Unit 1

Overview of Lingnan



Part One Motivating

Lead-in Scenario Task

Suppose a promotional video competition entitled "Hello, Lingnan" will be held recently and you intend to sign up for the contest, what typical cultural traits will you choose to interpret about Lingnan in your eyes?

Inspirational Quotes

1. 推进国际传播能力建设，讲好中国故事，展现真实、立体、全面的中国，提高国家文化软实力。

——习近平

We will improve our capacity for engaging in international communication so as to tell China's stories well, present a true, multi-dimensional and panoramic view of China, and enhance our country's cultural soft power.

—Xi Jinping

2. 文化是一个国家、一个民族的灵魂。文化兴国运兴，文化强民族强。

——习近平

Culture is a country and nation's soul. Our country will thrive only if our culture thrives, and our nation will be strong only if our culture is strong.

—Xi Jinping

Part Two Reading

Introduction[1]

Lingnan culture is an integral part of splendid Chinese culture. It generally refers to the culture of Guangdong and nearby provinces in southeastern China. Based on the unique geographical environment and historical conditions, Lingnan culture originated from agricultural culture and marine culture. In the process of its development, Lingnan culture constantly absorbed and integrated **the culture of Central Plains** (中原文化) and overseas culture, and gradually formed its own unique characteristics as **pragmatism, openness, innovation and accommodation** (务实、开放、创新、包容). **Excavated** (挖掘的) objects from Lingnan ancient sites indicated that Lingnan culture is native culture. The word "Lingnan" comes from the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (770 BC–221 BC), generally referring to Guangdong, Guangxi and the north of Vietnam. The nationality here was called Nanyue. In terms of geography, Lingnan culture can be divided into three cultural branches in the **Pearl River Drainage Area** (珠江流域)—Guangdong culture, Guangxi culture and Hainan culture.

Guangdong province is located in the southernmost part of the Chinese mainland. It **adjoins** (毗连) Fujian province in the east and Jiangxi and Hunan provinces in the north. To the west, it is Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and to the south the South China Sea. China's second-largest river—the Pearl River—flows through Guangdong. To the east of the **Pearl River Estuary** (珠江口), it is the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and to the west, the Macao Special Administrative Region. The southwestern Leizhou Island in Guangdong is separated from Hainan province by the **Qiongzhou Strait** (琼州海峡).

Due to its geographical advantage, Guangdong is the first province in China to conduct maritime trade and international migration. As one of the frontiers of China's reform and opening-up policy, Guangdong has grown to be the fastest economically developing province in China with the most advanced business and trade and a great deal of **market vigor** (市场活力), attracting millions of investors from both home and abroad. Besides, more than 30 million overseas Chinese from 160 countries and regions attribute their hometown to Guangdong. With the combination of overseas Chinese culture and local culture, the culture in Guangdong is a unique and important part of the Lingnan culture. The folk arts and customs also lay a rich foundation for Guangdong culture. As the centerpiece of Lingnan culture, it consists of **Cantonese** (广府), **Teochew**

(潮汕) and **Hakka** (客家) cultures.

Guangzhou is the center of Cantonese culture along the Pearl River and the most outstanding part of Lingnan Culture. As the main port of the **Maritime Silk Road** (海上丝绸之路), the city has always been the political, economic and cultural center of South China for more than 2,000 years. It has a 4,000-year civilization that can trace its roots to the **Neolithic period** (新石器时代). As a result of the mixture of ethnic minority cultures, Han culture and foreign cultures, Cantonese culture is famous for its diversity and vitality.

As indicated by **archaeological** (考古学的) relics and historic sites, **humanism, pragmatism, enterprise and innovation** (人本、务实、进取、创新) are major elements of Cantonese culture. These cultural elements often find their expression in architecture, customs, gardening, business, religion and other forms of art. For example, **Xiguan Residential House** (西关大屋) and Qilou Building (Arcade Building) of late Qing Dynasty are all typical Lingnan style architecture, built in consideration of the unique geographic and climate features in the Lingnan area. The rich connotations, diversity and uniqueness of Cantonese culture are reflected in languages, music, operas, calligraphy, painting, poems, architecture, **bonsai** (盆景), handicraft, folk customs and cuisines.

(634 words)

Note

1 This passage is adapted from the article on the website of "English.GZ.gov.cn".

Text A

Lingnan Culture in History

Expressions of Moral Education Reflected in Text A

1. *With agriculture and marine expedition at its core, Lingnan culture has constantly drawn strength from Central Plains culture and foreign cultures.* 岭南文化以农业和海洋探险为核心，不断汲取中原文化和外来文化的力量。
2. *embracing globalization* 置身全球化进程

Lead-in Questions

1. How many schools of Chinese culture do you know?
2. What does Lingnan area refer to?
3. What sub-cultures does Lingnan culture consist of?
4. What elements are included in Lingnan culture?

Lingnan Culture in History[1]

Chinese culture can be roughly divided by region into Central Plains School[2], Manchu School[3], Huxiang School[4], Jiangsu Zhejiang School[5], Bashu School[6], Qilu School[7] and Lingnan School of South China. Every school has its **ups and downs** in the past. For example, Central Plains School mainly in Central China was once represented as the mainstream of traditional Chinese culture. As the backbone of Chinese culture for thousands of years, it still has a deep-rooted influence over China. However, in the revolutionary 20th century, it's the Huxiang School in Hunan and Hubei provinces that strongly influenced China with its outstanding national scholars, thinkers, military talents and revolutionary heroes, like Mao Zedong, Huang Xing, Tan Sitong and Liu Shaoqi. Today, Lingnan School of South China seems to **reach its prime**, accompanied with the rapid social changes in the southern coastal areas in China and with China's focus shifting from the planned economy to the socialist market economy.

