

Chinese B

Nature of Chinese B

Chinese B is a language acquisition course 'designed to provide students with the necessary skills and intercultural understanding to enable them to communicate successfully in an environment where the Chinese language is spoken. This process allows the learner to go beyond the confines of the classroom, expanding their awareness of the world and fostering respect for cultural diversity' ¹

'In the Chinese B course, students further develop their ability to communicate in the Chinese language through the study of Chinese language. They also develop the conceptual understanding of how language works.'²

Learning the Chinese language helps students prepare themselves with value-added skills for their future life and career.

Teaching Approach

Students are expected to develop skills in several areas, including receptive skills (understanding written and spoken authentic texts), productive skills (writing texts for a variety of purposes and making oral presentations) and interactive skills (initiate and maintain the flow of conversations and discussions). "Through approaches to learning in Chinese B course, students develop skills that have relevance across all areas that help them " learn how to learn". It supports students to "reflect on and articulate how they are learning" and "to prepare them for success in their studies and life beyond school."³ It helps students identify and develop language learning skills.

Students would normally have completed the Chinese language course in Year 10 and progress into this course. They will study 5 prescribed themes of Identities, Experiences, Human ingenuity, Social Organization and Sharing the planet.

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