How to ace IB Mandarin Ab Initio (Reading Comprehension – Paper 2)
This exam preparation workbook is written for teachers and students of the IB DP Mandarin Ab Initio course and is suitable for all beginning learners of Mandarin. Its practical approach to teaching and learning is based on past examination papers (the former Paper 1) from 2005 until 2017 and is arranged according to the five main themes and the twenty topics of the Mandarin Ab Initio course.

About the author
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This exam preparation workbook complements the Language Ab Initio Student Workbook (ISBN 978-988-78756-6-6)
For further information, visit www.mihanlimited.com
How to Ace IB Mandarin Ab Initio – Reading Comprehension (Paper 2)

Welcome to the How to Ace IB Mandarin Ab Initio – Reading Comprehension (Paper 2) workbook. This resource will help you prepare fully for the final written and oral IB Mandarin Ab Initio assessments.

Reading Comprehension (Paper 2) in the Mandarin Ab Initio course

The Language Ab Initio course is an organic course. You will learn vocabulary, grammar, syntax, skills and cultural facts throughout the various units that your teacher presents. While the course is open-ended, there are a wide range of themes and topics that must be covered.

In this workbook the course has been divided up into the five themes and the twenty topics of the IB Mandarin Ab Initio syllabus:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Social organization</th>
<th>Sharing the planet</th>
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<td>Festivals and celebrations</td>
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<td>Social issues</td>
<td>Global issues</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Through the revision of many years’ worth of past IB Reading Comprehension papers you will further familiarize yourself with the topic-specific vocabulary. You will be able to revise and practise the vocabulary and the grammatical concepts learned and to apply these in authentic Reading Comprehension exercises. In addition, you will be able to practise key structures, develop your oral skills and complete creative and personalized writing tasks.

By the time you reach the end of the course, you will have a complete overview of the requirements, the key vocabulary, the grammar points and the creative writing opportunities that the IB Ab Initio Paper 2 provides. Your knowledge and understanding will then be tested in the Individual Oral examination, the Paper 1 creative writing and the Paper 2 reading and listening comprehension exercises.

How to use this workbook?

This workbook encourages you to review the relevant vocabulary and grammar through guided reading and to apply the vocabulary and the grammar points in IB-style speaking and writing tasks.

The workbook is structured on the five main themes of the course, and within each theme the Past Paper texts and exercises are arranged by topic. Within each topic you will find the following sections:
Intro: Authentic Reading Comprehension text

This text has been taken from a past IB Mandarin Ab Initio Reading Comprehension exam paper (reference to the paper and to the sources has been made) and forms the basis for the exercises in this section. For some of the topics more than one past paper text has been included for analysis. In this case, the texts are arranged in reverse chronological order.

Part 1: Key vocabulary

The key vocabulary has been listed so that you can study the new words prior to reading the source text. Make sure you practise the spelling as well as the pronunciation!

Part 2: Sentence drills

A number of sentence structures and grammar points have been highlighted. Study them before applying them to the sample sentences provided.

Part 3: Reading comprehension

Once the vocabulary and the grammar points have been studied, do an intensive and detailed reading of the source text. As you complete this reading, ask your teacher for a copy of the corresponding “Question and Answer” paper. You can complete this paper for practice, as homework or in class. Your teacher will also be able to provide you with the corresponding mark scheme so you can check your answers.

Part 4: Oral practice

Once you have studied the vocabulary, the grammar and the content of this past paper, conduct a creative oral task according to set instructions. This will help you improve your pronunciation and oral fluency. Try to be personal and use as many key words and grammar points from the source text as possible.

Part 5: Guided writing

This section builds on the previous one and helps you practise your writing skills. You will find authentic Composition instructions on the topic being studied. Practise these tasks in preparation for your final assessments and again, use key words and key grammar points from the source text.

Complementary resources

It is important that you use this workbook in conjunction with the other “Products of Mass Instruction” resources for Mandarin Ab Initio:

- refer to Chapter 9 of the “Language Ab Initio Student Workbook” for details on the Paper 2 exam questions. Study the thirteen instructions carefully. Be aware though that for past papers from before May 2020, a slightly different (but very comparable) set of instructions applies;
- refer to the “Mandarin Ab Initio Portfolio” for topic-based vocabulary and sample sentences that you can use in your creative speaking and writing;
• refer to the “How to Ace Mandarin Ab Initio – Composition” workbook and study the features of each text type before practising the Guided Writing part of each chapter in this workbook.

