

AP Chinese Exam: Cultural Research Master List

To achieve a high score on the AP Chinese Language and Culture exam, specifically the Cultural Presentation, students must demonstrate a deep understanding of Chinese cultural products, practices, and perspectives. Use this document to track your research for the "Set of 3" strategy.

Category	Topic 1	Topic 2	Topic 3
Tourist Spots	Great Wall (长城)	Forbidden City (故宫)	Terracotta Army (兵马俑)
Chinese Holidays	Spring Festival (春节)	Mid-Autumn Festival (中秋节)	Dragon Boat Festival (端午节)
Arts & Crafts	Calligraphy (书法)	Paper Cutting (剪纸)	Peking Opera (京剧)
Stories / Myths	Mulan (木兰)	Journey to the West (西游记)	Nian Monster (年兽)
Cuisine / Dishes	Dumplings (饺子)	Kung Pao Chicken (宫保鸡丁)	Mooncakes (月饼)
Major Cities	Beijing (北京)	Shanghai (上海)	Xi'an (西安)
Famous People	Confucius (孔子)	Yao Ming (姚明)	Qin Shi Huang (秦始皇)
Technology	Mobile Pay (移动支付)	High-Speed Rail (高铁)	Online Shopping (网购)
Inventions	Paper (造纸术)	Compass (指南针)	Gunpowder (火药)

The "5-Point Check" Research Framework

For every topic above, ensure you can answer these questions in Chinese to prepare for the 2-minute presentation:

1. What is it? Provide a clear definition and basic description.
2. Historical/Geographic Context: Where is it located or when did it originate?
3. Cultural Significance: Why is it important to Chinese people? What values does it represent?
4. Symbolism: Does it represent luck, family, prosperity, or history?
5. Comparison: How does it compare to a similar product or practice in your own culture?

Presentation Connectors (Advanced Vocabulary)

- 众所周知 (Zhòngsuǒzhōuzhī): As everyone knows...
- 象征 (Xiàngzhēng): Symbolizes...
- 代表 (Dàibiǎo): Represents...
- 具体来说 (Jùtǐ lái shuō): Specifically...
- 与其...相比 (Yǔ qí... xiāng bǐ): Compared with...

Note: Remember to prioritize the "Perspectives" (the 'Why') behind the cultural products and practices to secure a 5.