

**Our Lady's Convent High School**

Hackney, London

State school in Hackney, London. The population in Hackney is largely lower-income.

Our Lady's has initiated a leading Chinese language program, serving both the school and the community. They recently brought their first group of Year 11 students through the GCSE standardized examination for Chinese, with remarkable results. Students used GoChinese after their mock exams, as a key part of their preparation process.

**Observations:**

- 64% of students scored the highest marks of A or A\*, which is far above the rate achieved for any other subject (both language and non-language subjects) at this school.<sup>(1)</sup>
  - Moreover, students of the other language subjects benefitted from one extra year of study, over Chinese.
  - None of the Chinese test takers were Chinese heritage students. Students of other languages had native language speakers at home.
- Marked improvement from the mock exams (Dec 2008) to the actual exam (May 2009).

GCSE Mock Exams - December 2008					
	Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing	Overall
Total Marks / Students	50	20	50	50	
Student 1	13	6	24	3	G+
Student 2	37	11	39	29	B-
Student 3	31	12	34	1	D-
Student 4	40	13	41	40	A-
Student 5	22	10	26	24	D-
Student 6	38	12	35	35	B-
Student 7	34	15	36	35	B+
Student 8	19		26	6	NA
Student 9	25		22	2	NA
Student 10	37	14	39	36	A-
Student 11	38	14	37	40	A-

GCSE Exams - Final Grade - Summer 2009					
	Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing	Overall
Total Marks / Students	50	20	50	55	
Student 1	27	11	15	0	F <sup>(2)</sup>
Student 2	48	17	45	32	A
Student 3	42	19	35	31	A
Student 4	47	18	43	43	A*
Student 5	27	14	24	19	C <sup>(2)</sup>
Student 6	48	19	47	54	A*
Student 7	45	19	43	45	A*
Student 8	31	14	26	13	C <sup>(2)</sup>
Student 9	36	11	23	8	D <sup>(2)</sup>
Student 10	47	17	34	37	A
Student 11	43	16	41	40	A

Notes: (1) Except for the Italian GCSE scores, although the school only had 2 test takers for this subject.

(2) The low scorers also achieved low scores with their other GCSEs.