



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

2020

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Chinese: Second Language ATAR course Practical (oral) examination

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

Where the Year 12 ATAR course has both written and practical examinations, 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 on **Saturday, 10 October 2020** at metropolitan locations. 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 **Thursday, 10 September 2020** for schools/providers to download via SIRS and for students to download via 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 take their practical (oral) examination via telephone or may choose to travel to the examination centre at their own cost.

For Chinese: Second Language, the ATAR course examination 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 making sure 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 [11to12 Circular \(http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circular-ecircular\)](http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circular-ecircular) on the Authority website.

Teachers should also refer to the ATAR course examination information published in Section 6 of the [WACE Manual 2020 \(http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual\)](http://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:

- 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. 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. Candidates may make an application for sickness/misadventure by **4.00 pm Tuesday, 24 November 2020** using the form available in schools or on the Authority website, [Applications and Order Forms \(https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms\)](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms).

3. 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 Western Australian student number (WASN).

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.

4. 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) marking key 2020*, 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 examination, 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).

5. 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.

6. 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 not wear or carry anything that identifies them, their school, club or achievements. Failure to do so will result in a breach of examination rules.

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.

The candidate must leave the examination area once they have completed their 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.

7. Breach of examination rules

An alleged breach of examination rules is referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee. Further information related to examination breaches can be found on the Authority website in the [Rules of conduct for ATAR course examinations \(https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/rules-of-conduct-for-atar-course-examinations\)](https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/rules-of-conduct-for-atar-course-examinations) 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 a part or all of the practical raw examination mark.

8. 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

9. 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 a topic from Unit 3 or 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 should ensure 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 hands the stimulus to the supervisor. 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 with a greeting to the candidate in Chinese and then asks them in English to state their WASN. The candidate reads out their number in English.

Marker: 早上好. 准备好了吗?

Candidate: 早上好. 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 WA student number in English 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 reminder:

Marker: You may refer to your notes, but please do not read them.

The marker asks the candidate a question to confirm the chosen stimulus item:

Marker: 你挑的是哪张图片?

Candidate: 我挑的是一号图片。

The marker then reads the focus question/statement provided with the stimulus as a prompt to initiate discussion.

Marker: 请开始。

The candidate responds to the question/statement by talking in Chinese about the stimulus, and explaining how it relates to the topics of Unit 3 or Unit 4. The candidate may refer to their notes but not read them.

The marker 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: 你打算明年做什么？
or
 你对网上交友有什么看法？
or
 中国人是怎样过春节的？

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.

Marker: 谢谢！今天的考试就到这儿。再见！

10. Key dates

23 July 2020	Last date for withdrawal of enrolment from ATAR courses with a practical examination component
10 September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Personalised examination timetables can be downloaded by schools/providers from SIRSStudents can access their personalised examination timetables via the Authority's student portal
10 October 2020	Chinese: Second Language practical (oral) examination

Appendix 1: Personalised practical examination timetable



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



Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable 2020 Chinese: Second Language

WA student number:

Candidate: Sample candidate

School name: Sample school

School code: XXXX

Examination details

Course: Chinese: Second Language

Date: Day, Date Month Year

Reporting time: 9.00 am

Examination time: 9.20 am

Venue: Sample venue

Reporting location: Sample location

Refer to the map on the following page

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. The examination cannot be rescheduled.

Candidates must not wear or carry anything that identifies them, their school, club or achievements. Failure to do so will result in a breach of examination rules.

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

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 will 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 telephone number for candidates: 9273 6377