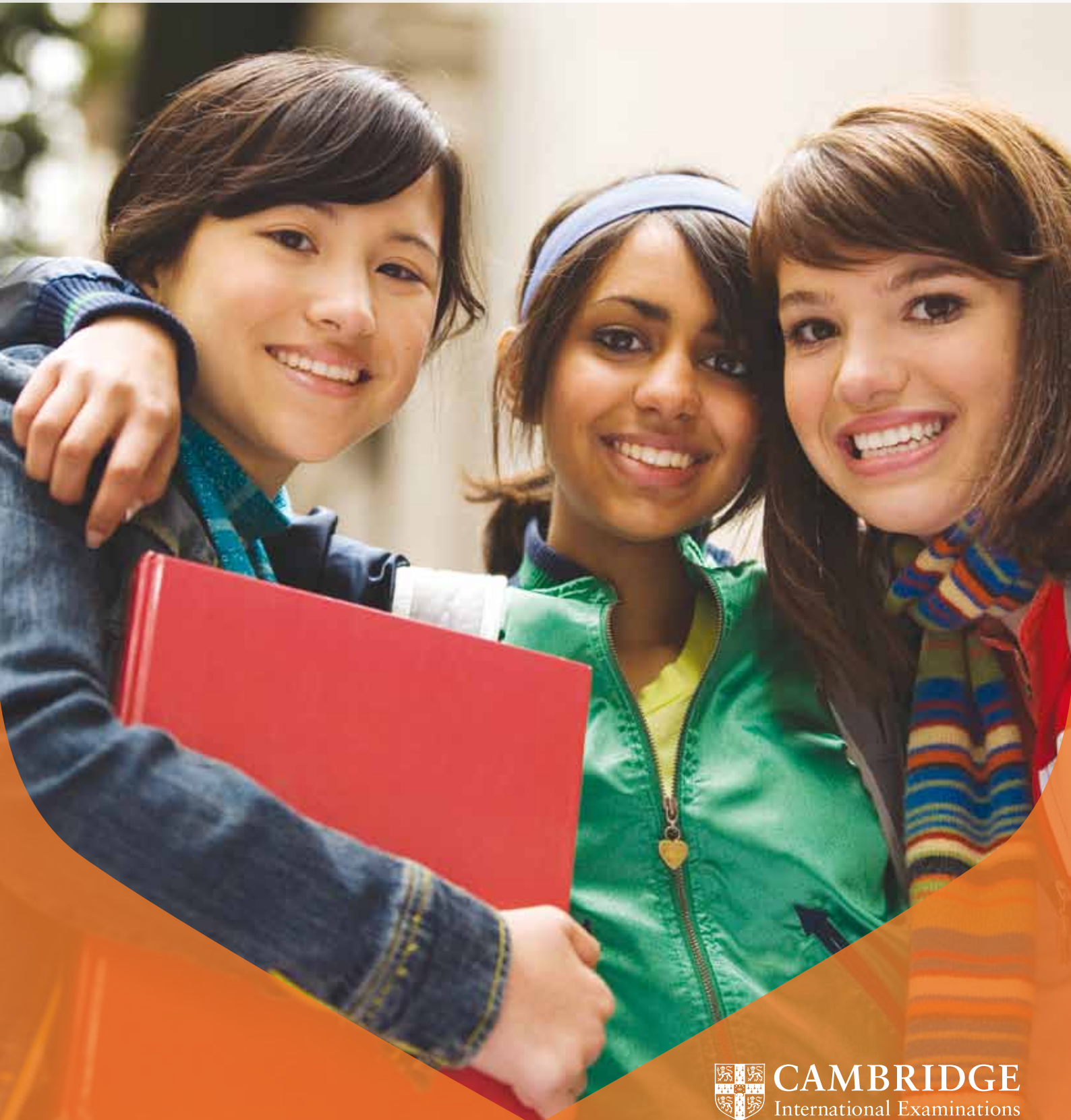


# Cambridge IGCSE® Chinese as a Second Language

Syllabus outline

Cambridge  
**IGCSE**



Syllabus code 0523



**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Examinations

*Excellence in education*

# Developing your language knowledge with Cambridge

Cambridge IGCSE Chinese as a Second Language is designed for learners who already have a working knowledge of Chinese and want to develop their understanding to progress their education or career.

Through their studies, learners achieve a thorough understanding of a wide range of registers and styles and learn to communicate appropriately in different situations. The syllabus concentrates on the development of the linked language skills of reading, writing and oral communication.

Through their study of Cambridge IGCSE Chinese as a Second Language, learners can achieve a level of practical communication ideal for everyday use, which can also form the basis for further, more in-depth language study.

We have developed the syllabus in conjunction with the English Schools Foundation (ESF) in Hong Kong.

Cambridge IGCSE Chinese as a Second Language is one of a number of language syllabuses offered by Cambridge International Examinations.

Cambridge IGCSEs are internationally recognised by schools, universities and employers and are excellent preparation for further education.

