CSCA Professional Chinese

80 questions | 90 minutes | Marked out of 100 | Single-answer multiple choice | Paper in Chinese only | Humanities or STEM stream

Professional Chinese is sat as Humanities Chinese (文科中文) or STEM Chinese (理科中文). Both official syllabuses (2025 edition) use the same six question types. Work through the shared sections, then the one for your stream.

How to use it: tick a topic when you can answer questions on it against the clock, not when you have read about it. Lessons and timed mock papers for every topic are free at csca.help.

The six question types

The same in both streams. The syllabus names them; the explanations are ours.

- [ ] 识解汉字 (shíjiě hànzì): recognising and understanding characters
- [ ] 选词填空 (xuǎncí tiánkòng): choosing the word that fills a gap
- [ ] 辨析词语 (biànxī cíyǔ): telling near-synonyms apart
- [ ] 选词成段 (xuǎncí chéngduàn): choosing the words that complete a paragraph
- [ ] 补全语句 (bǔquán yǔjù): completing a sentence
- [ ] 阅读理解 (yuèdú lǐjiě): reading a passage and answering questions on it

Both streams: vocabulary and characters

- [ ] Common Verbs
- [ ] Daily Life Words
- [ ] Abstract Concepts
- [ ] Academic Language
- [ ] Advanced Vocabulary
- [ ] 识解汉字 Characters in Academic Words
- [ ] Classical Characters & Patterns
- [ ] Idioms & Chengyu

Both streams: grammar and sentence structure

- [ ] Word Distinction
- [ ] Sentence Patterns
- [ ] Paragraph Ordering
- [ ] Sentence Completion
- [ ] Error Correction

Both streams: reading comprehension

- [ ] Cloze Practice 1
- [ ] Cloze Practice 2
- [ ] Passage Analysis
- [ ] Inference Questions
- [ ] Vocabulary in Context

STEM Chinese (理科中文)

Texts from mathematics, physics, chemistry and computing: symbols and formulae, laws and equations, lab work, charts and academic reading.

- [ ] 数学术语 Mathematical Terms
- [ ] 物理术语 Physics Terms
- [ ] 化学术语 Chemistry Terms
- [ ] 实验与图表 Lab Work & Data
- [ ] 计算机术语 Computing Terms
- [ ] 图表解读 Reading Charts & Data
- [ ] 理科阅读 Science Reading I
- [ ] 理科阅读 Science Reading II
- [ ] 选词成段 Science Paragraphs

Humanities Chinese (文科中文)

Texts from literature, philosophy, law, education, history, art and other humanities.

- [ ] 文科术语 Humanities Terms
- [ ] 文科阅读 Humanities Reading I
- [ ] 文科阅读 Humanities Reading II
- [ ] 选词成段 Humanities Paragraphs

Enrichment

Neither syllabus names classical Chinese.

Beyond the syllabus: classical passages, literary devices and poetry analysis