.

Candidates **must not** wear or carry anything that identifies them or any person, school, club or achievements. Any candidate who does not comply with these requirements will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee. The candidate is responsible for their personal belongings at all times.

The candidate must 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.

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 five stimulus items and a preparation booklet. The candidate chooses one stimulus item from the five. The candidate must not write on or mark the stimulus item. During the preparation time, the candidate prepares for the interview by making notes in their preparation booklet and, if they wish, referring to their dictionary.

The candidate is taken into an interview room at the prescribed time.

The candidate must leave the examination area once they have completed the examination. The candidate must not have contact with candidates waiting to be examined, teachers or other parties who are seeking information about the examination until all the examinations have concluded. Any candidate who does not comply with these requirements will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee.

8. Breach of examination rules

An alleged breach of examination rules will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee. Further information related to examination breaches can be found on the [Rules of conduct for Year 12 ATAR course examinations page \(https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/rules-of-conduct-for-atar-course-examinations\)](https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/rules-of-conduct-for-atar-course-examinations) on the Authority website and in Part II of the *Year 12 Information Handbook*, published in July.

A breach of one of these rules can result in cancellation of 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 provided with a preparation booklet and five stimulus items by the supervisor. Each stimulus item has an image and a focus question/statement in Chinese and English related to a learning context and a topic from Unit 3 or Unit 4. The candidate chooses one stimulus item and places the remaining four in front of them on the table, where they remain for the duration of Part A of the examination.

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

Before leaving the preparation room, the candidate leaves the stimulus item on the table. The candidate takes their preparation booklet into the interview room.

The candidate also takes all their belongings, including dictionaries, with them to the interview room and is instructed where to place them for the duration of the interview.

Part B: Discussion of stimulus (approximately 3 minutes)

When the candidate enters the interview room, the marker begins by greeting the candidate in Chinese and then asks them in English to state their WASN. The candidate reads out their WASN in English.

For example:

Marker: 你好。准备好了吗？

Candidate: 你好。准备好了，不过我有点紧张。

Marker: I am your interviewer for the Chinese: Second Language practical (oral) examination today. Can you read me your WA student number in English please?

Candidate: Yes, my number is ...

Marker: Thank you. I'll repeat that number (repeats number to confirm). You may refer to your notes, but do not read them.

The marker initiates Part B of the examination by asking the candidate a question to confirm the chosen stimulus item. The marker then reads the focus question/statement provided with the stimulus item as a prompt to initiate discussion.

For example:

Marker: 你挑的是哪张图片？

Candidate: 我挑的是一号图片。

Marker: (Reads the focus question/statement in Chinese.) 请开始。

The candidate responds to the question/statement by talking in Chinese about the stimulus item and explaining how it relates to the topic from Unit 3 or Unit 4.

The marker asks questions about the stimulus item that provide the candidate with the opportunity to express ideas and opinions. The candidate uses their responses to support the discussion and should 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.

For example:

Marker: 你还有什么想说的吗？

Candidate: 没有了。

or

有。

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.

For example:

Marker: 你打算明年做什么？

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 sampling 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.

For example:

Marker: 谢谢！今天的考试就到这儿。再见！

11. Key dates

Thursday, 23 July 2026

Last date for withdrawal of enrolment from ATAR courses with a practical examination component

Tuesday, 8 September 2026

Personalised practical examination timetables can be downloaded by schools/providers via SIRS. Students can access their personalised practical examination timetables via the student portal

Saturday, 26 September to Sunday, 25 October 2026 (Saturdays, Sundays and the public holiday included)

Chinese: Second Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination

Appendix 1: Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable



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



Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable 2026 Chinese: Second Language

WA student number:

X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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Candidate: Name

School name: School

School code: xxxx

Examination details

Course: Chinese: Second Language

Date: Day, Date Month Year

Reporting time: 8:40 am

Examination time: 9:00 am

Venue: Venue
(Re-check on the day prior to the examination)

Reporting location: Reporting room

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

Candidates, staff and visitors are required to comply with all venue specific requirements.

Candidates who are unwell must complete and submit a *Sickness/Misadventure Application Form*, with supporting evidence, to the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority). If you are a non-school candidate for this course, there is no option to apply for Sickness/Misadventure.

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

Candidates **must not** wear or carry anything that identifies them or any person, school, club or achievements. Any candidate who does not comply with these requirements will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee.

Candidates are required to sign this timetable prior to the examination. This signed timetable must be shown to the supervisor, with photographic ID, when registering at the examination venue for the practical (oral) examination. Digital copies of your timetable, e.g. on a mobile telephone, are **not** permitted.

Candidates **must not** contact the venue about the examination arrangements. Any queries must be directed to the Authority on 9273 6377.

Signature Date

Emergency contact for candidates: Phone 0434 734 248

Google Maps QR code:



Google Maps link: <https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au/>

Description: Venue and location information