

Chinese Tests

To help evaluate the Chinese levels of non-native Chinese speakers across the world, Hanban has developed three exams, HSK (Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi), YCT (youth learner test) and BCT (business Chinese test). We will provide outstanding examinees with scholarships and all of you with opportunity of summer/winter camps, intending to attract learners to apply to our Chinese evaluation system.

Up to now, the Chinese testing centers have spread all over domestic and foreign lands. Internationally, there are 180 testing centers in 60 countries. And in 2009, more than 600,000 Chinese learners registered and attended our tests, among which, 436 received scholarships and 333 winter camps.

Our aim and purpose include –

- initiating/perfecting a Chinese evaluation system that is practical, motivational and effective, so as to enhance the qualities of Chinese teaching and learning internationally;
- providing Chinese evaluation services that are the most influential and reliable.

Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK)

The new HSK test was launched by Hanban in an effort to better serve Chinese language learners. The test is the result of coordinated efforts by domestic and foreign experts from different disciplines including Chinese language teaching, linguistics, psychology and educational measurement. The new exam combines the advantages of the original HSK while taking into consideration recent trends in Chinese language training by conducting surveys and making use of the latest findings in international language testing.

The new HSK is an international standardized exam that tests and rates Chinese language proficiency. It assesses non-native Chinese speakers' abilities in using the Chinese language in their daily, academic and professional lives. HSK consists of six levels, namely the HSK (level I), HSK (level II), HSK (level III), HSK (level IV), HSK (level V), and HSK (level VI).

Details are as follows:

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I. Test Structure

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II. Test Levels

The levels of the new HSK correspond to the levels of the Chinese Language Proficiency Scales for Speakers of Other Languages (CLPS) and the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEF) as follows:

新 HSK	词汇量	国际汉语能力标准	欧洲语言框架 (CEF)
HSK (六级)	5000 及以上	五级	C2
HSK (五级)	2500		C1
HSK (四级)	1200	四级	B2
HSK (三级)	600	三级	B1
HSK (二级)	300	二级	A2
HSK (一级)	150	一级	A1

New HSK	Vocabulary	CLPS	CEF
HSK(level VI)	Over 5000	Level V	C2
HSK(level V)	2500		C1
HSK(level IV)	1200	Level IV	B2
HSK(level III)	600	Level III	B1
HSK(level II)	300	Level II	A2
HSK(level I)	150	Level I	A1

Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level I) can understand and use very simple Chinese words and phrases, meet basic needs for communication and possess the ability to further their Chinese language studies.

Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level II) have an excellent grasp of basic Chinese and can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple

and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters.

Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level III) can communicate in Chinese at a basic level in their daily, academic and professional lives. They can manage most communication in Chinese when travelling in China.

Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level IV) can converse in Chinese on a wide range of topics and are able to communicate fluently with native Chinese speakers.

Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level V) can read Chinese newspapers and magazines, enjoy Chinese films and plays, and give a full-length speech in Chinese.

Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level VI) can easily comprehend written and spoken information in Chinese and can effectively express themselves in Chinese, both orally and on paper.

III. Test Principles

The new HSK follows the principle of “test-teaching correlation”, bases the design of the test on the current trends in international Chinese language training, and is closely related to textbooks. The purpose of the test is to “promote training through testing” and “promote learning through testing”.

The new HSK emphasizes the objectivity and accuracy of the evaluation and stresses the learners’ actual Chinese language abilities.

The new HSK sets clear test objectives to allow the test takers to be able to improve their Chinese language abilities in a systematic and efficient way.

IV. Testing Purposes

The new HSK retains the former HSK’s orientation as a general (or universal) Chinese language abilities test for adult learners. The results of the test can serve several purposes:

1. A reference for an educational institution’s decision-making concerning recruiting students, assigning students to different classes, allowing students to skip certain courses and granting students academic credits.

2. A reference for employers’ decision-making concerning the recruitment, training and promotion of test takers.

3. A method for Chinese language learners to assess and improve their proficiency in Chinese.

4. A method for Chinese language training institutions to evaluate training results.

V. Results Certificate

Test takers will receive the results for the new HSK issued by Hanban within one month after the test.

Youth Chinese Test (YCT)

The new YCT test was launched by Hanban in an effort to encourage foreign young students to learn Chinese and improve their Chinese language proficiency. As part of this effort, since 2004 Hanban has organized experts from different disciplines such as Chinese language teaching, linguistics, psychology and educational measurement to work on the program, conducting surveys in order to understand the latest trends in overseas Chinese language teaching and learning.

