



CENTER FOR LANGUAGE
EDUCATION AND COOPERATION
中外语言交流合作中心



BRITISH
COUNCIL

**2022 'Chinese Bridge'
Mandarin Speaking Competition
for UK Schools**

Competition Guide

1st Feb 2022

2022 'Chinese Bridge' Mandarin Speaking Competition for UK Schools
Competition Guide

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Introduction

2022 is the first year for the 'Chinese Bridge' Mandarin Speaking Competition for UK Secondary School students to be organised by Centre for Language Education and Cooperation UK Office (CLEC UK) with the support from the British Council. As previous years, we invite students to showcase their talents in the language, to be judged by a national panel of fluent Mandarin speakers.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, this year the competition will take place again online as 2021, but with the same aim of increasing motivation to learn the language, develop vocabulary and improve pronunciation, raise confidence for oral exams, and inspire students to discover more about the Chinese culture.

The student will be asked to give a short presentation, and then interact with the judging panel in Mandarin, according to their level of learning.

Students must prepare their own presentations, with only teacher corrections.

Presentations may last up to a maximum of 2 minutes.

A. Individual Language Ability Competition 2022

Individual learners of Mandarin to present to an online panel of judges, communicating at a language level appropriate to their learning. Presentation, two questions from judges following presentation, and three translation sentences or a scenario. National online heats are followed by online finals, with the winners being announced at a National Celebration Event Day in June 2022.

1. Categories

The link teacher (applicant teacher who is the main link between the school and the Mandarin Speaking Competition) should ensure the students are entered for their appropriate category level. This competition is for fun, to encourage the spark of learning, and allow children to shine and show off their language skills. This should be done within the appropriate category, to be fair to them, their learning, and to other competitors. Also, much preparation work is done to benchmark and standardise judging according to the exposure and amount of teaching each child has had.

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Check what year the student started learning Mandarin, combined with how many hours of Mandarin are taught as curriculum time per week. This gives the category for them. Any extra hours the student undertakes themselves as private learning should not be included as curriculum time.

Category	Number of years of learning Mandarin	Number of hours Mandarin taught per week	Format of competition - HEATS
Beginner	1 year (started after August 2020*)	1 to 2 classroom hours per week	<p>Student gives a 2 mins pre-prepared oral presentation</p> <p>Judges ask 2 questions relating to the presentation in Mandarin</p> <p>3 sentences for translation from English to Mandarin</p>
Beginner Plus	1 year (started after August 2020)	3+ classroom hours per week	<p>Student gives a 2 mins pre-prepared oral presentation</p> <p>Judges ask 2 questions relating to the presentation in Mandarin</p> <p>3 sentences for translation from English to Mandarin</p>
Intermediate	2 – 3 years (started between August 2018 and August 2020)	1 to 2 classroom hours per week	<p>Student gives a 2 mins pre-prepared oral presentation,</p> <p>Judges ask 2 questions relating to the presentation in Mandarin</p> <p>A scenario will be given in English which will require students to respond in Mandarin. 45 seconds to prepare and up to 1 minute to speak</p>
Intermediate Plus	2 – 3 years (started between August 2018 and August 2020)	3+ classroom hours per week	<p>Student gives a 2 mins pre-prepared oral presentation,</p> <p>Judges ask 2 questions relating to the presentation in Mandarin</p> <p>A scenario will be given in English which will require students to</p>

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			respond in Mandarin. 45 seconds to prepare and up to 1 minute to speak
Advanced	4+ years (started before August 2018)	Variable	<p>Student gives a 2 mins pre-prepared oral presentation,</p> <p>Judges ask 2 questions relating to the presentation in Mandarin</p> <p>3 sentences for translation from English to Mandarin</p> <p>A topic will be given which will require students to give an impromptu speech in Mandarin. 1 minute to prepare and up to 1 minute to speak</p>

* This represents the start of the new school year. Schools in Scotland start in August.

Heats and Finals

Heats are open to all schools who register and whose students meet the eligibility criteria (see below). Maximum of one entry per category per school, which makes a total maximum of 5 students for the individual presentations (i.e. each school can have one entry each for the beginner and beginner plus categories and one entry each for the intermediate and intermediate plus categories and one entry for the advanced category) The competition will comprise of stages – open heats, then the finals. The winner of each category will be announced at the live Celebration event in June 2022.

2. Eligibility

The competition is open to students that have been studying the language for at least one year, from the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man secondary schools, sixth form and further education colleges. Entrants must be non-native speakers of Mandarin Chinese.

