

Course Overviews MYP Mandarin Acquisition, UWC Thailand 2018-2019

All units taught in grades 6 to 10 are continuously being developed and improved to best meet the needs of the students at UWCT. Therefore, the following overview is only a reflection of current plans for the course. Some changes to these course overviews may occur as a result of planning done throughout the academic year.

Phase	Unit Number and Title	Key and Related Concepts	Global Context	Statement of Inquiry	Inquiry Questions	Content (topics / knowledge/ subject specific skills)
1	Social 社交	Key: Communication Related: Patterns, Structure	Personal and cultural expression	Every language requires unique patterns and structures for basic communication.	Factual: What elements of Chinese language are same or different comparing to English or your native language? What are basic sentence structures in Chinese? How are they different comparing to English or your own language? Conceptual: How have Chinese language and characters been created and evolved from ancient times through history till nowadays? Debatable: Is Chinese language easier or harder to learn comparing to your own language? In which ways?	Introduction of basic language elements, such as pinyin, tones, characters, radicals, numbers, the most common spoken language, the most common question words, simple sentence structures. Simple interactions regarding greetings, basic personal details, such as family members, birthday, age, school, grade, countries, languages, etc.
1	Life 生活	Key: Connection Related: Form, Function	Orientation in space and time	A variety of routine activities form our daily life.	Factual: What do my typical weekdays and weekends look like? How do hobbies fit in your daily routine? Conceptual: What is a balanced timetable for my daily routine and why? Debatable: How many hours of sleep are necessary for quality life?	Date, week, time, the most common daily routines, the most common professions, typical transport modes, simple shopping dialogues, hobbies, etc.
1	Culture 文化	Key: Culture Related: Conventions, Meaning	Personal and cultural expression	We will inquire into the cultural backgrounds of Chinese festivals.	Factual: What festivals are important in our cultures? Conceptual: How are Chinese festivals and other festivals similar or different? How does food reflect the local culture? Debatable: Can some festivals and traditions totally unnecessary in some ways?	Festivals, traditions, folk tales in the Chinese culture, experience the Spring Festival through various festive activities. Common foods and drinks, etc.
1	Individual 个人	Key: Creativity Related: Accent, Word choice	Identities and relationships	We will inquire into basic descriptive language regarding things and people around us.	Factual: What are some descriptive language in Chinese in our daily communication? Conceptual: How can I incorporate different cultural elements in a design? Debatable: Can we be truly non-judgmental about appearance?	Key body parts, colors, basic clothing items and accessories, simple descriptive language, fashions, common body illnesses, etc.
1	World 世界	Key: Global interaction Related: Message, Purpose	Globalization and sustainability	We will inquire into the natural and human environment close to us.	Factual: What are some direct interactions do we have with the environment around us? What are the things I can access in my local community? What are different communities like (local, international etc.)? Conceptual: How have the design of living spaces and community villages changed over time? Debatable: How do you like where you live and the design of the space and why?	Basic weather conditions, seasons, in and out of house, furniture, the community we live in, etc.
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2	Social 社交	Key: Communication Related: Patterns, Structure	Personal and cultural expression	Every language requires unique patterns and structures for effective communication.	Factual: What language do we need to effective conversations? Conceptual: What prevents me from using Chinese and how can I maximise my Chinese usage? Debatable: How can we truly know if we have communicated effectively?	Practice using a variety of previously learnt topics to engage in meaningful dialogues in different situations. Introduce phone conversations, extended family members, etc.
2	Life 生活	Key: Connection Related: Form, Function	Orientation in space and time	We will inquire into the ideas on a balanced lifestyle, how does creativity contribute to the quality of our daily life.	Factual: What elements make up your life as a teenager? Conceptual: What's an ideal school timetable to you and why? How much freedom of course choice and time management should students have at different age? Debatable: Can a particular routine impact our life positively or negatively and why is that? age? Is it beneficial to learn a variety of subjects in school even if you dislike them?	School subjects, facilities, stationary, professions, more hobbies in different areas, etc.
2	Culture 文化	Key: Culture Related: Conventions, Meaning	Personal and cultural expression	We will inquire into major cultural festivals and more about foods.	Factual: What are the unique traditions for the major festivals? Conceptual: How are people from different cultures celebrate differently? Debatable: What's your opinion on practicing rituals and traditions? What do you prefer as your food choices, tasty or healthy?	Major Chinese festivals, foods related to them. Shopping in a market, snacks, dining out, etc.
2	Individual 个人	Key: Creativity Related:	Identities and relationships	We will inquire into the correlations of appearance and cultures.	Factual: How are individuality shown? Conceptual: How has society view beauty and body images changed over time and in different cultures? Debatable: How do we reveal the kind of person we are through our outward appearance?	More complex descriptive language, familiar with more clothing items and accessories, fashion designs, appearances in details, illnesses in details, etc.

