

Use of romanisation systems in the assessment of listening comprehension in DP Chinese language acquisition courses

This document addresses the use of two specific romanisation systems which are commonly used: Pinyin (for Mandarin) and Jyutping (for Cantonese). The specific instruction of romanisation systems is neither expected, nor required as part of the IB DP Chinese B and Mandarin ab initio curriculum.

Based on stakeholder feedback, a survey was developed regarding the use of romanisation systems in Chinese language acquisition instruction. Participants attending IB DP Chinese language acquisition workshops as well as randomly selected IB DP Chinese language acquisition educators were invited to participate in this survey and the data collected was used to inform the following.

Language ab initio

This language acquisition course is designed for students with no prior experience of the target language (Language ab initio guide, 2018). Due to this lack of experience and due to the condensed nature of the Mandarin ab initio course, **only** the listening comprehension questions will include Pinyin above the simplified and traditional characters. See example below (in both simplified and traditional formats):

Source: Mandarin *ab initio*, specimen task: listening comprehension, question 1 (available on the programme resource centre).

1. zài xīnjiāpō, shénme hěn fāngbiàn?

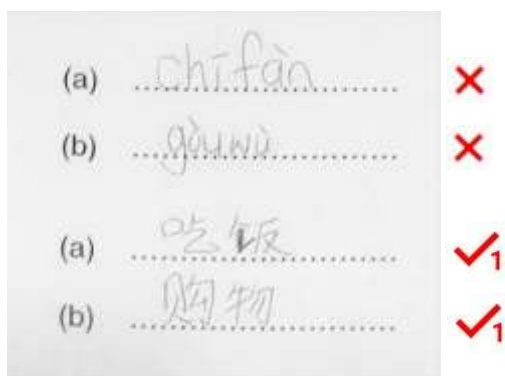
在新加坡，什么很方便？

1. zài xīnjiāpō, shénme hěn fāngbiàn?

在新加坡，什麼很方便？

Pinyin will not be assessed discretely as part of the examination itself. For listening comprehension questions requiring a written response, **candidates are to write their responses using either simplified or traditional characters**. Candidate responses written in pinyin will not be awarded marks, even if those answers are correct.

For example:



Language B SL and HL

For Chinese B – Mandarin and Chinese B - Cantonese assessments, neither Pinyin nor Jyutping will be used. Listening comprehension questions will be presented in both simplified and traditional characters. For listening comprehension questions requiring a written response, **candidates are to write their responses using either simplified or traditional characters**.