Students in the competition may not:

1. have a native Chinese* speaking parent or be from a Chinese* speaking household; (*any Chinese language/dialect)
2. have spent more than a total of two years in a country where Chinese* is an official language. (*any Chinese language/dialect)

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3. have spent more than a total of 30 days in a Chinese* speaking country per year since beginning their Mandarin studies (*any Chinese language/ dialect)
4. have previously been the winner (or the runner-up awarded the prize if the winner could not take it) in any category of the Individual Language Ability or Group section.

3. Timeline

Competition Stage	Timeframe
Applications open	14 th February- 13 th March
Booking your slot for the heats*	28 th March- 4 th April
Receiving your invitation link via email	22 nd April
Individual Heats competition on Zoom	25 th to 29 th April
Video submission deadline	30 th April
Finalist for individuals and groups will be contacted* with Finals Heats criteria	6 th May
Receiving your Finals invitation link via email	16 th May
Individual and Groups Finals Week	23 rd to 25 th May
National Ceremony Day	1 st June

**communicated via email*

4. How to Apply

The application form is online and can be found at this link here: <https://www.powr.io/form-builder/i/31491282#page> Make sure you have read all the relevant documents and attachments (including parental consent forms etc.) and have them signed and ready to submit by the deadline.

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The application is open from 14th February to 13th March 2022.

5. Technical checks and drop-in sessions

The online competition will be using [Zoom](#), the software used by CLEC UK. You can find more information about how to use Zoom [here](#), as well as the standards for data protection etc. Consider downloading the Zoom App on a mobile phone as a plan B back up in case connection goes wrong on the day.

If there are Wi-Fi/internet connection problems, consider tethering a mobile phone.

There will be drop-in support sessions before the competition where you can join and test your equipment/connection and ask technical questions. This will be especially useful if you have never used Zoom before – we can show you all the functions and you can practice how to access online. The details of these support sessions will be communicated in the Joining Instructions via email, once your place in the competition has been confirmed.

6. Joining instructions

Once you have submitted your application form and all the attachments, and they have been checked and verified by the CLEC UK team to meet the competition criteria, the link teacher will receive Joining Instructions via email. This will include:

- A link to the Eventbrite pages for you to choose your online competition slot for the week of 25th April. This link will only go live on 28th March, and will close on 4th April, to allow the team time to organise the competition.
- A step-by-step guide of how to sign up for the Eventbrite slot
- Details of two prior drop-in support sessions at end of March and in mid-April for those not familiar with Zoom
- More details of the finals' sessions on 23rd to 25th May
- More details of the final celebration day on 1st June

7. On the day of the competition

1. Joining from school

Give yourselves time to set up space and equipment. You and the competing student should arrive 10 mins early, before your chosen timeslot start time.

The teacher will be emailed a Zoom link by 22nd April at the latest. Click on the Zoom link to join the competition of that timeslot. Five or six schools will be sharing the same one hour timeslot.

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If your Wi-Fi or internet connection is not working well, consider tethering a mobile phone, or downloading the Zoom App.

If you are having any problems with your Wi-Fi or Zoom connection, email us on MSCompetition@clecuk.org or phone us (phone number will be given once you have chosen your slot). There might be a possibility of reallocating your entry to the end of that session or rearranging the timeslot for another day/time.

A CLEC UK staff member will greet you online in the 'Competition Room'. Once all schools have arrived, the session will be locked to any other people joining. The CLEC UK staff member will explain the running order and go round with all the students to test their cameras and microphones. Competition slots will be given to students in alphabetical order within the hour. Five or six schools will share a one-hour time slot for one panel of 3 judges. The students will meet the judges in the 'Competition Room'. While one student is doing the competition, other students of the same hour time slot can watch the competition as audience.

At the beginning of the competition, the student shall introduce themselves to the lead judge by telling the lead judge their name and their school. When they introduce themselves to the judges, this is the only personal information that should be shared, apart from presentation and discussion in Mandarin, which is part of the judged competition.

There will be at least three judges on each panel, each of whom is fluent in Mandarin. They will be scoring the student against the competition criteria.

When the student has finished their 10-minute competition slot, they can stay in the 'Competition Room' to watch other students' competition as audience. When the one-hour competition session finishes, all students and the link teachers should press the red 'Leave' button to totally quit the session.

