新汉语水平考试
(New HSK/Chinese Proficiency Test)

The Perth HSK Test Centre at the Confucius Institute at
The University of Western Australia

1. Introduction to the New HSK

In order to better meet the demand for adequate Chinese language tests in foreign countries, Hanban (the Headquarter of Confucius Institute) has consulted a large number of both foreign and national experts in language teaching, linguistics, educational evaluation and psychology to assess the standard of Chinese language testing abroad. Taking into consideration the differences between professional learners and non-professional learners as well as the differences between learners living in China and learners residing overseas, incorporating the advantages of the former HSK and making use of the latest findings in global language testing, the NEW HSK is an international standardized Chinese language ability test based on the Chinese Language Proficiency Scales for Speakers of Other Languages. It is the only official Chinese Government recognized Chinese proficiency test (designed and developed by the HSK Center of Beijing Language and Culture University). The Chinese Ministry of Education has established the China National Committee for Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK) (CNCCPT). The Committee is the supervisor of HSK and the issuer of the Chinese proficiency certificates.

i. The New HSK Test Structure

The new HSK is an international standardized exam that tests and rates Chinese language proficiency. It assesses non-native speakers’ abilities in using the Chinese language in their daily, academic and professional lives. The new HSK consists of a written test and an oral test, which are independent of each other. There are six levels of written tests, namely the HSK (Level 1), HSK (Level 2), HSK (Level 3), HSK (Level 4), HSK (Level 5) and HSK (Level 6). There are three levels of oral tests, namely the HSK (beginner level), HSK (intermediate level) and HSK (advanced level). During the oral test, test takers speeches will be recorded.
ii. The New HSK Test Levels

The different levels of the NEW HSK are similar to some of the levels in the Chinese Language Proficiency Scales for speakers of Other Languages (CLPS) and the Common European Framework Reference (CEF); details are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New HSK</th>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
<th>CLPS</th>
<th>CEF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HSK- Level 6</td>
<td>Over 5000</td>
<td>Level V</td>
<td>C2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSK- Level 5</td>
<td>2500</td>
<td>Level IV</td>
<td>C1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSK- Level 4</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>Level III</td>
<td>B2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSK- Level 3</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>Level II</td>
<td>B1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSK- Level 2</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>Level I</td>
<td>A2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSK- Level 1</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level 1) can understand and use very simple Chinese phrases meet basic needs for communication and possess the ability to further their Chinese language studies.

b. Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level 2) have an excellent grasp of basic Chinese and can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters.

c. Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level 3) can communicate in Chinese at a basic level in their daily, academic and professional lives. They can manage most communication in Chinese when traveling in China.

d. Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level 4) can converse in Chinese on a wide range of topics and are able to communicate fluently with native Chinese speakers.

e. Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level 5) can read Chinese newspapers and magazines, enjoy Chinese films and plays, and give a full-length speech in Chinese.

f. Test takers who are able to pass the HSK (Level 6) can easily comprehend written and spoken information in Chinese and can effectively express themselves in Chinese both orally and on paper.
iii. The New HSK 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, and is closely related to 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 taker to be able to improve their Chinese language abilities in a systematic and efficient way.

iv. The New HSK Test 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:

a. A reference for an educational institution’s decision-making concerning recruiting students, assigning students to different classes, allowing students to skip certain courses and giving students’ academic credits.
b. A reference for employers’ decision-making concerning the recruitment, training and promotion of test takers.
d. A method for Chinese language training institutions to evaluate training results.

v. The New HSK Test Scores Report and Certificate
Within one month after the tests, the test takers can log on the Chinese Testing website at www.chinesetesting.cn, and type in his/her Test Admission Ticket number and name to look up his/her score.

The test sponsor will send the HSK Score Reports to the test centers in one month after the test.

The test taker can either collect the Score Report by showing his/her Test Admission Ticket to the test center.

The result of the HSK is long term available. But as a Chinese language proficiency certificate for foreign students entering Chinese Colleges and universities, the scores of the HSK are valid for two years from the test date.

vi. The Chinese Test Scholarship and Summer Camp
The test takers who are non-Chinese citizens with outstanding scores may be awarded with the Confucius Institute Scholarships. Winners will be granted scholarship to study in China for one academic year, one semester or one month respectively.

To encourage the positivity of overseas students to learn Chinese and take part in Chinese Test, Hanban set up a project Chinese Test Summer Camp from 2008. All test takers who take the above-mentioned tests abroad are eligible to apply for the Chinese Test Summer Camp.