SEC Chinese Oral Checklist (华文口试)

SEC (G3), Sec 3 and 4 · Chinese

The Singapore Syllabus

1 The Chinese orals at a glance

Chinese Language and Higher Chinese have different orals. Check which one your child sits.

SEC Chinese orals (SEAB K320 and K355, 2027)

Item	Chinese Language (K320)	Higher Chinese (K355)
Length and marks	About 15 minutes, 50 marks, 25% of the grade	About 20 minutes, 40 marks, 20% of the grade
Preparation	10 minutes to read the passage silently and watch the video clip, both as many times as you like	10 minutes to watch the clip and prepare the talk. Notes are allowed.
Part 1	朗读 Reading aloud, 10 marks	口头报告 A talk of up to 2 minutes on the topic, using the clip, 20 marks
Part 2	会话 Conversation with the examiner about the clip, 40 marks	讨论 Discussion with the examiner based on your talk, 20 marks
Listening	A separate listening paper, 20 marks	No listening paper

2 朗读 Reading aloud checklist

SEAB marks reading aloud on two things: pronunciation and clarity, and pace, intonation and fluency.

Reading aloud

Check	Done
Read the whole passage silently first and find the words you are unsure of	☐
Every tone is correct, including 一, 不 and two third tones in a row	☐
Each word is clear, with no swallowed endings	☐
Steady pace, not rushed, with pauses at commas and full stops	☐
Voice rises and falls with the meaning, not flat	☐
Phrases read as units, not word by word	☐
Characters with two readings checked, such as 乐 in 快乐 and 音乐	☐

Tone changes to practise

Rule	Example as spoken	Meaning
一 before a fourth tone becomes second tone	一样 yí yàng	the same
一 before a first, second or third tone becomes fourth tone	一天 yì tiān	one day
不 before a fourth tone becomes second tone	不是 bú shì	is not
Two third tones: the first becomes second tone	你好 ní hǎo	hello

3 会话 Conversation checklist

The conversation is 40 of the 50 marks. SEAB marks your views and how you organise them (20), and your language and fluency (20). The top band expands views with examples, without the examiner having to lead.

An answer frame for each question

Step	What to say	Example opening
1. 看法 View	Answer the question in one sentence	我认为……
2. 理由 Reason	Why you think so	因为……
3. 例子 Example	Something you have seen or done	举例来说，我……
4. 建议 Suggestion	What people or you could do	所以我建议……

Conversation

Check	Done
Each answer has a view, a reason and an example, not just yes or no	☐
I give my own view, not a retelling of the clip	☐
I add a second point or the other side when I can	☐
I keep going without waiting for the examiner to lead	☐
I use varied words and sentence patterns, not the same phrase each time	☐

4 Useful phrases for the conversation

Learn a few until they come naturally. Use them to start and link your ideas.

Phrases with Hanyu Pinyin

Phrase	Pinyin	Use it to
我认为……	wǒ rèn wéi	give your view
我同意这种看法，因为……	wǒ tóng yì zhè zhǒng kàn fǎ, yīn wèi	agree and give a reason
一方面……另一方面……	yī fāng miàn, lìng yī fāng miàn	show two sides
举例来说	jǔ lì lái shuō	give an example
我有过类似的经历	wǒ yǒu guo lèi sì de jīng lì	bring in your own experience
不过	bù guò	add a contrast
总的来说	zǒng de lái shuō	sum up
我建议	wǒ jiàn yì	make a suggestion
您的问题很有意思，让我想一想	nín de wèn tí hěn yǒu yì si, ràng wǒ xiǎng yī xiǎng	take a moment to think
请问您可以再说一遍吗?	qǐng wèn nín kě yǐ zài shuō yī biàn ma	ask for the question again

5 Higher Chinese: 口头报告 and 讨论

In the talk, SEAB gives 14 marks for relevance, organisation and developing your views, and 6 for language. The discussion has the same split.

Higher Chinese checklist

Check	Done
My position is clear in the first two sentences	☐
I use one or two moments from the clip as evidence	☐
I add a point the clip does not make	☐
I recognise the other side before concluding	☐
I end with a call to act or a feeling the listener can share, inside 2 minutes	☐
In the discussion, I defend my view with reasons and respond to the examiner's points	☐

6 A plan for the 10 minutes of preparation

Our suggested split for Chinese Language. Higher Chinese candidates can use the same steps for the talk and write down key points.

Preparation plan

Time	What to do
Minutes 1 to 4	Read the passage silently once for meaning, then again for tones and pauses
Minutes 5 to 7	Watch the clip. Work out the topic and what you think about it.
Minutes 8 to 10	Think of one reason and one example from your own life for the likely questions