Following the heats, judges' scores will be collated and moderated, and results will be communicated to link teachers by email by 6th May 2022. If your student has been successful in reaching the finals the teacher should then select the slot for their schools' final session online using Eventbrite again, before 12th May 2022. Confirmation of the finals' slots, together with a Zoom online link, will be emailed to the link teacher by 16th May 2022.

2. If the student cannot be at school on the day of the online competition, here are the steps to follow for how to compete remotely:

- Follow your own school rules for online safety. The student should use your school's IT guidance to join the competition online from home, if they have to.
- If students normally have to blank their video for school lessons, they can do it also for the competition. Although it is recommended that cameras are on so the judges can see the students converse.

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- The link teacher will receive an individual web link for the online competition slot. You should forward this to the student at home (using the normal channels that you communicate for schoolwork).
- All under-18s have to have an accompanying adult with them in the room during the whole competition session while they are presenting to the judges, as they are unknown adults. This can be either a parent/guardian (in person) or you as accompanying teacher (joining online at the same time as the student to the competition link and staying for the whole time).
- When the student has finished their 10-minute competition slot, they can stay to watch the competition of the hour as audience. When the one-hour competition session finishes, both the student and the teacher should press the red 'Leave' button to quit the session.

8. Judges

The Competition will be judged by an experienced group of judges, many of whom have been judging the Competition for some years. Judges are either native Chinese Mandarin speakers, or fluent second language Mandarin Speakers. Judges have been sourced from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and judging panels for each category will consist of up to 3 judges and represent all region of the UK as far as possible. Here are some of the organisations involved in the competition this year:

- IOE, Confucius Institute for Schools, at University College London
- Confucius Institute at Ulster University
- Confucius Institute at Cardiff University
- SCILT, Scotland's National Centre for Languages/Strathclyde University

9. Scoring criteria

The judges are looking for real communication and presentation not rehearsed performance. The winner of each category will be someone who has really got to grips with the Mandarin language appropriate to their level of learning.

Each individual will be assessed by three independent judges who are fluent in Mandarin, each scoring against the following criteria:

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Element	Area scored	Detail
1. Short Presentation (20 points in total)	Communication (5 points)	Students will be judged on the richness of the message conveyed and the extent to which they demonstrate understanding of that message. Students should be a bit adventurous, but not to the point where they do not understand what they are saying. Students who tackle subjects that are well outside their life experience may have difficulty expressing themselves.
	Fluency (5 points)	The judges will of course take into account students feeling nervous on the day. However, there should be evidence that candidates can speak fluently without too much memorisation; students who learn their presentation by heart are likely to become lost if they forget their lines. Judges want to see students who can improvise on the basis of the language they know, and their own interests.
	Vocab and grammar (5 points)	Vocabulary and grammatical structures should be appropriate to the experience of the student. However, within the range of their own experience, they should find interesting, exciting ways of describing, explaining and expressing opinions. Dictionary-type lists should be avoided: vocabulary should be integrated into a meaningful discourse. Students should not use vocabulary or sentence structures outside their ability range as this would suggest teacher involvement. Perfect grammar is not necessary, as long as structures are mainly Chinese, rather than English.
	Pronunciation (5 points)	It is important that pronunciation is comprehensible and is clear enough for a sympathetic native speaker of Mandarin to understand. This includes vowels, consonants, tones and stress patterns. A few wrong tones and wrong segments can be forgiven, but candidates should avoid pronouncing pinyin as if it were English because this makes communication ineffective. In previous years the

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		pronunciation has implied that many students have memorised the pinyin version of their presentation.
	Question(s) following the presentation (possibility to reduce score)	<p>Students will be asked two questions in Mandarin by one member of the judging panel following their presentation. The aim of the questions will be to check that students understand and can talk about what they have said in their presentation and have not merely learnt it by heart. Judges will ask the questions sympathetically and will not be trying to catch students out. Students must answer in Mandarin and answers should be more than a few words.</p> <p>If a student's answers indicate that their ability in Mandarin is considerably lower than that shown in their presentation – suggesting a lot of teacher involvement and/or learning by heart – the judges will reduce the score awarded for the presentation.</p>
2. Translation	Three sentences from English to Mandarin. Not shared in advance. (20 points: 6 points per sentence, bonus 2 points if all 3 sentences are correct)	<p>This section indicates very clearly the level a student has reached.</p> <p>Even if students cannot translate the whole sentence, they should still attempt to translate the parts they know.</p> <p>N.B. If a student is unable to translate very simple sentences, but presents very complex ideas in their prepared presentation, the judges might suspect that their speech has been learned by heart.</p>
3. Scenario (INTERMEDIATE only)	A total out of 20 marks will be awarded for this section, with a maximum of 5 marks being awarded for each of communication,	<p>A scenario will appear on the screen in English which will require students to respond in Mandarin e.g., "You're staying with a Chinese family to have a lot of questions about your life in the UK. Tell them about your school/holidays/family/home etc."</p> <p>They will be given 45 seconds to think about what they want to say, during which time they make notes</p>

