

HSK 4

Level Description

The HSK Level 4 examination assesses candidates' Chinese language proficiency at Level 4 of the *Chinese Language Proficiency Standards for Speakers of Other Languages*, as well as B1 level according to the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)*.

Candidates who successfully pass the HSK Level 4 examination are able to discuss a wider range of topics in Chinese and communicate relatively fluently with native Chinese speakers.

Who is this examination recommended for?

The HSK Level 4 examination is intended for candidates who have studied Chinese for four semesters (two academic years), for 2–4 hours per week, and have mastered the 2,000 most frequently used words, together with the corresponding grammatical knowledge.

For sample questions, grammar and vocabulary, please visit the following link:

[HSK 4 sample questions, grammar and vocabulary](#)

Examination Description

The HSK Level 4 examination consists of 70 questions in total and is divided into three sections: Listening, Reading and Writing. The examination takes approximately 85 minutes in total, including 5 minutes for filling in personal information.

Exam Section		Questions		Duration (minutes)	Maximum score
Listening	Part 1	14	32	aprox. 30 min.	100
	Part 2	18			
Answer sheet				aprox. 5 min	
Reading	Part 1	10	32	aprox 35 min.	100
	Part 2	15			
	Part 3	7			
Writing	Part 1	5	6	aprox 15 min.	100
	Part 2	1			
Total		70		85	300

Candidates receive separate scores for the Listening, Reading and Writing sections, as well as an overall score. The maximum score is 300 points, and a minimum score of 180 points is required to pass the examination. The result is valid for two years from the date of the examination.

Listening	Part 1 (14 questions)	Select the answer that matches the dialogue and question you hear.
	Part 2 (18 questions)	Select the answer that matches the content and question you hear.
Reading	Part 1 (10 questions)	Select the word to fill in the blank and complete the sentence.
	Part 2 (15 questions)	Select the correct answer to the question based on the text.
	Part 3 (7 questions)	Based on the context, select the most appropriate sentences to fill in the blanks and complete the text.
Writing	Part 1 (5 questions)	Write a sentence including the given word which matches the picture.
	Part 2 (1 questions)	Write a short passage according to the requirements.

Topics

1. Introducing a Person

- Understands relatively complex questions about the personal information and characteristics of a familiar person or public figure, as well as relatively complex descriptions of such information. This includes, for example, biographical information, family background, professional background, physical appearance, clothing, personality and influence.
- Is able to ask about and answer relatively complex questions concerning the personal information and characteristics of a familiar person or public figure.
- Is able to introduce a familiar person or public figure in general terms relatively fluently.
- Understands texts that generally introduce a person's personal information and characteristics.
- Is able to briefly describe or introduce a familiar person or public figure in a paragraph.

2. Handling Everyday Matters and Solving Problems

- Understands relatively complex statements related to handling everyday matters and requesting assistance. These include, for example, questions asked by staff and information provided when sending or collecting parcels, processing official documents, or submitting membership applications; as well as questions and information provided when seeking legal advice, requesting police assistance, receiving interpreting-related advice, or requesting a person to be located via radio.
- Is able to describe their situation relatively fluently, ask questions, and express their intentions concerning communication, requesting assistance or handling everyday matters in the situations mentioned above.
- Is able to relatively fluently describe previous experiences of handling everyday matters or requesting assistance, such as the circumstances leading up to the matter, the process and the outcome.

- Understands general short texts about experiences related to handling everyday matters and requesting assistance, as well as certain forms and informational materials used in such situations, such as parcel notifications and administrative information.
- Is able to briefly describe experiences of handling everyday matters or requesting assistance in a paragraph, provide simple service feedback or evaluations, and write a letter requesting assistance.

3. Everyday Social Communication

- Understands relatively complex expressions of politeness used by conversation partners in everyday social interactions, as well as relatively complex expressions of recognition, congratulations or encouragement on occasions such as further studies, promotion or achieving a good result in a competition, and relatively complex apologies for mistakes.
- Is able to use relatively complex language to express politeness, recognition, congratulations, encouragement or apologies in the situations mentioned above.
- Understands the above-mentioned content in congratulatory letters, notifications announcing achievements or successes, apology letters and similar materials.
- Is able to write common expressions used in the above-mentioned social communication situations in postcards, message books and emails.

4. Expressing Emotions

- Understands relatively complex questions from family members, friends, etc. concerning emotions and life experiences in everyday conversations, as well as relatively complex accounts of experiences and opinions related to emotions and life experiences. These include, for example, love, friendship, family affection and ideals in life.
- Is able to ask family members, friends, etc. relatively complex questions concerning emotions and life experiences, and answer such questions.

