

Frequently Asked Questions

IGCSE First Language Chinese (0509)

What set texts are there for the syllabus?

There aren't any! IGCSE First Language doesn't have questions on set texts. (This need not preclude using literary material as stimulus for coursework, or in classroom preparation for the Reading Paper, of course. Candidates benefit from exposure to a variety of types of writing, and literary texts have a part to play in First Language.)

Is IGCSE First Language Chinese available in the November session?

No. It is available in the June session only.

Can students take dictionaries into the examination?

No. This is an IGCSE Language examination and dictionaries are not permitted.

Which type of characters is used for the question papers?

Question papers are printed in both traditional and simplified characters. Candidates may choose to write their answers in either form.

What resources are available to support this syllabus?

The following resources are available:

- Past Papers.
- Principal Examiner Reports.

I have a very strong *foreign* language speaker candidate. Can I enter him/her for a *First Language* examination?

You can. However you will need to bear in mind that the level of sophistication, accuracy and fluency required in a First Language examination is that of a native speaker. The assessment objectives for Foreign Language examinations are quite different, rewarding communication and giving opportunities for Listening and Speaking. An alternative solution might be to enter your candidate for Advanced Subsidiary Chinese Language (question papers in simplified characters).