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	fluency, usage and pronunciation.	but will not be able to confer with anyone else. They will then have up to one minute to speak.
4. Impromptu speech ADVANCED ONLY	A total out of 20 marks will be awarded for this section, with a maximum of 5 marks being awarded for each of communication, fluency, usage and pronunciation.	Students will be given a topic in Mandarin (in characters, pinyin and translated into English) e.g. "My favourite actor" The stimulus sentence or phrase will be based on common knowledge. No specialist knowledge or vocabulary will be pre-supposed – it is up to the competitor to make their speech interesting and individual. They will be given one minute to think about what they want to say, during which time they may make notes but will not be able to confer with anyone else. They will then have up to one minute to give an impromptu speech starting with the given sentence or phrase.

Scores of the three judges will be averaged and moderated in a meeting after all heats have taken place. The top-ranked students will be invited to the finals.

An email will be sent to the link teacher, who signed up for the individual competition session, with details of the finals.

The results of the finals will be announced at the live Celebration event in June. Third place, second place, and the first placed winner will be announced for each of the five categories.

10. Safeguarding

THE ACCOMPANYING TEACHER MUST FOLLOW THEIR OWN SCHOOL'S CHILD PROTECTION, BEHAVIOURAL STANDARDS, SAFEGUARDING and IT REGULATIONS

The teacher will be the designated accompanying adult for all under-18s in the competition and must physically be in the same room with the students at all times. The only exception to this is if the child is self-isolating and has to access the competition online from home – see notes above on this.

The student will be interacting with the CLEC UK team members and the panel of judges. These are unknown adults to the student. The accompanying teacher is responsible for ensuring the safety, comfort, and behaviour of the student in this interaction.

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Make sure you follow your own school's procedures for safeguarding and child protection, as well as for Coronavirus related regulations etc. If you need other adults in the room, please arrange for that.

The accompanying teacher is responsible for organising a safe space and equipment for the student to be able to join the competition online.

The space should be prepared and made safe, with no trip hazards (including computer cables etc.). The student should be able to face the camera, with head and shoulders in the shot, so their voice can be heard by the judges – please use a microphone where possible.

The teacher will receive the link to connect using Zoom and it must be the teachers (not the student) that connect and join the online 'Competition Room' at the time of the competition. Students must not connect independently without the accompanying teacher in the same room as them.

The chat function will be enabled on Zoom. This is a channel of communication between the teacher and the CLEC UK team, in case of technical problems or needed clarifications related to how the competition works. It can be used to report anything you don't feel comfortable or safe about. You can use the private chat message function on Zoom to communicate with the CLEC UK team.

Anyone (teacher, student, parent) that would like to report something they don't feel comfortable or safe about can also directly contact the CLEC UK organising team on MSCompetition@clecuk.org.

Do not share the questions or topics from the judges' panel online or in social media, as other entrants might see them in advance, and this will undermine the competition process.

11. Special Needs

Please make us aware of any special requirements you or your students need while submitting your **application** and we will do what we can to accommodate your needs. You can also email us at MSCompetition@clecuk.org with plenty of time for us to help support you.

12. Some Useful Tips

- Room / Space. Find a room at school where there is good internet/Wi-Fi connection and you won't be interrupted (other students coming in and out, school bell ringing etc.) and external noise is minimised.
- The student's head and shoulders are visible on the screen. They should be between 1 - 4 metres away from the device

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- Think about acoustics and echo –can the student be heard well through the device?
- We recommend using a plain or generic background image if you want to keep your background private. Alternatively, you can blur the background.
- Preferably use a laptop/computer that will connect to Zoom using video. Find the download link for Zoom in section 5 above.
- If using a mobile phone, make sure it's propped on a still surface and is landscape
- Consider using a microphone (or headphones with a microphone) so the voice is clearer
- For Intermediate / Advanced categories: Think about a table, paper and pens for students to use to draft ideas for the scenarios and impromptu speeches.
- Use your school email address to access Zoom, not a private email.
- Make sure any phone calls are made from a blocked number so teachers' personal contact details are not visible.
- Encourage students to think about presentation and communication skills (see students' guide for more ideas on this)
- Have at least one run-through with students using the equipment. Their focus and attention should be on their Mandarin, not on how to use a new microphone.
- The CLEC UK team is offering a couple of technical briefing sessions before the competition, for teachers to familiarise themselves with using Zoom. Please take advantage of those to ask questions and try out the interface.