- Is able to relatively fluently describe personal experiences and opinions concerning love, friendship, family affection and ideals in life.
- Understands general short texts about love, friendship, family affection and ideals in life.
- Is able to briefly describe personal experiences and opinions concerning love, friendship, family affection and ideals in life in a paragraph.

5. Eating Habits

- Understands relatively complex questions and descriptions concerning food, beverages, dining and food preparation from family members, friends, servers, etc. at family or social gatherings and during meals. These include, for example, the taste of food, types of food and beverages, characteristics of eating habits, the restaurant environment, quality of service, preparation processes and related experiences.
- Is able to ask and answer relatively complex questions concerning particular foods and beverages, dining and food preparation.
- Is able to relatively fluently introduce the above-mentioned dining-related topics to family members, friends, etc.
- Understands general short texts about food and beverages, dining and food preparation, as well as short descriptions found online or in restaurants.
- Is able to briefly introduce a dish or eating style, a restaurant, a particular dining experience or the process of preparing a dish in a paragraph.

6. Transportation and Travel

- Understands relatively complex questions from family members, friends, classmates, etc. concerning transportation and travel, as well as relatively complex descriptions of transportation and travel situations. These include, for example, travel experiences and impressions, and situations involving public transportation and passenger transport.
- Is able to ask about and answer relatively complex questions concerning the transportation and travel situations mentioned above.

- Is able to relatively fluently describe their own transportation and travel arrangements, such as the choice of transportation, itinerary, accommodation bookings and other preparations, as well as experiences and impressions gained during travel, and necessary information concerning driving, road conditions and passenger transport.
- Is able to provide information concerning service quality, routes and other related circumstances.
- Understands general descriptions or short stories about the transportation and travel situations mentioned above.
- Is able to briefly share personal travel experiences and impressions in a paragraph.

7. Shopping Experiences and Commerce

- Understands relatively complex questions and descriptions from friends, family members, salespeople, etc. concerning the selection and purchase of goods, shopping experiences and commercial activities. These include, for example, online shopping and brand selection; shopping experiences related to expenses, environment, service and payment methods; as well as discounts, promotions, advertising campaigns and other commercial activities.
- Is able to ask and answer relatively complex questions concerning the shopping experiences and commercial activities mentioned above.
- Is able to relatively fluently describe personal shopping experiences or commercial activities they have encountered.
- Understands general descriptions of the above-mentioned shopping experiences and commercial activities, as well as general information about promotions organized in shops or on online shopping platforms.
- Is able to briefly describe personal shopping experiences or commercial activities they have encountered in a paragraph.

8. Medical Care and a Healthy Lifestyle

- Understands relatively complex questions and descriptions from family members, friends, healthcare workers, etc. concerning medical care and healthy lifestyles, such as symptoms of illness, injuries, health conditions, attitudes towards health and basic health-related knowledge.
- Is able to ask and answer relatively complex questions concerning medical care and healthy lifestyles.
- Is able to relatively fluently describe personal experiences concerning medical care and a healthy lifestyle.
- Understands experiences related to illness and medical care shared by friends and family members, as well as general content related to healthy lifestyles.
- Is able to briefly describe personal experiences concerning illness and medical care, or share experiences related to a healthy lifestyle, in a paragraph.

9. Leisure Activities, Relaxation and Holidays

- Understands relatively complex questions from friends, classmates, etc. concerning situations, experiences, feelings and opinions related to leisure activities, as well as relatively complex descriptions of their own leisure activities, experiences, feelings and opinions.
- These include, for example, reading, online activities, sports, exercise, singing and dancing, travel and social gatherings.
- Is able to answer relatively complex questions concerning leisure activities.
- Is able to relatively fluently describe personal leisure activities and express feelings and opinions about them.
- Understands general short texts about leisure activities and related feelings and opinions.
- Is able to briefly describe personal leisure activities and related feelings and opinions in a paragraph.

10. Housing and the Residential Community

- Understands relatively complex questions and descriptions from friends, neighbors, community workers, real estate agents, landlords, etc. concerning housing conditions, community life, and renting or buying property.
- These include, for example, the residential environment, living conditions, relationships with neighbors, community services, rental conditions and property characteristics.
- Is able to ask and answer relatively complex questions concerning housing conditions, community life and renting or buying property.
- Is able to relatively fluently describe the above-mentioned community and housing conditions to a conversation partner.
- Understands general information concerning the above-mentioned community and housing conditions, such as posts on community online forums, notices and announcements concerning community life, and information about renting or buying property.
- Is able to briefly describe the above-mentioned community and housing conditions in a paragraph, such as community life or the characteristics of a property.