I. Test Structure

The new YCT is an international standardized test of Chinese language proficiency. It assesses young foreign students' abilities to use Chinese in their daily and academic lives. The new YCT consists of a writing test and a speaking test, which are independent of each other. The writing test is divided into four levels, namely, the YCT (level I), YCT (level II), YCT (level III), and YCT (level IV). The speaking test is divided into the YCT (Beginner Level) and YCT (Intermediate Level).

Writing Test	Speaking Test
YCT (Level IV)	YCT (Intermediate Level)
YCT (Level III)	YCT (Beginner Level)
YCT (Level II)	
YCT (Level I)	

II. Test Levels

The different levels of the new YCT are similar to some of the levels in the Chinese Language Proficiency Scales for Speakers of Other Languages (CLPS) and the Common European Framework of Reference (CEF); details are as follows:

New HSK	Vocabulary	CLPS	CEF
HSK (Level VI)	Over 5,000	Level V	C2
HSK (Level V)	2500		C1
HSK (Level IV)	1200	Level IV	B2
HSK (Level III)	600	Level III	B1

HSK (Level II)	300	Level II	A2
HSK (Level I)	150	Level I	A1

Test takers who are able to pass the YCT (Level I) can understand and use some of the most common Chinese phrases and sentences and possess the ability to further their Chinese language studies.

Test takers who are able to pass the YCT (Level II) can understand and use some simple Chinese phrases and sentences and cope with basic level communications.

Test takers who are able to pass the YCT (Level III), having reached an excellent level in basic Chinese, can communicate on familiar daily topics in a simple manner.

Test takers who are able to pass the YCT (Level IV) can communicate in Chinese at a basic level in their daily, academic and professional lives. When travelling in China, they can manage most forms of communication in Chinese.

III. Test Principles

The new YCT aims to improve Chinese language learners' self-confidence and follows the principle of "test-teaching correlation". It bases the design of the test on current trends in international Chinese language training and is closely related to textbook learning procedures. The purpose of the test is to "promote training through testing" and "promote learning through testing".

IV. Test Purposes

The YCT is intended for students whose mother tongue is not Chinese. The results of the test can serve various purposes:

1. A method for Chinese language learners to assess and improve their proficiency in Chinese.
2. A reference for Chinese language training in schools.
3. A method for Chinese language training institutions to evaluate training results.
4. A benchmark for students who want to participate in the HSK test.

V. Results Certificate

Test takers will receive their test results for the new YCT issued by Hanban within three weeks after the test.

Business Chinese Test (BCT)

Business Chinese Test is a state-level standardized test designed to assess the Chinese proficiency of non-native speakers engaged in business activities. BCT is

developed by Peking University under the entrustment of Office of Chinese Language Council International (“Hanban” for short). Its English name is Business Chinese Test (“BCT” for short).

BCT assesses the communicative ability of test takers using Chinese in a wide range of business-related career occasions, daily life and social interaction. The test mainly features practicality and communicativeness. This test consists of two relatively independent tests: BCT (Listening & Reading) and BCT (Speaking & Writing). test takers may sit for one or both of them at a time. There is no limit to candidates’ age, education or length of learning Chinese.

Hanban is the supervisor of Business Chinese Test, and the issuer of "Business Chinese Test Certificate."

Business Chinese Test is held regularly in China and other countries each year.

I. Test Takers

BCT is held for the non-native speakers. Any who is a non-native speaker, whether capable of basic communication or fairly skillful communication, may sit for BCT. There is no limit to candidates’ age, education or length of learning Chinese.

II. Test Purposes

BCT is open for the whole world and severs various institutions and individuals which want to assess the business Chinese proficiency of relevant persons. Its main purposes include:

1. Provide a basis for employers to assess the business Chinese proficiency of relevant persons when making such decisions as employee recruitment, selection, placement and promotion;
2. Help relevant teaching and training institutions to assess the business Chinese proficiency of candidates in recruitment and class division;
3. Assess the practical effects achieved form the teaching and training of relevant teaching and training institutions;
4. Provide a certificate of business Chinese proficiency for any person who seeks for a job ,takes an interviews or wants to be promoted;
5. Help Chinese learners to understand and improve their business Chinese ability.

III. The Composition and Form of Test

BCT consists of two relatively independent tests: BCT (Listening & Reading) and BCT (Speaking & Writing). Test takers may sit for one or both of them at a time.

Now, BCT is held in two forms, i.e. Paper-based Test and Computer-based Test.

BCT Computer-based Test is only held in Singapore at present.