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B. Group Entries Video Guide 2022

As the Mandarin Speaking competition goes online, we are also keeping open the Group presentation category. In the past before 2021 this has been in the format of a play that includes modern or traditional Chinese culture such as songs, dance, martial arts etc.

This year it will be run a little differently, but with the same aim of increasing motivation to learn the language, develop vocabulary and improve pronunciation, raise confidence for oral exams and inspire students to discover more about modern or traditional Chinese culture.

A group video/performance must be: in Mandarin and it includes Chinese cultural aspects (modern or traditional); maximum 4 minutes long; written and performed by a group of 4 or 5 students; submitted uploaded on Vimeo (or other similar online platforms). The links to the videos, together with the script that the students write and perform, should be submitted using the online form <https://www.powr.io/form-builder/i/31489161#page> before 18h00 on **30th April 2022**.

The Group Video competition this year consists of submitting minimum 1 and maximum 2 videos per school. You can choose to enter both or one of the Group Video entry levels (beginner and Intermediate) based on your students' ability and can submit maximum 1 video per category.

Entry levels are:

- Beginner
- Intermediate

Your submitted video will be examined by at least 2 independent expert judges. The top scored videos will be invited to the finals.

An email will be sent to the link teacher, who submitted the group video entry form, with details of the finals. Groups who entered the finals will answer two questions relating to the videos from the judging panel live at the group final competition. Each group will nominate two members to answer questions from the judges on behalf of the group.

The results of the finals will be announced at the live Celebration event in June. Third place, second place, and the first placed groups will be announced for each of the two levels and the winning videos will be shown at the live Celebration event (as long as parental permissions have been received).

A reminder of the criteria for the Group Video entries:

- Maximum 4 minutes (judging will stop at 240 seconds)
- Judges must be able to see the students speaking (please think how to combine this with any creative methods you are planning)

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- All students in the group must be present in the video at least once, and should have equal contribution to the final product.
- Students must be responsible for all aspects of the video, e.g. writing scripts, editing, incorporating creativity etc.
- Minimum 4 and maximum 5 students per video- from the same competition levels (please follow your own school rules for any limits of which students can mix). These can be students who are also entering the individual presentation categories (maximum two students), or other students who are not doing individual presentations.
- The teacher must not be present as an actor in the performance/video.

Please Note:

The students must choose a topic related to Chinese culture, write a script themselves (in Mandarin) and perform the group presentation on their own. All students in the group should join in and show off their Mandarin language skills.

Videos will be judged by their Mandarin language content, not for costumes or editing skill. If you choose to focus on the content only, you can have a group performance filmed in one shot and without editing, just like a live performance in previous years. Or, you can be as creative as you like with students creating a live-action video by acting out a performance, a song, a dialogue using props, costumes, or puppets or they could use animation with voiceover etc.

Make sure the Mandarin aspects can be seen and heard, and the pupils have fun while making it, and are learning too. By researching cultural aspects, developing their Mandarin and other communication skills, and working inclusively together as a team to communicate the contents via video, this competition will increase motivation for learning the language, develop vocabulary and improve pronunciation and encourage students to interact with their classmates while discovering more about Chinese culture. Inclusion and participation are important in these videos. Judges will consider whether all students are equally involved in the performance.

In making their video, pupils will be able to draw on their curricular knowledge while developing the core skills of leadership, digital literacy, creativity, collaboration critical thinking and problem solving. The experience of making this video could also be used to strengthen future academic applications to colleges and universities for example.

There should be no English in the contents of the cultural presentation in the video at all. It is permitted to add a short written/spoken introduction in English, so others can understand the context/aim of the video if they do not speak Mandarin – for example if you want to use it afterwards on your school website.

