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# TMC151 Mandarin Class – Exposing students to some Chinese cultural practices

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The Mandarin course textbook for Diploma students contains some brief notes on some Chinese cultural practices. These notes can be found in the first and third chapters. In the first chapter, an introduction to the second section of the 12th chapter of the Analects of Confucius – "Do not impose on others what you do not want others to do to you" is made. In addition to a brief introduction to the Analects of Confucius, other famous quotes in the Analects such as "When three people walk together, there will be someone who can teach me" are also explained to students.

In the third chapter, students are exposed to the art of paper cutting and also the making of Chinese lanterns. In the paper cutting section, students are taught to cut out simple characters for "Spring", "Good Luck" and "Double Happiness". In the making of Chinese lanterns, students are taught how to make fish and lanterns with red envelopes. Students like the handicrafts very much and are serious about making the lanterns and taking part in the paper cuttings. Students are also told that lanterns are important to the Chinese as they bring light and illuminate the way forward; fish in Chinese, on the other hand, is the homonym of "surplus", which carries the wish of having abundance in life year after year. The making of lanterns and fish therefore symbolizes a bright future and a rich life. Students happily brought their handicrafts back after the hands-on session.