11. Family Life

- Understands relatively complex questions and descriptions from family members, friends, etc. concerning life at home, family relationships, the process of becoming an adult, lifestyle habits, family matters and other aspects of family life.
- These include, for example, the use of household appliances, the arrangement and furnishing of rooms, relationships between family members, parent-child relationships, the lives of grandparents and grandchildren together, experiences gained while growing up, information about one's hometown or homeland, establishing and implementing daily habits, and handling family matters.

- Is able to ask and answer relatively complex questions concerning home life, family relationships, becoming an adult, lifestyle habits and family matters.
- Is able to relatively fluently describe the above-mentioned aspects of family life to a conversation partner.
- Understands general short texts about the above-mentioned aspects of family life.
- Is able to briefly describe family life and express related opinions and feelings in a paragraph.

12. Education and Studies

- Understands relatively complex questions and descriptions from classmates, friends, family members, teachers, etc. concerning courses, education, academic experiences and study-related experiences.
- These include, for example, courses and majors, educational activities and requirements, various examinations, study planning, qualifications and academic degrees, scholarships, learning methods and study experiences.
- Is able to ask and answer relatively complex questions concerning the educational and academic situations mentioned above.
- Is able to relatively fluently describe these educational and academic situations to classmates, friends, teachers, etc., and exchange information about them.
- Understands general descriptions of the above-mentioned educational and academic situations, as well as forms prepared by teachers concerning educational activities.
- Is able to briefly introduce familiar educational and academic situations in a paragraph, or briefly summarize educational activities or their own academic situation.

13. University Life

- Understands relatively complex questions from classmates, friends, family members, etc. concerning university programs and the university environment, as well as relatively complex descriptions of these topics.
- These include, for example, satisfaction surveys concerning university cafeterias, libraries and other facilities; graduation ceremonies and other university events; sports fields and the university campus environment; as well as costs and the situation of different majors.
- Is able to ask and answer relatively complex questions concerning university life.
- Is able to relatively fluently describe university programs, the university environment and other aspects of university life mentioned above.
- Understands general descriptions of university programs, the university environment and other aspects of university life.
- Is able to briefly describe the above-mentioned aspects of university life in a paragraph and complete simple forms related to university programs, such as surveys, application forms or feedback forms.

14. Educational Approaches

- Understands relatively complex questions, descriptions and evaluations concerning family education, social education and other educational issues.
- These include, for example, the goals and methods of family education, choices concerning further study and applications, influential views on social education and current educational topics, vocational education, and the current situation of the education sector and educational organizations.
- Is able to ask friends, family members, etc. about their knowledge and experiences concerning the above-mentioned family and social education issues and other educational matters, and answer relatively complex questions about them.
- Is able to relatively fluently express knowledge and opinions concerning the above-mentioned family education, social education and other educational issues.

- Understands general short texts concerning the above-mentioned educational issues.
- Is able to briefly describe an educational experience, educational phenomenon or educational approach in a paragraph.

15. Work and Workplace Performance

- Understands relatively complex questions and descriptions from colleagues in an office environment concerning work-related matters, workplace performance and workplace relationships.
- These include, for example, specific work schedules and office-related tasks; individual work performance, such as attitude towards work and work abilities; cooperation and mutual assistance between colleagues; and team-building and other programs organized by the workplace.
- Is able to ask and answer relatively complex questions concerning the above-mentioned work-related matters, workplace performance and workplace relationships.
- Is able to relatively fluently describe specific details of work-related matters, workplace performance and workplace relationships to colleagues.
- Understands general descriptions concerning the above-mentioned work-related matters, workplace performance and workplace relationships.
- Is able to briefly describe the above-mentioned work-related matters, workplace performance and workplace relationships in a paragraph.

16. Professional Experience and Describing the Workplace

- Understands relatively complex questions and descriptions concerning professions, work experience and the workplace environment.
- These include, for example, experiences related to job searching and employment, the current professional situation and its evaluation, changes in job responsibilities, recruitment and job applications, performance evaluations and job interviews, other human-resources-related situations, as well as the work environment and working conditions.

- Is able to ask and answer relatively complex questions concerning the above-mentioned professional and work experiences and the workplace environment.
- Is able to relatively fluently describe professional and work experiences they are familiar with, as well as information concerning the workplace.
- Understands general descriptions of the above-mentioned situations in résumés and workplace information materials.
- Is able to briefly describe work experience, professional information or the workplace environment in a paragraph.