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Entries must be original work and not use any copyrighted material. Plagiarism is not accepted under any circumstances. All videos suspected of plagiarism shall be disqualified. You are not allowed to use copyrighted video and/or audio. Please use music and/or audio from free sources - some examples below:

<http://search.creativecommons.org/>

<http://www.premiumbeat.com/>

<http://www.soundclick.com/default.cfm>

1. Scoring criteria

Each video will be assessed by at least two independent judges, fluent in Mandarin, each scoring against the following criteria out of 10, with a maximum of 50 points in total:

Element	Criteria
Student composition (Max 10 points)	Videos will be rewarded for scripts composed by students only. Where the script of a video content is clearly influenced by a teacher, marks will be deducted.
Communication (Max 10 points)	Performances will be judged on the richness of the content and the extent to which students demonstrate understanding of the messages they are conveying. Students should be a bit adventurous, but not to the point where they do not understand what they are saying.
Pronunciation (Max 10 points)	It is important that pronunciation is comprehensible and is clear enough for a sympathetic native speaker of Mandarin Chinese to understand. This includes vowels, consonants, tones and stress patterns. A few wrong tones and wrong segments can be forgiven, but students should avoid pronouncing pinyin as if it were English because this makes communication ineffective.
Usage (Max 10 points)	Vocabulary and grammatical structures should be appropriate to the content/theme devised by students. Within the range of their own ability, they should find interesting, exciting ways of making their characters express themselves. Dictionary-type lists should be avoided: vocabulary should be integrated into a meaningful dialogue. Perfect grammar is not necessary, as long as structures are mainly Chinese, rather than English.

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Cultural content (Max 10 points)	Performances and content of videos should demonstrate the students' understanding of Chinese culture, modern and/or traditional. Ways to do this could include but are not limited to: including a short song, dance or martial arts display within the content (the inclusion should make sense in the context of the drama); basing the content on a traditional or modern Chinese story; taking as a theme an important element of life in China in the past or today
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For groups who entered to the final, they will nominate two members of the group to answer two questions in Mandarin from the judging panel live at the group final competition, scoring against the following criteria out of 10.

Question(s) following the group video display (Max 10 points)	Two representative students will be asked two questions in Mandarin by one member of the judging panel following their group video display. The aim of the questions will be to check that students understand and can talk about what they have shown in their videos and have not merely learnt it by heart. Judges will ask the questions sympathetically and will not be trying to catch students out. Students must answer in Mandarin and answers should be more than a few words. Judges will mainly test the students' question answering techniques, sentence structures, expressions and manners.
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2. Format of the videos and submission

- Students can make a video using the camera on a phone (etc.) or use pictures and an audio recording and make these into a video file (avi, mov, wmv, mp4, mpg, flv, wav, wma - or check the file format your uploading platform accepts.)
- The video should be uploaded to an online platform and the online link for that copied.
- The online link to the video, together with the script for the performance, should be submitted through [the application form](#) by 30th April 2022.
- If the video is protected by a password, please email the password to us separately at MSCompetition@clecuk.org stating the school name and the level of entry in the email subject
- The video link should not be shared with anyone or made public on any forum while the competition is underway (including school's own website). Once it is over, sharing is allowed.

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3. How to apply

- You must register to submit for the Group Video competition online by the **13th March 2022 deadline** using the same online application form as the Individual language Ability: <https://www.powr.io/form-builder/i/31491282#page>
- The application form submission includes accompanying teacher and parental consent forms. Each and every student that is present in a Group Video competition entry will need to have parental consent forms submitted (which includes consent related to videos and images). The link teacher is responsible for collecting all students' consent forms, making sure they are signed by parents/guardians and uploading them with the application form.
- Start planning how to work with your students to develop a video that will fit the guidelines above.
- You should submit your video by **30th April 2022** using the second Group Video Entry Form <https://www.powr.io/form-builder/i/31489161#page> See below for 'how to submit your video' step by step.
- When you submit, you should choose which category you are submitting for (beginner/intermediate). Check in section A.1 of these Guidance Notes for the differentiation between these categories.
- Results of the video competition will be given live at the June 2022 national celebration event day. We hope to show the winning videos at the live event. (We will only be allowed to show videos where all students included have provided parental consent).

4. How to upload your video

Remember that you should submit your video entry category and names of students, and parental consent form with the main application form by 13th March 2022.

Remember to always follow your own school's IT standards and regulations for uploading videos.

We suggest you use Vimeo to upload as it has higher privacy options than other platforms. Here is a step-by-step guide on how to upload a video on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/64654583>.

Remember to make the privacy sharing settings open for others (such as the judges) to see the video.

If your school policy allows it, you could upload onto [Dropbox](#) or [YouTube](#) instead of Vimeo. If there is a description field for the upload platform, please enter the title of your video, and the name of your school, and which level entry it is (beginner or intermediate).