**Your task**

In order to make full use of this resource, follow these steps:

• complete the study of a unit/topic in class;
• study the vocabulary and the grammar points related to the topic of study in this workbook;
• complete the Comprehension exercise(s). Your teacher will be able to give you the Question and Answer booklet of the relevant examination session;
• use the “Mandarin Ab Initio Portfolio” to start constructing your personal speaking and writing;
• complete the tasks in this workbook.

**Note to teachers**

Once your class has completed a particular topic of the Ab Initio course and you would like your students to practise their comprehension skills on this topic, refer to the table of contents in this workbook where you will find the course topics and the corresponding page numbers.

**What is the “How to Ace IB Mandarin Ab Initio” workbook series?**

This workbook is organized according to the current Ab Initio syllabus and assessment specifications (from May 2020). However, it contains past papers from 2005 onwards. The students will only notice the difference when they attempt to complete the official IB past paper exam for practice. The tasks set out in this workbook are the same for both sets of papers. This workbook is part of the “Products of Mass Instruction” series for Mandarin Ab Initio which also includes:

• **Language Ab Initio Student Workbook**
• **How to Ace Mandarin Ab Initio - Composition (Paper 1)**
• **My Mandarin Ab Initio Portfolio**

All these resources are available from Mintjens Press and can be viewed on:

[www.mihunlimited.com](http://www.mihunlimited.com)

Samples are available on the same website.
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A.1. 个人 特点

Personal attributes
nián  yuè wénzhāngsān

Text A.1.1 : 2008年11月 文 章 三

yí gè měiguó qīngnián hétà de zhōngguó sānbùqū
一个 美国 青年 和 他的 中国 “三部曲”

(一) 彼得.黑斯勒 是一个 美国 青年 .他的 中文 名字 叫“何伟”.

(二) 他在 中 国 住了 十年 .写了 两 本 关于 中 国 的 书 一: 

(三) 何伟 正 在 写 他的 第三 本 书 .这 本 书 写 的 是 什 么 ?他

fāzhǎn héméi shuò tā xiànzáì měitiān xiězuò gě xiǎoshí yǐjīng xiè wán liǎo quānshū de
diǎnzhǎn fēi 告诉 外国 的 记者 说 ,他 现在 每天 写作 8 个 小时 .写 完 了 全 书 的
sān fēn zhīyī
三分之一。
Memorise these new words and practise using them in speaking and writing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>三部曲</th>
<th>出生</th>
<th>作家</th>
<th>旅行</th>
<th>机会</th>
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<tr>
<td>trilogy</td>
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<tr>
<td>当地人</td>
<td>关于</td>
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<tr>
<td>the local people</td>
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<tr>
<td>记者</td>
<td>经济</td>
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<td>小时</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reporter</td>
<td>economic</td>
<td>develop</td>
<td>writing</td>
<td>hour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Create new sentences using the highlighted words.

1. 我 小的时候 就 想 当 一名 作家。

例：

例：我 小的时候 就 想 去 美国。

他 从 小的时候 就 开始 学 中文。
bǐ dé yǒu jī huì dào zhōngguó jiào yìngwén liànghnián
2. 彼得 有机会 到 中 国 教 英文 两 年。

| yǒu jī huì 有 会 到 to have the chance to |

lì rúguǒ yǒu jī huì wǒ huì qù ǒu zhōu lǚxíng
例：如果 有机会 我 会 去 欧洲 旅行。
wǒ xǐwàng dà xué bié yǐ hòu yǒu jī huì dào xiāng gōng zuò
我希望 大学 毕业 以后 有机会 到 香港 工作。

| nà gé shí hòu 那 个 时 候 at that time |

nà gé shí hòu zài fú líng yī gòng zhī yǒu liǎng gè “lǎo wài”
3. 那个时候 在 涪陵 一 共 只有 两 个“老外”。

| chū le yǐ wài jiù 除 了 以 外 就 apart from |

lì nà gé shí hòu tā zhī yǒu 7 suì
例：那个时候 他 只 有 7 岁。
nà gé shí hòu hái méi yǒu diàn nǎo zhī yǒu diàn shì
那个时候 还 没 有 电 脑 只 有 电 视。

