

Language Orientation Questionnaire

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This questionnaire is administered by the School of English Studies at the University of Nottingham. We would like to ask you to help us by answering the following questions concerning foreign language learning. This is not a test so there are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers and you don't even have to write your name on it. We are interested in your personal opinions. Please give your answers sincerely as only this will guarantee the success of the investigation. Thank you very much for your help.

(I) The following section aims at finding out your personal views of the languages you are learning. Although the statements may sound similar, some may apply to you more than some others. We would like to ask you to focus on the details. Please rate these statements based on the scale below:

1 = strongly disagree 2 = disagree 3 neither agree nor disagree
4 = agree 5 = strongly agree

For example, if you like 'hamburgers' a lot, 'spaghetti' not a lot, and 'pizza' not at all, write this:

	Hamburger	Spaghetti	Pizza
I like these types of food.	5	2	1

Please put one (and only one) whole number in each box and don't leave out any of them. Thanks.

		English	Mandarin
1	I often imagine myself speaking these languages as if I were a native speaker of these languages.		
2	I study these languages because close friends of mine think they are important.		
3	I am prepared to expend a lot of effort in learning these languages.		
4	When I think of the future, I can imagine myself using these languages in a variety of ways.		
5	I have to study these languages, because, otherwise, I think my parents will be disappointed with me.		

		English	Mandarin
6	When I am in my language class, I volunteer answers as much as possible.		
7	I can imagine myself being a very competent speaker of these languages.		
8	People around me believe that I must study these languages to be an educated person.		
9	I would like to spend lots of time studying these languages.		
10	I can imagine myself writing e-mails in these languages fluently.		
11	I would like to concentrate on studying these languages more than any other topics.		
12	Studying these languages is important to me in order to gain the approval of my family.		
13	I can imagine myself participating in a debate in these languages.		
14	I consider learning these languages important because the people I respect think that I should do it.		
15	I would like to study these languages even if I were not required to do so.		

II. Now, we will present some statements concerning the way our brains process information. We would like to know to what extent they describe your own cognitive style. There are no right or wrong answers. People differ in their cognition. We would like to ask you to rate these statements based on the scale below:

1 = not at all true 2 = not really true 3 = partly true partly untrue
4 = mostly true 5 = absolutely true

For example, if you like skiing very much, write this:

I like skiing very much.	5
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16	When the teacher tells me the instructions I understand better.	
17	I understand better by reading instructions than by listening to instructions.	
18	If I wish, I can imagine some things so vividly that they hold my attention as a good movie or story does.	
19	I remember things better if I discuss them with someone.	
20	I remember something better if I write it down.	
21	Sometimes images come to me without the slightest effort.	
22	I use highlighters to help me as I learn.	
23	I prefer to learn by listening to the teacher rather than reading a text.	
24	When I am thinking, I often have visual images rather than thoughts in my mind.	
25	I learn better by reading what the teacher writes on the chalkboard.	
26	I learn better in class when the teacher gives a lecture.	
27	My daydreams are sometimes so vivid I feel as though I actually experience the scene.	
28	I learn more by reading textbooks than by listening to the teacher.	
29	I remember things I have heard in class better than things I have read.	
30	When reading fiction I usually have a vivid mental picture of the scene that has been described.	

III. This section is a slightly unusual but hopefully interesting final task. The items in the task will possibly bring certain images to your mind. We would like you to rate the vividness of each image by reference to the 5-point scale given below. For example, if your image is ‘vague and dim’, then give it a rating of 2. After each item, write the appropriate number in the box provided. Thank you and we hope this will be fun!

The image aroused by an item might be:

- No image at all, you only ‘know’ that you are thinking of the object..... 1
- Vague and dim..... 2
- Moderately clear and vivid 3
- Clear and reasonably vivid 4
- Perfectly clear and vivid as normal vision 5

A. Imagine some relatives or friends whom you frequently see (but who is not with you at present) and consider carefully the picture that comes before your mind’s eye.

How clearly do you see:	
31. The exact contour of face, head, shoulders, and body.	

B. Imagine the front of a shop which you often go to. Consider the picture that comes before your mind’s eye.

How clearly do you see:	
32. The overall appearance of the shop	

C. Imagine a country scene which involves a mountain covered in trees. Consider the picture that comes before your mind’s eye.

How clearly do you see:	
33. The trees	
34. The different shades of the leaves	

D. Imagine a rainbow in the sky. Consider the picture that comes before your mind’s eye.

How clearly do you see:	
35. The colours of the rainbow	

IV. Finally, please answer these few personal questions so that we can better interpret your previous answers.

36. Please circle which sex you are: boy / girl
37. At what age did you start learning English? _____
38. At what age did you start learning Mandarin? _____
39. Are you taking English lessons outside school? Yes / No
40. Are you taking lessons in Mandarin outside school? Yes / No
41. Have you studied outside Hong Kong (including mainland China)? Yes / No
- If so, where and for how long? Location: _____ Duration: _____

42. Your native language is....
Cantonese Mandarin English Others (Please specify: _____)

43. I would appreciate it if you could write down your last year's final grades in
English _____ Mandarin _____

44. I would love to send you the results of this study. If you are interested, please write your e-mail _____ so that I can contact you.

Thank you again for your time and help!

