

Course Overviews DP Mandarin ab initio, UWC Thailand 2017-2019

All units taught in grades 11 and 12 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.

Grade	Time Frame	Unit number and title	Approaches To learning skills taught / learnt / developed in this unit	Content (topics / knowledge/ subject specific skills)	Connections to TOK	Summative assessment
11	6 weeks	1 Family	ATL: Self-management skills Inquiry: How do I present myself to others?	Prescribed topics: Personal Relationships, Neighbourhood Skills: Reception, Productive, Interactive	How do we know and learn our first languages different from the way as we acquire additional languages? How are values encoded differently in different languages (for example, family, friendship, authority)?	Paper 1
11	6 weeks	2 School	ATL: Communication skills Inquiry: How do science and technology affect my life? What is my role in society?	Prescribed topics: Education, Technology Skills: Reception, Productive, Interactive	To what extent does the learning environment (the physical setting) have an impact on the way an additional language is acquired? How is learning only through textbook different from learning only through interaction? When we learn an additional language, do we learn more than vocabulary and grammar?	Paper 2
11	6 weeks	3 Everyday Life	ATL: Thinking skills Inquiry: How do I achieve a balanced and healthy lifestyle? How do my surroundings affect the way I live?	Prescribed topics: Daily routine, Transport Skills: Reception, Productive, Interactive	What is the relationship between language and thought? Do you think differently in different languages? If so, does it make a practical difference to how you interpret the world?	Paper 1 Oral
11	6 weeks	4 Personalities	ATL: Social skills Inquiry: How do I express my identity?	Prescribed topics: Personal attributes, Leisure Skills: Reception, Productive, Interactive	How is perception encoded differently in different languages (for example, colour, orientation)? What does this tell us about the relationships between perception, culture, reality and truth? By learning another culture and language are we able to enrich our own and in which ways?	Paper 2 Oral
11	6 weeks	5 Food	ATL: Research skills Inquiry: How are customs and traditions similar or different across cultures?	Prescribed topics: Eating and drinking Skills: Reception, Productive, Interactive	We can learn grammar intuitively, without conscious thought, or formally, by stating rules. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each approach? Are these the same for learning in other areas of the curriculum?	Paper 1 Paper 2 Oral

12	10 weeks	6 Health & Leisure	<p>ATL: Communication. Exchanging thoughts, messages and information effectively through interaction. Reading, writing and using language to gather and communicate information.</p> <p>Inquiry: What is a healthy lifestyle in your opinion? Is it quite different from others and why? What major sources of stress are there for teenagers? How do traveling experiences and interactions with other cultures shape us? How can I learn about a culture through entertainment?</p>	<p>Prescribed topics: Physical health, Entertainment, Holidays, Transport</p> <p>Skills: Reception, Productive, Interactive</p>	<p>Personal and shared knowledge: How can people from one culture share strong beliefs/knowledge passed through thousands of years of history? How other cultures' influence this?</p>	Paper 1 Paper 2
12	10 weeks	7 Global issues	<p>ATL: Thinking skills. Being able to express complex opinions on global issues will be quite challenging for ab initio students.</p> <p>Inquiry: What environmental and social issues present challenges to the world, and how can these challenges be overcome? What pressing issues do we face now locally? What could be done locally within and around our community in terms a sustainable future? What ethical issues arise from living in the modern world, and how do we resolve them? How do you see the planet's future based on what we have seen in human behaviours? How do developments in science and technology influence our lives? Where do you see technology will lead us? What's your view on artificial intelligence and your prediction for the foreseeable future?</p>	<p>Prescribed topics: Media, Technology, Environmental concerns, Global issues, Physical geography</p> <p>Skills: Reception, Productive, Interactive</p>	<p>Areas of knowledge: Explore human connections with the world and sciences.</p>	Oral
12	6 weeks	8 Exam preparation	<p>ATL: Self management skills. Reflect own learning, critically self examine, make effective action plans.</p> <p>Inquiry: What are my strengths and weaknesses in terms of language using and exam taking? What actions can I take towards applying Chinese in my future life?</p>	<p>Prescribed topics: All</p> <p>Skills: Reception, Productive, Interactive</p>	<p>How do you understand the world differently when you learn another language? (eg. time, humor, leisure) The concept of intercultural understanding means the ability to demonstrate an understanding of cultural diversity and/or similarity between the target culture(s) and one's own. To what extent is this definition true? Is it possible to make a perfect translation from one language to another? What is "perfect"?</p>	Paper 1 Paper 2 Oral