If it is really not possible for you to upload the Group Video onto an online platform, please email the team at MSCompetition@clecuk.org to discuss alternatives way to submit your entry for the competition.

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Once you have uploaded your video, please cut and paste the link and submit it in the application form: <https://www.powr.io/form-builder/i/31489161#page>

C. Terms and Conditions for Entering the Competition

1. General Terms and Conditions

- 1.1. The Competition is for UK, Channel Island and Isle of Man secondary school, sixth form and Further Education college students who are non-native speaking learners of Mandarin Chinese in years 7-13 (England, Wales, Channel Islands and Isle of Man), years S1-S6 (Scotland) and years 8-14 (N. Ireland). Students in England in the equivalent of years 7-9 e.g. in preparatory or middle schools are also eligible to enter.
- 1.2. The closing date for receipt of all entries is Saturday 13 March 2022. Schools are responsible for checking the eligibility of all students, although this will also be double checked by CLEC UK. Any student or group that does not meet the entry criteria will not be offered a place at the heats. Entries that aren't eligible at the closing date may not be changed after the closing date.
- 1.3. It is the teacher's responsibility to make sure all the relevant consent forms are submitted at the time of application. Failure to do so might result in students not being able to take part in the competition.
- 1.4. Provision will be made for students to take part in the competition from home, if self-isolating or in lockdown. Safeguarding and child protection standards must be followed also in this case.
- 1.5. By entering the Competition, the submitting member of staff agrees that the work is that of the student(s). Plagiarism will not be accepted, and performances must be original. The submitting member of staff also agrees that to the best of their knowledge each student complies with the entry criteria for the particular category that they have entered. If it transpires within two weeks of the Finals that inaccurate information has been provided which changes a student /group's eligibility, then said student or group may be disqualified. We reserve the right to make further enquiries into the background of the candidate, if suspicions arise regarding their eligibility.

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- 1.6. Each school can enter a maximum of fifteen students – only one student can be entered for each of the five categories of the Individual Language Ability section and two groups of up to five students each (one group for each level) in the Group Performance section from the same school or college.
- 1.7. All student names must be provided by the closing date of 13th March 2022. In case of dropout of an individual student, a replacement will be allowed up to and including the 4th April 2022. Please note that all completed parental consent forms from the replacement student will need to be received by the CLEC UK team by 12h00 on 4th April 2022. Any student who are deemed ineligible, or whose parental consent forms have not been received by this date, will not be allowed to participate in the competition.
- 1.8. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries that are incomplete, delivered incorrectly, corrupted or those not received for whatever reason. Evidence of entering is not proof of receipt. If the school does not receive this within 5 working days of the closing date, they must contact MSCompetition@clecuk.org immediately to check that their entry has been received.
- 1.9. Eligibility Criteria - Individual Language Ability
 - The Beginner category is open to students who started learning Mandarin Chinese on or after August 2020.
 - Beginner category students with over 3 hours of Mandarin classroom hours per week will be placed in the Beginner Plus sub-category.
 - The Intermediate category is open to students who started learning Mandarin Chinese between August 2018 and August 2020.
 - Intermediate category students with over 3 hours of Mandarin classroom hours per week will be placed in the Intermediate Plus sub-category
 - The Advanced category is open to students who started learning Mandarin Chinese before August 2018.
 - With regards to each and every category, should a candidate demonstrate a level of Mandarin deemed by the Judges to be too advanced for this category on the day of the heats or final, they reserve the right to verify the background of the candidate and ultimately disqualify them if the teacher responsible has not adhered to the criteria for eligibility.
- 1.10. The Competition aims to encourage and reward students who have learnt Mandarin Chinese from scratch with no advantage. For this reason, the following criteria apply in the Individual and Group sections:
 - Students must be non-native speaking learners of Mandarin Chinese.

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- They may not have previously been the winner (or the runner-up awarded the prize if the winner could not take it) in any category of the Individual Language Ability or Group section.
- Students may not have a native Chinese* speaking parent or be from a Chinese* speaking household; (*any Chinese language/dialect)
- They may not have spent more than a total of two years in a country where Chinese* is an official language. (*any Chinese language/dialect)
- Students may not have spent more than a total of 30 days in a Chinese* speaking country per year since beginning their Mandarin studies: (*any Chinese language/dialect)
- Students who come from countries surrounding China or who have parentage from countries where an Asian language is spoken will need to demonstrate that they are a complete beginner in Mandarin and have not spent more than a total of two years in China or in any neighbouring countries where Mandarin is an official language.

