

## **Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK)**

The new HSK test, launched by Hanban is an effort to boost the learning rate of the Chinese language students. This state of the art examination is the result of coordinated efforts by elite experts from different disciplines including Chinese teachings, linguistics, psychologists and educational measurements. Moreover, this examination format combines the advantages of the original HSK whilst taking into account the most recent trends of the Chinese language training and learning. It is an international standardized exam that tests and rates Chinese language proficiency. It assesses non-native Chinese speakers' abilities in using the Chinese language in their daily, academic and professional lives.

### **Test Structure**

HSK consists of six levels, namely the HSK (level I), HSK (level II), HSK (level III), HSK (level IV), HSK (level V), and HSK (level VI).

### **II. Test Levels**

The levels of the new HSK correspond to the levels of the Chinese Language Proficiency Scales for Speakers of Other Languages (CLPS) and the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEF) as follows:

Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level I) can understand and use very simple Chinese words and phrases, meets the basic needs for communication and possess the ability to further their Chinese language studies.

Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level II) have an excellent grasp of basic Chinese and is able to communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters.

Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level III) can communicate in Chinese at a basic level in their daily, academic and professional lives. They can manage most communication in Chinese when travelling in China.

Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level IV) can converse in Chinese on a wide range of topics and are able to communicate fluently with native Chinese speakers.

Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level V) can read Chinese newspapers and magazines, enjoy and understand Chinese films and plays, and give a full-length speech in Chinese.

Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level VI) can easily comprehend written and spoken information in Chinese and can effectively express themselves in Chinese, both orally and on paper.

### **III. Test Principles**

The new HSK follows the principle of "test-teaching correlation", bases the design of the test on the current trends in international Chinese language training, which is related to the textbooks. The purpose of the test is to "promote training through testing" and "promote learning through testing". The new HSK emphasizes the objectivity and accuracy of the evaluation and stresses the learners' actual Chinese language abilities.

The new HSK sets clear test objectives to allow the test takers to be able to improve their Chinese language abilities in a systematic and efficient way.

### **IV. Testing Purposes**

The new HSK retains the former HSK's orientation as a general (or universal) Chinese language abilities test for adult learners. The results of the test can serve several purposes:

1. A reference for an educational institution's decision-making concerning recruiting students, assigning students to different classes, allowing students to skip certain courses and granting students academic credits.
2. A reference for employers' decision-making concerning the recruitment, training and promotion of test takers.
3. A method for Chinese language learners to assess and improve their proficiency in the Chinese Language.
4. A method for Chinese language training institutions to evaluate training results and give advice from there.

### **V. Results Certificate**

Test takers will receive the results for the new HSK issued by Hanban within one month after the test.