IV. Standards for BCT Levels

BCT has five levels in total to describe the business Chinese proficiency of test takers, namely:

Level 1: Incapable of communication in Chinese in business activities.

Level 2: Capable of basic communication in Chinese in business activities.

Level 3: Capable of fairly effective communication in Chinese in business activities.

Level 4: Capable of fairly skillful communication in Chinese in business activities.

Level 5: Capable of appropriate communication in Chinese in business activities.

V. Test Scores and Certificate

BCT consists of two relatively independent examinations: BCT (Listening & Reading) and BCT (Speaking & Writing). The score for each specific skill (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) is 0-500, 100 for each level. The total score for listening and reading constitutes the overall score of BCT (listening & reading) ranging from 0 to 1000 points and each level consisting of 200 points. So does the overall score of BCT (speaking & writing).

Any test taker can receive a score report if he attends listening & reading or speaking & writing test in line with requirements.

If the total score for listening and reading comes to 201-400 points, Level 2 "BCT Certificate (listening & reading)" will be awarded; If the total score for speaking and writing comes to 201-400 points, Level 2 "BCT Certificate (speaking & writing)" will be awarded. So do Level3, Level4 and Level5 certificates. There is no Level1 certificate in BCT.

The score shall be valid for two years from the test date.

Hanban shall be responsible for issuing "Business Chinese Test Certificate."

VI. Test Time and Location

BCT is held regularly in China mainland and other countries each year.

In addition, individual service with respect to BCT can be provided as required by relevant enterprises or organizations.

For test dates and test center information of BCT, please log on BCT official website www.hanban.org, www.bcthome.cn and Chinese test service website www.chinesetesting.cn for reference.

VII. Test Fees

The test fees of BCT are different all over the world. As for details in fees, please consult local test center.

The test fees for China mainland is 120 yuan RMB for BCT (Listening & Reading) and 180 yuan RMB for BCT (Speaking & Writing).

VIII. Test Content

The test content of BCT mainly covers business activities and business-related daily life and social interaction activities. As for details, see “Business Chinese Communicative Function Items” in “The BCT Outlines”. “The BCT Outlines” is guide book for your preparation and this book covers Introduction to Business Chinese Test, level standards, scoring standards, samples, communicative function items and vocabulary, accompanied with the CD of listening test sample.

IX. Test Registration

Test takers may register for the test at the test center or online.

Test center registration

1. Please bring valid documents (passport or ID) to relevant test center for registration.
2. Fill in personal information form, and obtain login name and password.
3. Submit a photo with size of 40mm × 30mm, or a digital photo.
4. Pay test fees.
5. Print the test admission ticket or receive it to test center on stipulated time.

Online Registration

Test takers can log on BCT website (www.bcthome.cn) or the Chinese test service website (www.chinesetesting.cn) for online registration.

X. Test Room Regulations

On the test date, be sure to bring:

- (1) test admission ticket;
- (2) the identification document used for registration (passport or ID). If you do not take such document, you are not admitted to enter test room;
- (3) 2B pencils and erasers.

If you lost the test admission ticket, please notify the test center at least one day in advance in order to the test center help you print it.

1. Tape recorders, cameras, dictionaries, notebooks, textbooks and other articles having nothing to do with the test are not allowed to bring into the test room.
2. Switch off your mobile phone and MP3 and put them in your bag, and then put the bag to designated place after entering the test room.

3. Don't be late. In case of being late for the Listening and Reading test, if the listening test has not begun, you can immediately enter the room to take the test; if listening test has begun, you are not permitted to enter the room until the listening test is finished. In the Speaking and Writing test, if the speaking test has not begun, you can immediately enter the room to take the test; if speaking test has begun, you are not permitted to enter the room until the speaking test is finished.

Test Regulations

1. After entering the test room, test takers must put their test admission tickets and the identification document on the right upper corner of the desk for checking by the chief examiner and the supervisor at any moment.

2. BCT (Listening & Reading) test lasts about 100 minutes; BCT (Speaking & Writing) lasts 50 minutes. Please reasonably allocate the time.

3. Before answering questions, please fill out the relevant information on the answer sheet as required.

4. After the examination begins, generally, no test takers are permitted to leave test room. If there are special reasons, they need to obtain the chief examiner's approval.

5. Test takers shall not open the papers in advance, tear, change, or copy the contents of test papers; nor shall candidates bring test papers and answer sheets out of the test room and conduct other cheatings.

6. Please abide by the test room disciplines and test regulations. Test takers who are in violation of the test room regulations, the chief examiner will give a warning or even disqualify them.

XI. Consultation and Services

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