tā chū le jiāo shū yǐ wài jiù zài jiē shang zǒu zǒu gēn rén liăo tiān
4. 他 除 了 教书 以 外 就 在 街 上 走 走 跟 人 聊 天。

| chū le yǐ wài hái 除 了 以 外 还 apart from, ... also |

lì tā chū le shàng kē yǐ wài qī tā shí jiān jiù xiē shū
例：她 除 了 上 课 以 外 其他 时间 就 写 书。

| chū le yǐ wài dōu 除 了 以 外 都 apart from, ... also |

lì wǒ chū le huì shuō yīng yǔ yǐ wài huí hù shuō zhōng wén hé hán yǔ
例：我 除 了 会 说 英语 以 外 还会 说 中文 和 韩语。

| wǒ de dì di chū le bù xǐ huān shù cài yǐ wài qī tā dōu xǐ huān chī |
例：我的弟弟 除 了 不 喜欢 蔬 菜 以 外 其它 都 喜欢 吃。
5. 他的书被《纽约时报》评为2006年最好的100本书之一。

例：他被学校评为今年最好的学生之一。

6. 已经完成了全书的三分之一。

例：这本书还有三分之二没有完成。

三：原题精读。Comprehension

回答真题2008年11月文章三

Complete the Reading Comprehension paper of November 2008
四：口语练习。Oral practice

yòng běnkè xuédào de cíhuì hé jùxíng
用 本 课 学 到 的 词 汇 和 句 型。
Use all the key vocabulary and sentence patterns that you have learned in this unit.

qǐng jièshào yīwèi nǐ xǐhuān de wàiguó péngyou
请 介 绍 一 位 你 喜 欢 的 外 国 朋 友。
(Introduce one of your foreign friends to a Chinese-speaking person.)

五：指导写作。Guided writing

yòng běnkè xuédào de cíhuì hé jùxíng
用 本 课 学 到 的 词 汇 和 句 型。
Use all the key vocabulary and sentence patterns that you have learned in this unit.

qǐng xiě yīpiān bókè wénzhāng jièshào yīwèi nǐ xǐhuān de wàiguópéngyou
请 写 一 篇 博 客 文 章 介 绍 一 位 你 喜 欢 的 外 国 朋 友。
(Write an article for your blog, introducing one of your foreign friends.)
The Language Ab Initio Student Workbook

The Language Ab Initio Student Workbook covers all the components of this language acquisition course and provides a step-by-step guide to the various assessments. Each component is broken down into its various parts and plenty of advice and practice are provided in order to ensure that the student is fully prepared when it matters most. This workbook focuses on reading, writing, listening and speaking and is supported by online resources on the author’s website (www.mihunlimited.com).

The introduction of a personal Portfolio helps the student create an ongoing record of their learning and allows them to manipulate the language according to the assessment tasks, the formats and the criteria. By making language learning fun and personal, the Ab Initio student will find a great deal of motivation to create, share and reflect on content and culture in the target language.

For more information, visit www.mihunlimited.com
To place an order, please contact mihabinitio@gmail.com

ISBN 978-988-78756-6-6
Also by Ronny Mintjens

The Language Ab Initio Student Workbook
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- consultancies on Language A School-Supported Self-Taught
- teacher training for Groups 1 and 2
- author school visits (Book Week, Reading Week)
- CAS trips/educational trips to Bangladesh, Bhutan, DPRK (North Korea)
The “How to Ace Mandarin Ab Initio – Composition” workbook encourages the student to review the relevant vocabulary and grammar of the Ab Initio course through guided writing and to apply the features of a variety of text types in IB-style writing tasks. Through the revision of ten years’ worth of past IB Composition papers they will further familiarize themselves with the text types and with the topic-specific vocabulary. The student will be able to revise and practice the grammatical concepts learned and to apply these in creative and personalized writing tasks. The creative nature of this workbook allows for differentiation where they can challenge themselves to explore grammatical variations and to set minimum requirements.

By the time the student reaches the end of this workbook, they will have a complete overview of the text types, the key vocabulary, the grammar points and the creative writing opportunities that the IB Ab Initio Paper 1 provides. The workbook is structured by Section and by text type. For each text type at least one sample exercise is provided in two versions: one with pinyin and the other without pinyin. The pinyin version will make it easier for the student to recognize and understand the sample texts while the non-pinyin version fully reflects the final examination.