17. Describing the Environment

- Understands relatively complex questions and descriptions concerning the natural environment during everyday conversations, excursions, sightseeing and similar situations.
- These include, for example, geographical features of the Earth, oceans and forests; climatic conditions in different regions and their effects; characteristics of animals and plants such as tigers, bears and trees; natural landscapes of forests and oceans; and knowledge concerning stars, clouds, weather and other natural phenomena.
- Is able to ask friends, family members, tour guides, etc. relatively complex questions concerning the natural environment and answer them based on their own knowledge.
- Is able to give a general description of a familiar natural phenomenon or environmental condition.
- Understands general short texts describing natural phenomena or environmental conditions.
- Is able to briefly describe a natural phenomenon or environmental condition in a paragraph, such as an animal or an experience related to an unusual weather phenomenon.

18. Environmental Protection in Everyday Life

- Understands relatively complex questions and descriptions concerning environmental conditions and environmental protection in everyday life.
- These include, for example, the general state of the environment, environmental pollution, environmental protection practices, attitudes towards environmental protection and relevant legislation.
- Is able to ask others relatively complex questions concerning environmental conditions and environmental protection in everyday life, and answer them based on their own knowledge.
- Is able to give a general description of their knowledge and experiences concerning environmental conditions, environmental protection and environmental initiatives in everyday life.
- Understands general descriptions, stories, informational materials and awareness notices concerning environmental conditions and environmental protection in everyday life.
- Is able to briefly describe knowledge concerning environmental protection in everyday life in a paragraph, such as a community environmental program, an environmental experience or several environmentally friendly practices.

19. New Technologies and Scientific Achievements

- Understands general questions concerning the use of new technologies, popular science knowledge and scientific achievements in everyday conversations, and is able to introduce a familiar new technology, popular science topic or scientific achievement.
- These include, for example, new technologies such as QR-code payments and drones, new technologies appearing in everyday life, practical scientific knowledge, and simple research findings and discoveries.
- Is able to ask others general questions concerning the use of new technologies, popular science knowledge and scientific achievements, and answer general questions based on their own knowledge.

- Is able to give a general description of the above-mentioned topics and express personal opinions about them.
- Understands simple descriptions of the use of new technologies, popular science knowledge and scientific achievements.
- Is able to briefly express knowledge and opinions concerning the use of new technologies in a paragraph, for example by describing personal experiences and opinions concerning the impact of a new technological service on everyday life.

20. Major Provinces, Cities and Ethnic Groups of China

- Understands general questions concerning major provinces, cities or ethnic groups of China, as well as general descriptions of them.
- These include, for example, China's capital, major cities in different provinces, and characteristics, distribution and geographical locations of certain ethnic groups.
- Is able to give a general description of a major province or city in China, such as Beijing or Yunnan.
- Understands simple descriptions of major provinces, cities or ethnic groups of China.

21. Economy

- Understands relatively complex questions and descriptions concerning economic phenomena in everyday life, such as popular products, new forms of commerce and the economic situation.
- These include, for example, a recently popular product and its characteristics and sales situation; new forms of commerce such as online stores, sales through short videos and home-delivery services; as well as the current state, problems and future development of the economy.
- Is able to ask relatively complex questions concerning the above-mentioned economic phenomena and answer them based on their own knowledge.

- Is able to give a general description of familiar economic phenomena and express personal opinions about them in a relatively complex manner.
- Understands general descriptions of popular products, new forms of commerce and the economic situation.
- Is able to briefly express knowledge concerning the above-mentioned economic phenomena in a paragraph, for example by introducing a new product or describing an experience with purchasing something through a short video.

22. Society

- Understands relatively complex questions and descriptions concerning views on life, online life, fashionable and popular phenomena, and other social phenomena.
- These include, for example, attitudes towards relationships and marriage, consumption habits and consumer attitudes, forms and effects of online life, and certain social phenomena that have become popular.
- Is able to ask relatively complex questions concerning the above-mentioned social phenomena and answer them based on their own knowledge.
- Is able to give a general description of familiar social phenomena and related situations and express personal opinions about them.
- Understands general articles concerning the above-mentioned social phenomena.
- Is able to briefly express knowledge concerning the above-mentioned social phenomena in a paragraph, for example by describing their own online life or a newly established urban library.

23. Artistic and Cultural Genres, Programs and Works

- Understands relatively complex questions and descriptions concerning artistic and cultural genres, cultural and artistic events, and the creators and works of art.

