Chinese Continuers text types

What are ‘texts’ (text types)?

‘Texts’ (text types) are various forms of spoken and written language, such as articles, conversations, letters and so on. Each text type varies in its characteristics of format, style, and language. In the Chinese Continuers HSC written examination, the following text types are specified for production:

1. article
2. diary entry
3. email
4. letter
5. message
6. note
7. notice
8. postcard
9. recount
10. report
11. script of an interview
12. script of a speech/talk.

Note: In the oral examination, you participate in a conversation.

Two different styles of writing

In the written section of the HSC examination, you are required to produce two different styles of writing. The first style is informative or descriptive and the second is reflective, persuasive or evaluative, and could require you to explain or justify a point of view. Using the correct text type and including the correct style of content is important.

Sample tasks and practice questions

Past HSC papers can be downloaded from the [NESA website](http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/Understanding-the-curriculum/resources/hsc-exam-papers). Some past HSC questions have been used as sample tasks in this document.

The ‘texts’ (text types)

1 Article

Purpose:

* to sustain an argument
* to describe
* to inform, persuade, amuse or entertain

Structure:

* titles/headings (if appropriate)
* development of ideas/arguments
* sequencing and linking of ideas
* statement of conclusion or advice

Language features:

* range of tenses (for example过去/现在/将来)
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive, or persuasive depending on context
* informal or formal register (be consistent throughout the article)

Sample question

Write approximately 250 characters in CHINESE. You have been invited to make a contribution to the school’s Chinese magazine. Write an article in which you reflect on your high school graduation day.

2015 Higher School Certificate Examination, Chinese Continuers, Section III, Question 13(a) (10 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2015

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

2 Diary entry

Purpose:

* a personal reflection on a theme, place or situation

Structure:

* date and weather (for example ２００９年６月２９日、晴)
* development of ideas/arguments
* sequencing and linking of ideas

Language features:

* written in the first person (keep the tone/perspective of the character from whose perspective you are writing)
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive, or persuasive depending on context
* informal register

Sample question

Write approximately 250 characters in CHINESE. You have just helped a friend to make a decision about what to do during the Christmas holidays. Write a diary entry in which you reflect on this.

2016 Higher School Certificate Examination, Chinese Continuers, Section III, Question 13(a) (10 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2016

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

3 Email

Purpose:

* to use technology-based methods of communication
* to send greetings
* to retell events
* to inform
* to seek a response

Structure:

* email conventions (you are not usually required to write an email address in the exam)
* specific details without elaboration
* salutations and endings – less conventional than a normal letter
* statement of conclusion or advice (for example谢谢，祝好，再见，盼复)

Language features:

* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* informal or formal register (be consistent throughout the email)

Sample question

Answer the following question by writing approximately 90 characters in CHINESE. You are graduating from your high school. Write an email to your friend in China, describing what your favourite teacher has done for you.

2016 Higher School Certificate Examination, Chinese Continuers, Section III, Question 12 (5 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2016

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

4 Letter

Purpose:

* to communicate in writing with acquaintances, friends, family, the public
* to inform, amuse, persuade

Structure:

* salutations (for example尊敬的，亲爱的)
* letter conventions (for example寒暄：近来好吗?/正文)
* date and signature at the end

Language features:

* subjective language (for example近来好吗？我今天给您写信是因为….)
* descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive, or persuasive (depending on context)
* formality of language will depend on relationship with audience (for example, letter to a friend or letter to a newspaper)

Sample question

Write approximately 250 characters in CHINESE. You are concerned that your grandparents are missing out on the benefits of modern life. Write a letter to persuade them to modernise their lifestyle.

2014 Higher School Certificate Examination, Chinese Continuers, Section III, Question 13(a) (10 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2014

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

5 Message

Purpose:

* to inform
* to request
* to instruct
* to remind

Note: The difference between a message and a note is that a message can vary in type, such as voicemail message, text message, email, social media.

Structure:

* succinct (short and to the point)
* general statement, description, procedure
* lack of descriptive detail

Language features:

* shorter than a standard letter
* frequent use of colloquial language (does not necessarily mean informal register)

Sample question

Write 130–180 characters in CHINESE. You were invited to a friend’s birthday party but for some reason you did not attend. Write a message of apology.

2004 Higher School Certificate Examination, Chinese Continuers, Section III, Question 12 (b) (6 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2004

Note: This question is now worth 5 marks.

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

6 Note

Purpose:

* to inform
* to request
* to instruct
* to remind

Note: The difference between a message and a note is that a message can vary in type such as voicemail message, text message, email.

