

# *Continuing Chinese T*

## **Rationale**

Learning the Chinese language strengthens intellectual and analytical capability and enhances creative and critical thinking. Students develop an understanding of the nature of the Chinese language (including linguistic and stylistic features), of culture, and of the process of communication. They develop understanding of how values and culture shape worldview. Learning languages extends the learner's understanding of themselves, their heritage, values, culture, and identity. Students develop intercultural capability; they develop understanding of, and respect for, diversity and difference, and openness to different perspectives and experiences. Learning languages contributes to strengthening the community's social, economic, and international development capabilities. <sup>1</sup>

## **Curriculum**

At ISS students take the Australian Curriculum Continuing Chinese T course. 'The continuing course is for students who have studied the language in years 9 and 10 as well as in junior secondary or primary school. It is also for native speakers who have not completed primary school education in a Chinese-speaking region or attended some Chinese classes at community schools (in an English speaking country) but have not reached full continuing Chinese level.' <sup>2</sup>

In this course, students learn to reorganize their thinking to accommodate the structure of another language; they develop cognitive flexibility and problem-solving ability, which can be applied when problems and solutions are not evident, as well as when critical thinking and creative approaches are required. Learning languages requires and improves intellectual disciplines and systematic study habits. These habits are characterized by effective planning and organization, incorporating processes of self-management and self-monitoring.

Topics included are diverse and are based around four units of study:

Unit 1 – The Individual's Experience

Unit 2 – Society and Community

Unit 3 – The World Around Us

Unit 4 – Lifestyle and Traditions

### **Where does it lead to?**

Studying a new language allows students to discover and understand a new culture. Knowledge of a new language goes hand-in-hand with whatever profession a student chooses to pursue. From international organisations, foreign companies, journalism and many more, communicating in another language can no longer be confined to the classroom but is a living language that can be used in any situation.

In terms of global business and international diplomacy the ability to speak another language apart from English is an advantage. The knowledge of Chinese opens the doors to Chinese companies in China and other parts of the world. Chinese is both a working language and is one of the official languages of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and international courts.

In addition to becoming a foreign language teacher, the field of interpreting and translating is also an avenue to be explored. Although most interpreters are freelance many International organizations and large companies around the world employ staff interpreters within their organizations. Many well established interpreting and translation schools can be found in Universities around China. The American Translator Association has a list of approved schools around the world: [https://www.atanet.org/certification/eligibility\\_approved.php#c](https://www.atanet.org/certification/eligibility_approved.php#c)

### **Reflections from ACT students**

*In a changing world, Chinese Mandarin has become a widely spoken language in many places in society. It is realizable that the demand for Chinese speakers in the working world has also increased. Taking up Continuing Chinese and Chinese for the last few years has been a privilege and a great opportunity to learn a new language and its cultures as well. I can say that I have learnt a lot of information and have gained a better understanding of Chinese. In Continuing Chinese, the level is a step up from all the previous years, with greater work load and higher demand for better time management. But it is all worth it, because firstly, the content we learnt not only builds our knowledge on the language, but it also makes us more aware and open-minded of issues around us. Secondly, without a doubt, what we learn today will be of benefit for our future prospects. – Pio Manoa*

*Chinese is one of my hardest subjects that challenge me all the time, although despite this, it has never stopped me from continuing the subject. Over the years I have noticed how I've evolved into a better speaker and writer, also an engaging learner, always keen to learn new characters and better my knowledge of the subject. There are rough patches that I face; consisting of times where i want to drop the subject and at other times, completely hating it. But everything has its pros and cons and at the end of the day it is for my benefit; I am learning a*

*new language that will help me in the future. I do not think my fluency and knowledge would be as up to standard without the help, determination to succeed and motivation from my Chinese teacher ' chen lao shi '. Over the years the work load has intensified becoming harder. When comparing my first year, to now, I have seen how much I've bettered in the language and how I can apply this outside of the classroom in a normal conversation with my Chinese speaking friends. To be able to speak and learn another language is something so big and something to value, as it opens different perspectives of other cultures and gives you the ability to express yourself in other ways. Because of the time I've studied Chinese in International School, it has motivated me to continue to further my studies at university and extend my knowledge of the Chinese culture and language. – Melini Navunisaravi*

*Chinese is one of the most challenging subject that I take, but also one of my favorite. We have a small class of 7 students and we have an excellent class. Our classes are always engaged and our teacher pushes and make us want to learn more. Chinese has helps me structure my essays in English. I think it is great to learn Chinese as a second language. – Saachi Kumar*