

Guide to Self-Assessment in Chinese Language Skills

Students entering UNC-Chapel Hill with some background in the Chinese language who wish to continue studying the language here need to find the class best suited to their skill level. The official way to do this is via the Chinese placement exam. Information on when the exam is given and how to sign up for it can be found on the Department of Asian Studies website:

<http://asianstudies.unc.edu/placement>

Often, however, you may not have a chance to take the placement test before registering for classes (for instance, if it is not offered during your CTOPS session). In the meantime, you can sign up for a Chinese language class by using this guide to assess your Chinese skills on your own. Often students do a good job of self-assessment. This guide does not take the place of the placement test, which is required, but it will help you to probably register for the right class.

In the Chinese language program, there is a special track—an accelerated sequence—for those who have learned some Chinese at home or elsewhere and can speak some Chinese, but cannot read and write. CHIN 111 is the first course of the accelerated sequence, focused on reading and writing. Students who place into CHIN 111 can satisfy the foreign language requirement by taking only two courses, CHIN 111 and CHIN 212.

The regular course sequence is CHIN 101 => 102 => 203 => 204 => 305 => 306 => more advanced courses. The accelerated sequence, for those with background in spoken Chinese, is CHIN 111 => 212 => 313 => 414 => more advanced courses. Your initial placement in Chinese will determine which sequence you follow from then on.

We have provided below samples of work completed by the end of each semester in years 1-3 of Chinese language classes at UNC-Chapel Hill. Read through these to figure out which level fits you best and sign up for the appropriate class. The official placement test will help us make sure that you are in precisely the right class, so don't worry that your self-assessment may not be as accurate.

1st year Chinese

CHIN 101 [First semester of first-year Chinese. Offered only in Fall semester.]

CHIN 102 [Second semester of first-year Chinese. Offered only in Spring semester.]

CHIN 111 [First semester of first-year Chinese in the accelerated sequence.
Offered only in Fall semester.]

This is a list of tasks which are covered in CHIN 101. If you can perform all tasks below, you are probably ready for CHIN 102. If not, you probably should start in CHIN 101. If you can perform listening and speaking tasks below but not writing or reading, you are probably ready for CHIN 111.

Listening and speaking

1. Exchange basic greetings and introduce oneself and others (name, age, year in school, nationality, family and professions).
2. Ask and understand time, numbers, days, weeks, months, years, set up plans for and appointments.
3. Say and ask about one's hobbies, host guests at home and ask for a favor.
4. Comment on one's performance or house and talk on the phone.

Writing

1. Write about 220 characters.
2. Write and translate sentences.

Reading

1. Recognize about 220 characters.
2. Understand simple sentences and paragraphs.

Grammar

1. Question forms 吗, 还是, A-not-A, 怎么, 呢
2. Adverbs 不, 也, 还, 都, 才, 太, 真
3. Particles 的, 吧, 了
4. Measure words
5. Verbs 是, 叫, 姓, 有, 去 and modal verbs 想, 要, 得
6. Directional and descriptive complements
7. Word order in Chinese and time expressions
8. Adjectives as predicates
9. Pivotal sentences

2nd year Chinese

CHIN 203 [First semester of 2nd-year Chinese. Offered only in Fall semester.]

CHIN 204 [Second semester of 2nd-year Chinese. Offered only in Spring semester.]

CHIN 212 [Second semester of first-year Chinese in the accelerated sequence.
Offered only in Spring semester.]

This is a list of tasks which are covered in CHIN 102. If you can perform all tasks below, you are probably ready for CHIN 203.

Listening and speaking

1. Talk about school life, do shopping (size, color, price), comment about several means of transportation.
2. Talk about weather, eat out, ask and give directions.
3. Go to birthday party, describe one's appearances and see a doctor.

Writing

1. Write about 200 characters
2. Write a letter, diary, a thank-you note and email.
3. Translate sentences and short paragraphs.

Reading

1. Recognize all characters learned (about 420 characters).
2. Understand simple sentences and paragraphs.

Grammar

1. Adverbs 就, 先...再, 又, 多/少 + V, 还,
2. Patterns including 一边..一边, 除了...以外,, 虽然...可是, 或者, 每..都, 一...就, 是..的, 越来越..
3. Modal verbs 能, 会, 要,
4. Action in progress 正在, 呢, 在
5. Comparative sentences 比, 和 /跟... (不) 一样, 没有,
6. Resultative complements
7. Reduplication of adjectives and verbs
8. Dynamic particle 过
9. Negative pattern 一...也/都...不/没...
10. Direction and location words
11. Verbal phrases and subject-predicate phrases used as attributives
12. Time duration 多久, 一个钟头
13. Times of actions 次
14. The beginning of an action using 起来
15. 把 construction

If you can read the Chinese text below without a dictionary, you are probably ready for CHIN 212 (second semester of first-year Chinese in the accelerated sequence).