Structure:

* succinct (short and to the point)
* general statement, description, procedure
* lack of descriptive detail

Language features:

* shorter than a standard letter
* frequent use of colloquial language (does not necessarily mean informal register)
* formality of language will depend on relationship with audience (for example, friend or boss)

Sample question

Answer the following question by writing approximately 90 characters in CHINESE. Write a note to your Chinese teacher asking for an extension of time for your assignment.

2013 Higher School Certificate Examination, Chinese Continuers, Section III, Question 13 (5 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2013

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

7 Notice

Purpose:

* to inform
* to seek a response (for example looking for a pen pal or looking for a roommate to share accommodation)

Structure:

* heading/addressee
* specific details without elaboration
* statement of conclusion or advice (for example giving contact details)

Language features:

* language can be descriptive, factual, emotive or persuasive depending on context
* informal or formal register

Sample question

Write 65–130 characters in CHINESE. A famous sportsperson is going to visit your school and make a speech. Write a notice for the noticeboard.

2009 Higher School Certificate Examination, Chinese Continuers, Section III, Question 12(a) (5 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2009

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

8 Postcard

Purpose:

* to provide information, amuse or entertain
* to retell events and experiences (for example who, where, what, when)

Structure:

* salutations (尊敬的，亲爱的)
* brief description or message
* formulaic ending (祝好/此致敬礼！)

Language features:

* descriptive language
* personal impressions

Sample question

Write 65–130 characters in CHINESE. You are travelling overseas with your friends. Write the postcard that you send to your parents on the third day of your trip.

2009 Higher School Certificate Examination, Chinese Continuers, Section III, Question 12(b) (5 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2009

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

9 Recount

Purpose:

* to inform or entertain
* to retell past events or experiences
* to retell a series of events

Structure:

* introduction/orientation (set the scene – who, what, where, when)
* events sequenced in chronological order
* closing statement

Language features:

* often told in the first person (我)
* descriptive language
* often told in past tense (for example做了，吃了，玩了)
* time words to connect events (for example从…到…,之前)
* words which tell us when, where, with whom and how
* linking words (for example先，然后，最后，首先，再)

Sample question

Write 130–180 characters in CHINESE. You have just visited a country town with your family. Write a recount of one day you spent there.

2008 Higher School Certificate Examination, Chinese Continuers, Section III, Question 12(a) (6 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2008

Note: This question is now worth 5 marks.

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

10 Report

Purpose:

* to present information about a class of things (to classify) OR
* to describe the way things are
* to organise facts
* to draw conclusions

Structure:

* general statement or classification
* series of paragraphs that describes
* logical progression
* concluding statement or summary

Language features:

* supporting evidence, such as statistics, examples
* factual
* language specific to the topic
* objective language
* linking words (for example先/然后/最后， 第一/第二)

Sample question

Write approximately 250 characters in CHINESE. You are the head of the SRC (Student Representative Council) in your school. Based on the results of a survey you have conducted, write a report to the principal recommending improvements to the running of the school canteen.

2010 Higher School Certificate Examination, Chinese Continuers, Section III, Question 14(a) (10 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2010

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

11 Script of an interview

Purpose:

* to find out information (for example a story or a response)
* to communicate ideas, opinions and attitudes
* to draw conclusions

Structure:

* salutations
* clear idea of the purpose of the interview (我们今天就…话题采访您一下)
* question and response sequence If writing horizontally, initials followed by a colon can be used, for example A: and B:
* use of filler expressions (for example啊，嗯)
* conclusion (for example感谢您今天来参加我们的采访)

Language features:

* question forms (by the interviewer)
* register – use polite language (for example 请，您，谢谢)
* transition strategies when switching topics (optional, for example您对…有什么看法？)

Sample question

A journalist from Hanzi magazine has interviewed you about why you are learning Chinese. Write the script of the interview. Write approximately 250 characters in Chinese.

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

12 Script of a speech/talk

Purpose:

* to communicate ideas, opinions and attitudes
* to entertain
* to persuade
* to welcome
* to thank

Structure:

* salutations (for example女士们/先生们，尊敬的来宾，同学们/老师们，大家好！)
* introductory statement of purpose (for example很高兴今天我有机会和大家一起分享…)
* ideas and information organised and linked
* concluding remarks (for example谢谢大家！)

Language features:

* choice of expressions to engage the audience
* descriptive words
* range of tenses
* usually subjective language (this depends on the context)

Sample question

Write approximately 250 characters in CHINESE. You have just returned from a 12-day camp where you were not allowed to use any electronic devices. Write a speech to be delivered at the school assembly in which you reflect upon your experiences at the camp.

2012 Higher School Certificate Examination, Chinese Continuers, Section III, Question 14(a) (10 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2012

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?