

Theme →	Personal & Public Identities	Families & Communities	Beauty & Aesthetics	Science & Tech	Contemporary Life	Global Challenges
Unit 1 Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National and ethnic identity in China is complex and diverse There are 56 ethnic groups, the Han ethnic group making up the majority of the population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families are extremely important in Chinese culture Traditional gender roles often apply in the Chinese family (husband as the breadwinner and the wife responsible for household duties) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beauty standards in China are quite the opposite from Western countries: fair skin and skinny, slim figures are preferred Double eyelid surgery is a common plastic surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic challenges: one-child policy led to a smaller young population Advancements in science to provide healthcare to the increasing number of elderly citizens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Filial piety (respect and duty towards one's parents and ancestors) is an important value in Chinese society The concept of "face" is important in Chinese culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China has the largest population in the world (1.4B), but due to the One Child Policy (1970s), there is a disproportionate among generations as well as the female to male ratio
Unit 2 Lang & Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandarin commonly uses simplified Chinese, while Cantonese uses traditional Other notable ethnic groups include the Tibetan, Uighur, and Mongolian groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each region has their own dialect (方言) but it's important to be able to speak standard (Beijing) Mandarin The pinyin (拼音) system is used to transcribe the Chinese characters, but there is no Chinese alphabet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beauty associated with balance, harmony, and the natural world Chinese architecture uses symmetry and natural elements (ex: Great Wall of China, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chinese government censors information and engages in propaganda efforts online using the Great Firewall of China, keyword filters, content monitoring, and arrests and detainments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 types of cuisine: Cantonese, Sichuan, Shandong, Hunan, Jiangsu, Fujian, Anhui, Zhejiang Dining etiquette taboos: reaching across the table for food, sticking chopsticks upright in your bowl 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chinese government has been criticized for suppressing freedom of religion and for its treatment of religious minorities (ex: Tibetan Buddhists & Falun Gong practitioners)
Unit 3 Beauty & Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peking (Beijing) opera is a form of traditional Chinese theater The colors of the costumes and makeup have symbolic meanings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional Chinese musical instruments include the 二胡, 古筝, and 琵琶 Ancient Chinese art revolve around paintings, especially those of figures of landscapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese literature conveys beauty through vivid and descriptive language and the depiction characters' inner qualities Authors: Confucius, Li Bai 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern music in China includes genres such as C-pop, hip hop, and rock Popular artists include 薛之谦, 周杰伦, 邓紫棋 (G.E.M.), 毛不易, and TFBoys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Popular Chinese TV shows include "Keep Running" and "The Voice of China" Popular Chinese TV dramas include "The Untamed" and "Eternal Love" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese beauty standards are reflected in the use of skin-whitening products and brightening creams and limited makeup shade and clothing size ranges
Unit 4 Sci & Tech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet and social media allow people in China to access information and connect with others in ways not possible before 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WeChat has replaced traditional forms of communication and become the primary way for people to stay in touch and make online payments (WeChat Pay) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Museums use VR/AR technology to create immersive exhibits (ex: virtual tours of ancient cities and landscapes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influential social media platforms (WeChat, Douyin, Weibo, QQ, Kuaishou, Zhihu) had a significant impact on communication and commerce in China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ride-sharing apps (Didi) allows people to easily book and pay for rides Online shopping (Taobao) is convenient and offers a variety of products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are concerns about the cost, quality, access, and insurance coverage of healthcare in China, particularly in rural areas
Unit 5 Quality of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese martial arts are practiced for a variety of purposes, including self-defense, physical fitness, mental discipline, and spiritual cultivation Martial arts styles: tai chi, kung fu, xing yi quan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tea is a beloved part of Chinese culture and is enjoyed by people of all ages Chinese (Gongfu) tea ceremony: formal ritual for preparing and serving tea and is an important part of business and social etiquette in China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese calligraphy is a form of artistic writing that originated in China over 3,000 years ago Chinese calligraphy styles: oracle bone, bronze, seal, clerical, regular, running, and cursive scripts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional Chinese Medicine is a holistic approach to health and healing that emphasizes maintaining balance and harmony in the body, mind, and spirit (ex: acupuncture, cupping, herbal medicine) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese New Year (春节) involves large family gatherings and the consumption of fish and dumplings for prosperity Red envelopes (红包) are given to the children to symbolize good luck 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade disputes between the U.S. and China (unfair trade practices v.s. protectionism) Rising labor costs and intellectual property concerns led some U.S. companies to reduced investments in China
Unit 6 Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 高考 is a highly competitive and stressful university entrance exam Disparities in education access/quality for rural and minority students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China's real estate sector led to economic development but has recently faced challenges (slowing market, increasing regulatory scrutiny, economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China is infamous for the many dupes of famous products found in vendors across the country Fear of 丢脸 means name brand items are desirable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China struggles with high levels of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions Climate change initiatives: "Made in China 2025," "13th Five-Year Plan" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China's work culture emphasizes hierarchy, tradition, strong work ethic, and collectivism Work culture is often hard and demanding (996工作制) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Uighur minority in Xinjiang province has suffered human rights abuses at the hands of the CCP, including detention in "re-education camps"
Section →	MC: Rejoinders	MC: Reading	Story Narration	Email Response	Conversation	Cultural Presentation
Exam Skills Tips & Tricks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take notes on important information, including who is talking, locations, dates/times Audios are played once or twice, and cannot be repeated or paused, so listen carefully 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight/underline important details in the texts Read the questions first and then go back into the text to look for the answers Use context of the text if you do not understand the meaning of certain characters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You need a beginning, a middle, and an end Write an outline before writing out the whole story Use phrases and lots of vocabulary (that you know and do it correctly) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answer all questions being presented in the email Use Chinese idioms wherever and whenever you can Remember to include a proper greeting and closing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have 20 seconds to respond to each prompt, so don't take too long thinking and try to talk the entire time Make sure to stay formal or informal depending on the speaker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write down the main points on the topic instead of an entire script (can be in English or Chinese) Talk about the significance Wrap up your presentation with a conclusion by tying it globally or to your own life