(In simplified characters)

星期天中午, 我和哥哥去学校以前, 我们全家人到中国城去饮茶。我从小就喜欢饮茶。我喜欢一边喝茶, 一边吃点心, 一边聊天儿。我也喜欢看服务员推着小车忙来忙去的。

“我姓司马, 是这里的经理。请问各位对今天的饭菜满意吗?”

“满意! 满意!” 全家人异口同声地回答。

“多谢各位, 请慢用。” 那位经理说完, 向另一张桌子走去。

“他的姓怎么有两个字呀?” 我小声地问。

“司马是复姓。那位经理姓的是复姓。” 妈妈回答。

“爷爷, 中国人有多少个姓啊?” 哥哥问。

“常见的有四百多个。”

(In traditional characters)

星期天中午，我和哥哥去學校以前，我們全家人到中國城去飲茶。我從小就喜歡飲茶。我喜歡一邊喝茶，一邊吃點心，一邊聊天兒。我也喜歡看服務員推著小車忙來忙去的。

“我姓司馬，是這裡的經理。請問各位對今天的飯菜滿意嗎？”

“滿意！滿意！”全家人異口同聲地回答。

“多謝各位，請慢用。”那位經理說完，向另一張桌子走去。

“他的姓怎麼有兩個字呀？”我小聲地問。

“司馬是復姓。那位經理姓的是復姓。”媽媽回答。

“爺爺，中國人有多少個姓啊？”哥哥問。

“常見的有四百多個。”

Please read the Chinese text below without a dictionary and then answer the four questions in red posed at the top of this section. If your answers are “yes” to all four questions, you are probably ready for Chinese 204 (second semester of second-year Chinese).

1. Can you read characters used in the text?
2. Do you know most (85-90%) of the vocabularies in the ?
3. Do you understand the underlined grammar/patterns?
4. Do you understand more than 75 % of the text?

(In simplified characters)

今天是周末，我做完了功課，就去我喜歡的中国飯館吃飯。我覺得這家餐館的菜做得非常香，特別是他們的清蒸魚，又新鮮又不油。他們做的雞也很嫩，也不太咸，但是有的人覺得他們的菜太素，所以你要問這家餐館的菜好不好吃，這就要看你的口味了。我自己叫的家常豆腐的味道不錯。菜單上的別的菜也很讓人流口水，比如說，牛肉芥蘭。如果你不喜歡吃辣的，就考慮來這家餐館吃，因為這兒的菜比較清淡，也很地道。

(In traditional characters)

今天是周末，我做完了功課，就去我喜歡的中国飯館吃飯。我覺得這家餐館的菜做得非常香，特別是他們的清蒸魚，又新鮮又不油。他們做的雞也很嫩，也不太咸，但是有的人覺得他們的菜太素，所以你要問這家餐館的菜好不好吃，這就要看你的口味了。我自己叫的家常豆腐的味道不錯。菜單上的別的菜也很讓人流口水，比如說，牛肉芥蘭。如果你不喜歡吃辣的，就考慮來這家餐館吃，因為這兒的菜比較清淡，也很地道。

3rd year Chinese

CHIN 305 [First semester of 3rd-year Chinese. Offered only in Fall semester.]

CHIN 306 [Second semester of 3rd-year Chinese. Offered only in Spring semester.]

CHIN 313 [First semester of 3rd-year Chinese. Offered only in Fall semester.]

If you can read the passage below without a dictionary, you're ready for CHIN305 or CHIN 313. If you speak Chinese at home with your family, choose CHIN 313.