1.11. Eligibility Criteria - Group Performance

- Groups must be made up of 4 to 5 students
- All students should participate in the video creation
- All students should contribute to and appear in the video equally
- Group videos must be no more than 4 minutes long (240 seconds)
- Scripts for group performances must be submitted together with the online link to the video. Where the script of a performance is clearly influenced by a teacher, marks will be deducted
- Each school can submit a maximum of two videos: one in the Beginner and one in the Intermediate categories.

2. Taking part in the Competition

- 2.1. Heats will take place online between 25-29th April 2022, and the Finals on 23rd to 25th May 2022.
- 2.2. Places at the Competition Final are not transferable to other students.

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- 2.3. For safeguarding reasons, it is a condition of entry that each school returns the following forms with their application submission:
- 2.4. Parental/Guardian Consent Form for each student, signed by their parent/guardian, collected by teacher and submitted with the application form.
- 2.5. Accompanying Teacher Form, signed by each accompanying teacher.
- 2.6. Failure to submit the above forms by the required date will result in the student(s) not being allowed to compete.
- 2.7. Students must be accompanied by a teacher or Chinese Language Assistant during their competition session if they are physically in school. These adults must have enhanced CRB/DBS clearance (schools in England, Wales and the Channel Islands), Police Vetting Check from the Isle of Man Constabulary, Enhanced Disclosure from Disclosure Scotland or Enhanced Disclosure from Access Northern Ireland.
- 2.8. Parents and guests cannot attend the heats. Students will be admitted into a “closed” online meeting room for their sessions with their teacher, judges, other students who competes at the same hour slot, their teachers and the CLEC UK staff in attendance. The only exception to this is if a student is self-isolating, or in lockdown at home, it is permissible for their parent/guardian to be in the room with them for safeguarding reasons, as they connect online to the competition.
- 2.9. Parents and guests can attend the final competition as audience for the one-hour slot during which their child competes as finalists. They will use the same connection link as their child’s to access the final competition. It is the responsibility of the parents to decide who can be the guests to watch the final competition with them as audience, i.e. siblings, classmates, other family members and close friends, etc.
- 2.10. The Winners Announcement and Celebration Event will be open to parents, guests, classmates through registration.
- 2.11. Judges reserve the right to ask students questions in either English or Mandarin at any time during the judging process.
- 2.12. The first prize will be awarded to the entrants whose entries, in the opinions of the judges, best meet the Judging Criteria. In the Individual Language Ability section, the judges are looking for real communication and presentation, not a rehearsed performance. The winner in each category will be someone who has demonstrated a Mandarin language ability appropriate to their level of learning. In the Group Video category, judges must be able to see the students speaking. All students in the group must be present in the video at least once and should have equal contribution to the final product. Students must be responsible for all aspects of the video.
- 2.13. The panel of judges will be independent of the CLEC UK office.

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- 2.14. The judges' decision is final and binding, and no correspondence will be entered into. Only the names of the top three students/groups in each category will be made available. Broad feedback can be supplied following heats and finals on request.
- 2.15. Winners will be announced at the Winners Announcement and Celebration Event which will be held online in the week of 1st June 2022.
- 2.16. A list of winners' names will be available after the Winners Announcement in June 2022.
- 2.17. The promoter is CLEC UK, address 124 Euston Road, London, NW1 2AL.

3. Competition prize

Every contestant and school that takes part in the competition will be awarded with a certificate and the winners will receive trophies and awards.

Due to the Covid-19 complications and the fast-changing circumstances, we are not able to provide details yet on the prizes for the different categories. We are working on options for this and will publicise them very soon.

4. Privacy Notice

The CLEC UK Office will use the information that you are providing for organising the Chinese Bridge Mandarin Speaking Competition Event. The legal basis for processing your personal data is consent/Contract (T&Cs). We may need to pass this information on to the following partners concerning with organising this event:

IOE, Confucius Institute for schools, at University College London

Confucius Institute at Ulster University

Confucius Institute at Cardiff University

SCILT, Scotland's National Centre for Languages/Strathclyde University

Expert Independent Judges

The CLEC UK Office complies with the UK Data Protection Act 2018 and laws in other countries that meet internationally accepted standards. You have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold on you, and the right to ask us to correct any inaccuracies in that information. If you have concerns about how we have used your personal information, you also have the right to complain to a privacy regulator. For detailed information, please contact us directly.