## Study built around real-life topics

Learners develop their knowledge and understanding of Chinese around five key topic areas. These are:

**Everyday activities** – home life and school; food, health and fitness

**Personal and social life** – self, family and personal relationships; holidays and special occasions

**The world around us** – home town and local area; natural and made environment; people, places and customs

**The world of work** – continuing education; careers and employment; language and communication in the workplace

**The international world** – tourism at home and abroad; life in other countries and communities; world events and issues

“ Learners achieve a level of practical communication. ”



## Assessment at a glance

All candidates take two assessments – one based on reading and writing and the other on speaking.

### Paper 1: Reading and writing

This is a 2-hour paper with five questions testing reading, information transfer and writing. There are two sections:

#### Section 1 – main focus on reading

- A short reading text is followed by a series of questions requiring an objective response.
- Candidates complete a form using information provided on the question paper.
- A longer reading text is followed by comprehension questions requiring responses in Chinese.

#### Section 2 – main focus on writing

- Candidates write a short, personal letter in response to a stimulus.
- Candidates write a response to an issue of interest to young people.

### Paper 2: Speaking

This is a 10-minute test conducted and assessed in Chinese. There are three parts:

**Part 1:** a 2-minute presentation by the candidate on a topic chosen by them and reflecting an aspect of life in a Chinese-speaking community or Chinese culture.

**Part 2:** a 3–4-minute discussion in Chinese following on from the presentation.

**Part 3:** a 3–4-minute conversation about general topics (chosen from the topic list above).

“ Learning with Cambridge affects how students learn throughout their lives – it’s this that gives them an edge. ”

## Assessment objectives

Candidates for Cambridge IGCSE Chinese as a Second Language will be assessed on their ability to:

- understand and respond to written language
- communicate clearly, accurately and appropriately in writing
- understand and respond to spoken language.

## Cambridge IGCSE – helping schools develop successful learners

Results show that Cambridge IGCSE students develop the broad foundations of knowledge and understanding, communication and thinking skills that they need to prepare them for the next steps in education, such as Cambridge International AS and A Level.

Together with schools, we aim to develop Cambridge learners who are confident, innovative, responsible, reflective and engaged – equipped for success in the fast-changing modern world.

Cambridge IGCSE Chinese as a Second Language is one of more than 30 first, second and foreign language syllabuses that we offer. In the UK, Cambridge IGCSE is equivalent to GCSE and is available for state schools. Please see our website – [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk) – for the most up-to-date list of syllabuses.

### Our suite of Chinese language qualifications

Our Chinese language qualifications are available as:

- Cambridge IGCSE First Language Chinese
- Cambridge IGCSE Mandarin Chinese (Foreign Language)
- Cambridge IGCSE Chinese as a Second Language.

## Cambridge – foundation for success

Cambridge International Examinations is the world's largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications for 5 to 19 year olds. We are part of the University of Cambridge, one of the world's top universities, and trusted for excellence in education. Our qualifications are recognised by the world's universities and employers.

## Join the Cambridge community for world-class support

### Support for teachers

Take advantage of the range of support, training and events for teachers that we offer.

#### Support online

Cambridge schools can access all the materials they need to teach Cambridge syllabuses including past question papers, mark schemes, examiner reports, schemes of work, lesson plans and discussion forums. Learn more at [www.cie.org.uk/teachers](http://www.cie.org.uk/teachers)

#### Expert advice

Our subject experts are there to help you at all stages of your teaching year with a range of discussion forums and Ask the Examiner sessions.

#### Training and professional development

Cambridge teachers can build their knowledge and skills through the Cambridge Professional Development programme. Whether you are interested in furthering your subject knowledge, developing your teaching skills or networking with other professional colleagues there are online and face-to-face opportunities.

#### Textbooks and resources

We have a wide range of textbooks published to support our syllabuses and these are kept under constant review – check on the website for the latest materials – [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk)

### Support for learners

Cambridge provides tailored resources to help learners succeed. Past papers, resource lists, revision checklists and useful web links for many subjects are on the Cambridge website – [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk)

### Support for exams officers

Cambridge exams officers can trust in reliable, efficient administration of exams entry and excellent customer support from the Cambridge Customer Services team.

### International recognition

Cambridge qualifications are recognised around the world by schools, universities and employers. Learn more at [www.cie.org.uk/recognition](http://www.cie.org.uk/recognition)

### Regular updates and news

Cambridge has a regular publishing programme which includes *Cambridge Outlook* magazine and regular newsletters which are distributed by email. Our website – [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk) – is the main hub for information for the international Cambridge community.

**Learn more!** Getting in touch with Cambridge is easy. For more information on [Cambridge IGCSE Chinese as a Second Language](#) go to [www.cie.org.uk/igcse](http://www.cie.org.uk/igcse), email us at [international@cie.org.uk](mailto:international@cie.org.uk) or telephone +44 (0)1223 553554.