

Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure™
Test Objectives
Field 29: Chinese (Mandarin)

SUBAREAS:

LISTENING COMPREHENSION
READING COMPREHENSION
LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGE STRUCTURES
CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING
WRITTEN EXPRESSION
ORAL EXPRESSION

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

0001 Derive essential information from oral messages in the target language.

For example: understanding a question or comment likely to be encountered in a social situation; understanding the main idea or details in a spoken passage; understanding a telephone message or public address announcement; and understanding a sequence of steps described in a set of oral directions.

0002 Infer meaning from oral communications in the target language.

For example: characterizing the tone, mood, or point of view of one or more speakers; analyzing a relationship (e.g., cause-and-effect) implied but not stated in an oral communication; and analyzing the social context of a spoken exchange or the relationship between speakers.

READING COMPREHENSION

0003 Understand the literal content of a variety of authentic materials in the target language.

For example: analyzing a passage to determine the stated main idea or an accurate summary; discerning details regarding character, setting, or events described in a passage; and analyzing a passage to determine the sequence of events.

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0004 Apply skills of inference and interpretation in a variety of authentic materials in the target language.

For example: making inferences about setting or character from information provided in a passage; discerning implied cause-and-effect relations in a passage; inferring an author's assumptions, purpose, or point of view in a passage; and interpreting figurative language (e.g., metaphors, similes) in a literary passage.

LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGE STRUCTURES

0005 Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of language and language acquisition.

For example: applying general concepts of the nature of language; analyzing the communication process using concepts and strategies associated with pragmatics and discourse analysis; and applying knowledge of theories and processes of first- and second-language acquisition.

0006 Transform sentences or passages in the target language according to given instructions.

For example: transforming a positive statement, question, or comment to a negative one, or vice versa; transforming the tense or mood of a sentence or passage; transforming a sentence or passage from direct to indirect discourse, or vice versa; and combining two or more sentences into one sentence that preserves the meaning of the original sentences.

0007 Analyze sentences in the target language to determine grammatically correct words or phrases to complete them.

For example: using the correct noun or pronoun form or particle for a given context; using verb forms or phrases as appropriate for a given context; using the appropriate modifying word or phrase to complete a sentence; and using the appropriate subordinate clause to complete a sentence.

0008 Revise written passages in the target language to correct errors in structure and syntax that interfere with accurate communication.

For example: selecting revisions to correct inappropriate use of tenses, forms, or constructions.

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CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

0009 Understand major developments in the history of cultures associated with the target language and the cultural significance of those developments.

For example: analyzing the role of major historical events and figures in the development of cultures associated with the target language; understanding major political, economic, social, and cultural trends and developments that have shaped the history of cultures associated with the target language and analyzing their historical and contemporary significance; and analyzing the nature and significance of historical interactions between the cultures associated with the target language and other cultures.

0010 Understand geographic, economic, social, and political features of contemporary cultures associated with the target language, including the ways in which values influence these features.

For example: relating natural geographic features (e.g., climate, location, natural resources) of nations using the target language to the economies of these nations (e.g., mineral and agricultural products, commercial relations with other nations); analyzing major features of the economic systems of nations using the target language (e.g., the roles of free-market institutions or central planning); understanding key features and processes associated with governmental institutions of nations using the target language and their historical or cultural significance; and understanding characteristic features of daily life in nations in which the target language is the major vehicle of communication.

0011 Understand literature, the nonliterary arts, science, and technology as aspects of cultures associated with the target language.

For example: recognizing major movements, writers, and works in the literature of the target language and understanding their cultural significance; understanding characteristic forms and elements of the visual arts and music of cultures associated with the target language and their cultural significance; and recognizing scientific and technological achievements (historical or contemporary) of cultures associated with the target language and understanding their cultural significance.

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WRITTEN EXPRESSION

- 0012 Write a well-organized passage in the target language that is appropriate in style and diction for a given audience, purpose, and occasion and that communicates a message effectively through use of a range of vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and simple and complex linguistic constructions.**

For example: a letter to a professor requesting a recommendation for a particular job or program of study, including the writer's reasons for being interested in the job or academic program; an account describing to a teacher or other acquaintance the reasoning behind a significant personal decision; or a letter of thanks written to an appropriate audience in the target culture (e.g., a family with whom the writer has spent a summer as an exchange student).

ORAL EXPRESSION

- 0013 In response to a prompt, construct connected oral discourse in the target language that communicates a message effectively and that demonstrates command of a range of vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and simple and complex linguistic structures.**

For example: describing events or actions in tenses appropriate to the task; discussing advantages and disadvantages of an idea or proposed course of action; or responding to a hypothetical situation (e.g., a traffic accident) by explaining or describing events or by requesting assistance.