(In simplified characters)

中国人口多，喜欢旅游的人也越来越多。过节或者放假的时候，有名的旅游景点都是人山人海，挤得很。其实去中国旅游，并不一定非去那几个最有名的地方不可。中国那么大，漂亮的地方和有意思的地方多极了。云南的西南部就有一个特别的地方，那儿有好几个少数民族，我们上次去那儿，他们都非常客气。那儿的自然风光特别美，天气也好，知道的人不多，所以一点也不挤。下次你去云南，一定要去那儿看看。那儿虽然离飞机场非常远，可是坐火车和汽车很方便。

(In traditional characters)

中國人口多，喜歡旅遊的人也越來越多。過節或者放假的時候，有名的旅遊景點都是人山人海，擠得很。其實去中國旅遊，並不一定非去那幾個最有名的地方不可。中國那麼大，漂亮的地方和有意思的地方多極了。雲南的西南部就有一個特別的地方，那兒有好幾個少數民族，我們上次去那兒，他們都非常客氣。那兒的自然風景特別美，天氣也好，知道的人不多，所以一點也不擠。下次你去雲南，一定要去那兒看看。那兒雖然離飛機場非常遠，可是坐火車和汽車很方便。

If you can read the passage below without a dictionary, you're ready for CHIN 306.

(In simplified characters)

对中国的筷子和西方的刀叉，人们做过一些历史研究。有人认为，中国是农业国，吃的饭以植物为主，所以用筷子取食比较方便。而西方人是游牧民族，以肉为主，用刀叉就更方便。中国人用筷子、西方人用刀叉都是文化的体现。中国人看重集体主义；而西方人认为个人主义更重要。体现在吃饭的方面上就是筷子和刀叉的不同。中国人吃饭的时候，在同一个盘子里取食，用筷子可以限制有的人大量取食。这样做，既体现了集体主义，个人利益又不会受太大的影响。西方人就简单一些，每个人吃自己盘里的东西，不用考虑得太多。

(In traditional characters)

對中國的筷子和西方的刀叉，人們做過一些歷史研究。有人認為，中國是農業國，吃的飯以植物為主，所以用筷子取食比較方便。而西方人是游牧民族，以肉為主，用刀叉就更方便。中國人用筷子、西方人用刀叉都是文化的體現。中國人看重集體主義；而西方人認為個人主義更重要。體現在吃飯的方面上就是筷子和刀叉的不同。中國人吃飯的時候，在同一個盤子裡取食，用筷子可以限制有的人大量取食。這樣做，既體現了集體主義，個人利益又不會受太大的影響。西方人就簡單一些，每個人吃自己盤裡的東西，不用考慮得太多。

4th Year Chinese and up

Below are two sample paragraphs from essays used in an advanced class. If you can read this with a dictionary, you're probably ready for 4th or 5th year Chinese (CHIN 407, CHIN 408, CHIN 414, etc.). If you can read this easily *without* a dictionary, your level of fluency may be too high to benefit from our 4th year language courses of modern Chinese.

Paragraph One ((In simplified characters)

对城市发展除了要有历史的眼光之外，还应有立足当代的眼光，也就是要用现代意识去激活古老的文化元素，并进一步巧妙融合古今。只要你去苏州走走，看看那些高楼大厦与小桥流水的和谐相处，去体会一下流淌在其中对人的关怀的种种内涵，应该就会有不少启迪。吸引外来资金投资，发展城市建设固然很难，但更难也更为重要的，应该是塑造城市的人文精神，呈现出更多样丰富的文化面貌。

Paragraph One ((In traditional characters)

對城市發展除了要有歷史的眼光之外，還應有立足當代的眼光，也就是要用現代意識去激活古老的文化元素，並進一步巧妙融合古今。隻要你去蘇州走走，看看那些高樓大廈與小橋流水的和諧相處，去體會一下流淌在其中對人的關懷的種種內涵，應該就會有不少啟迪。吸引外來資金投資，發展城市建設固然很難，但更難也更為重要的，應該是塑造城市的人文精神，呈現出更多樣豐富的文化面貌。

Paragraph Two ((In simplified characters)

中国大多数家庭进行了房改或买了商品房、经济适用房，从无产者变为有产者，公有产权变为私有产权，大量的中产阶级出现了。他们有房、有车、有自己的私有财产，更可贵的是，中国的公务员也同老百姓一样进行了房改，有了自己的私有财产，开始爱护、保护自己的私

有财产，在思想观念、执政观念上发生了新的变化，对私有财产的看法也产生了新的观念。中国人有了巨大的原动力了。

Paragraph Two ((In traditional characters)

中國大多數家庭進行了房改或買了商品房、經濟適用房，從無產者變為有產者，公有產權變為私有產權，大量的中產階級出現了。他們有房、有車、有自己的私有財產，更可貴的是，中國的公務員也同老百姓一樣進行了房改，有了自己的私有財產，開始愛護、保護自己的私有財產，在思想觀念、執政觀念上發生了新的變化，對私有財產的看法也產生了新的觀念。中國人有了巨大的原動力了。