- These include, for example, the general plot of a novel, film or play; cultural or artistic performances and competitions; and singers, writers, artists or other creators and their works.
- Is able to ask others general questions about the above-mentioned artistic and cultural genres, programs, creators and works, and answer such questions based on their own knowledge.
- Is able to give a general description of an artistic or cultural genre, a cultural or artistic event, or a creator and their works.
- Understands general descriptions of artistic and cultural genres, cultural and artistic events, and creators and their works.
- Is able to briefly express knowledge and impressions concerning an artistic or cultural genre, cultural or artistic event, creator or their works in a paragraph, for example by introducing a favorite novel, film or writer.

24. Sports and Sporting Competitions

- Understands relatively complex questions and descriptions concerning sports, sporting competitions, athletes and stories related to sports.
- These include, for example, the characteristics of sports such as table tennis and volleyball; the progress of competitions, results and awards, athletes' performances; and important figures in certain sports and stories related to them.
- Is able to ask friends, family members, etc. relatively complex questions concerning table tennis, volleyball and other sports, sporting competitions, athletes and sports stories, and answer such questions based on their own knowledge.
- Is able to give a general description of table tennis, volleyball and other sports, related competitions, and associated athletes and stories.
- Understands general descriptions of the above-mentioned sports, competitions, athletes and sports stories.
- Is able to briefly describe the above-mentioned sports, competitions or stories about athletes in a paragraph, for example by introducing a favorite sport or a memorable competition.

25. Stories of Friendly Relations Between China and Other Countries

- Understands when a conversation partner gives a relatively complex account of stories concerning friendly relations between China and other countries and their effects.
- These include, for example, sister-city and sister-school relationships, international friendships, experiences of studying abroad, and experiences in Chinese-language competitions.
- Is able to give a general description of a story about friendly relations between China and another country and their effects, and express impressions concerning it.
- Understands short stories about friendly relations between China and other countries.
- Is able to briefly describe a story about friendly relations between China and another country in a paragraph, for example a relationship with a Chinese friend or an experience of studying abroad.

26. Common Chinese Idioms, Sayings and Quotations

- Understands when others introduce common Chinese idioms and quotations in everyday conversations.
- Is able to give a general description of several common Chinese idioms or quotations and their main meanings.
- Understands short texts introducing or explaining common Chinese idioms and quotations.

27. Traditional Food Culture

- Understands relatively complex descriptions given by friends, classmates, teachers, etc. concerning traditional Chinese attitudes towards food, regional culinary characteristics in different parts of China, traditional shops and brands, and other aspects of traditional Chinese food culture.

- These include, for example, Chinese dining etiquette, the cultural significance of certain foods, characteristic flavors of different regional cuisines, and the history of a traditional shop or time-honored brand that has operated for more than 100 years.
- Is able to give a general description of the above-mentioned aspects of traditional Chinese food culture to friends, classmates, teachers, etc., based on their own knowledge.
- Understands general descriptions of traditional Chinese food culture.
- Is able to briefly describe the traditional food culture or eating habits of China or another country in a paragraph.

28. Traditions and Customs

- Understands relatively complex descriptions given by friends, classmates, teachers, etc. concerning customs associated with traditional Chinese festivals, important traditions of Chinese culture, regional traditions, etiquette in interpersonal relationships and other aspects of Chinese folk traditions.
- These include, for example, customs associated with the Spring Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival and other festivals; Chinese kung fu, Peking opera and other distinctive Chinese cultural traditions; folk customs and taboos; and etiquette in relationships with friends, elders and teachers.
- Is able to give a general description of the above-mentioned Chinese folk traditions and customs to friends, classmates, teachers, etc. based on their own knowledge.
- Understands general short texts about the above-mentioned Chinese folk traditions and customs.
- Is able to briefly describe a traditional custom of China or another country in a paragraph.

29. Places of Interest and Historical Sites

- Understands general descriptions of Chinese places of interest or historical sites given by friends, classmates, teachers, etc. These include, for example, Tiananmen Square and the Great Wall.
- Is able to give a general description of a Chinese place of interest or historical site to friends, classmates, teachers, etc. based on their own knowledge.
- Understands general short texts introducing Chinese places of interest or historical sites.
- Is able to briefly describe a Chinese place of interest or historical site in a paragraph.

30. Historical Figures and Historical Events

- Understands general descriptions of Chinese historical figures or historical events given by friends, classmates, teachers, etc. These include, for example, Confucius and Laozi.
- Is able to give a general description of a Chinese historical figure or historical event and related information to friends, classmates, teachers, etc. based on their own knowledge.
- Understands general short texts introducing Chinese historical figures or historical events.