		Accent, Word choice				
2	World 世界	Key: Global interaction Related: Message, Purpose	Globalization and sustainability	We will inquire into the natural and human environment around and beyond us.	Factual: How do we describe the nature and community around us? Conceptual: How do you know if you are impacting the environment in a generally positive way? Debatable: Are human interactions with the environment more positive or negative? Why?	Weather, seasons, climates, community, asking for directions, useful language in traveling, etc.
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3	Social 社交	Key: Communication Related: Audience, Meaning	Personal and cultural expression	We will inquire into effective communication - addressing different audiences on a large variety of topics.	Factual: What language skills help me to be a better communicator? Conceptual: How are the relationship of people in Asian families different from western families? Debatable: Which type of family relationship do you prefer and why?	Practice using a wide variety of previously learnt topics to engage in meaningful dialogues in different situations addressing different audiences. More on relationships among family and friends, conflicts, positive and negative influences, etc.
3	Life 生活	Key: Connection Related: Function, Point of view	Orientation in space and time	We will inquire into the meaningful and balanced lifestyle.	Factual: What are the meaningful and meaningless tasks we face everyday? Conceptual: How have people's perspective about a balanced lifestyle changed over time? Debatable: Have scientific and technology innovation influenced people's lifestyle in a positive way and why?	Daily routines, house chores, pets, school life, education, exams, activities, internship, hobbies, shopping, entertainment, parties, etc.
3	Culture 文化	Key: Culture Related: Conventions, Message	Personal and cultural expression	We will inquire into the background cultural aspects of important festivals and traditions that are kept or lost, and the reasons behind.	Factual: What traditions, stories, folk tales are behind the important festivals? Conceptual: Why and how are festivals usually created? How do the choices of foods/diet change our behaviors? How do we choose what to believe or not, follow or not, in regards of cultural heritage? Debatable: How have festivals change when people migrate out of their original homeland? Does the authenticity change?	Famous dishes in the Chinese cuisine, dining out, traditions of festivals, diet, etc.
3	Individual 个人	Key: Creativity Related: Purpose, Word choice	Identities and relationships	We will inquire into development of our personalities and ambitions.	Factual: What are some positive and negative traits appear in people? Conceptual: How do people's personalities and ambitions develop over their lifetime? Debatable: How have the general public's opinions on personal traits change over time?	Appearances in detail, personalities of people, ambitions, celebrities, etc.
3	World 世界	Key: Global interaction Related: Purpose, Voice	Globalization and sustainability	We will inquire into the environment around us and far away.	Factual: What interactions do we have with the environment around us and far away? How can I plan a trip and get around in a Chinese speaking environment? How can I handle various crises in a trip? Conceptual: How have human influence the environment around us and the globe collectively? What is travelling like in the past, now and future? Debatable: Which is more powerful, human or nature? In which ways?	Theneighbourhoodtravelling, volunteering, accidents, climates, travelling, etc.
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4	Social 社交	Key: Communication Related: Audience, Meaning	Personal and cultural expression	We will inquire into effective communication - comfortably navigate among different situations and addressing different audiences.	Factual: What are the traditional values in society? Conceptual: How have the traditional values change over time? Debatable: Which traditional values have changed positively or negatively? Why do you think this way?	The involving family values in the Chinese society, values about marriage, education, etc.
4	Life 生活	Key: Connection Related: Function, Point of view	Orientation in space and time	We will inquire into our more complex life before college.	Factual: How have our life of high school changed comparing the earlier years? Conceptual: How can we handle stress effectively and develop healthy life habits? Debatable: What amount and which types of stress are healthy to us?	School curriculum, student council, college applications, life challenges, healthy life habits, etc.
4	Culture 文化	Key: Culture Related: Conventions, Message	Personal and cultural expression	We will inquire into the cultural differences of the east and west.	Factual: What do cultural differences look like on the surface? Conceptual: Where are the cultural differences rooted from? How is the philosophy of Chinese medicine different than western medicine? Debatable: Which style of (east and west) do you think is more beneficial to us and why?	Western and Chinese cultural differences, high paced lifestyle, values reflected from Chinese movies, discuss a Chinese city's culture, etc.
4	Individual 个人	Key: Creativity	Identities and relationships	We will inquire into the modern lifestyle's benefits and challenges, especially related to teenagers.	Factual: What are the ups and downs do you face as a teenager? Conceptual: How have you dealt with your life challenges so far and have it worked?	Teenager life, stress, struggles, internet influences, sicknesses that are unique to the modern society and lifestyle, etc.

		Related: Purpose, Word choice			Debatable: Are some life problems only resulted from the modern lifestyle? Can they be fixed by living in the older ways?	
4	World 世界	Key: Global interaction Related: Purpose, Voice	Globalization and sustainability	We will inquire into bigger global issues and meaningful actions we might be able to take.	Factual: What global issues do we currently face in this world? Conceptual: How have global issues evolve over time? Debatable: What is considered environmentally friendly actions and do they really save our planet?	Travelling, studying abroad, environment awareness, new technology, etc.