Guangdong has a long tradition of openness and flexibility, a favorable geographic location, an ambition for prosperity and a deep-rooted love for the richness of life. As the capital of Guangdong Province, Guangzhou is the center of Cantonese culture along the Pearl River and the most outstanding example of Lingnan culture. Its history began with a beautiful legend of five fairy **rams**, which probably reflects the locals' strong desire for a **prosperous** and peaceful life, rather than the wars between evil and good as in other places in China. And Zhenhailou (Five-story) Tower[8] displays the unique personality and **temperament** of the Yue people, who took the snake as their **totem**. A great number of ancient sculptures depicting the friendship between man and snake are found among the ancient objects **unearthed** from the tomb of the Nanyue King Zhao Tuo[9]. But strangely enough, Cantonese would still like to have snake meat on the table today.

Here you probably want to know more about this **robust** Lingnan culture and its remarkable evolution. Lingnan culture refers to the culture of Guangdong and the nearby provinces in southeastern China, consisting of Cantonese culture[10], Teochew culture[11] and Hakka culture[12]. There are a lot of elements contained in Lingnan Culture, such as

traditional food culture, martial arts, architecture, visual arts, performing arts, literature, language, philosophy, religions, traditional celebrations, etc. Lingnan Painting School, Guangdong Music and Cantonese Opera, the most **renowned** of all local art forms, are better known as the "Three Art Treasures of Lingnan". Guangzhou Glazed Porcelain[13], Guangzhou Embroidery[14] and Guangzhou Carving[15] are also the art treasures of Guangzhou folk culture. Due to its profound cultural **connotation**, Lingnan culture is the subject of research at institutions such as the Center for Lingnan Culture.

Lingnan culture presents such characteristics as **pragmatism**, openness, **innovation** and **accommodation**. The formation of such distinguishing cultural traits can be attributed to its historical development. With agriculture and **marine** expedition at its core, Lingnan culture has constantly drawn strength from Central Plains culture and foreign cultures. Lingnan culture has set up a close tie with Central Plains culture since the Qin Dynasty when Qin Shihuang, the first emperor, unified the whole land of China. In the following dynasties, a lot of national celebrities contributed a great deal to the development of Lingnan culture, including: Zhao Tuo of the Qin Dynasty; Ge Hong, Madam Xian, Zhang Jiuling of the early Tang Dynasty; Han Yu, Liu Yuxi, Buddhist master of Huineng[16] and Jian Zhen of the Tang Dynasty; Yu Jing, Su Shi, Wen Tianxiang and Chen Xianzhang of the Song Dynasty; Qu Dajun of the early Qing Dynasty; Hong Xiuquan, Lin Zexu, Kang Youwei and Liang Qichao of the late Qing Dynasty; Dr. Sun Yat-sen of the Republic of China; Deng Xiaoping, the architect of China's four modernizations, who paid a **prompt** visit to South China, encouraging the locals to carry out further the policy of reform.

Apart from what is mentioned above, international exchanges between Lingnan area and western world have had an important influence over South China. Dharma from India and businessmen from the Arabian area during the Tang Dynasty, a Marine Silk Road between South China and Persian Gulf Region[17], Christian civilization, Western science and technology all have left behind a rich **legacy** in South China.

In the past century, Hong Kong and Macao were two important places where the West meets the East in the world. Since 1980s, Guangdong has opened its doors widely to the outside world, and is embracing globalization. Besides, with the **migration** of the Cantonese people to many overseas communities, Lingnan culture has become an influential cultural force in the international community.

All in all, Lingnan culture is considered to be a commercial, oceanic culture that **embodies** the history of the region. Its foundation consists of a mix of Nanyue and

Han Chinese (especially the Tang dynasty's and the Song dynasty's) influences, having preserved a considerable amount of Tang-Song cultural heritages not preserved in other branches of modern Han Chinese cultures. Lingnan later became Ming Empire's main contact point with Western Europeans **via** commerce, and thus came to include European ideas in its arts and philosophy.

(912 words)

New Words and Expressions

ram	[ræm]	*n.*	公羊
prosperous	['prɒspərəs]	*adj.*	繁荣的
temperament	['tempərəmənt]	*n.*	气质
totem	['təʊtəm]	*n.*	图腾
unearth	[ʌn'ɜːθ]	*v.*	挖掘
robust	[rəʊ'bʌst]	*adj.*	强健的
renowned	[rɪ'naʊnd]	*adj.*	著名的
connotation	[ˌkɒnə'teɪʃn]	*n.*	内涵
pragmatism	['prægmətɪzəm]	*n.*	务实思想；实用主义
innovation	[ˌɪnəʊ'veɪʃn]	*n.*	创新
accommodation	[əˌkɒmə'deɪʃn]	*n.*	包容；住宿
marine	[mə'riːn]	*n.*	海洋
prompt	[prɒmpt]	*adj.*	立刻的
legacy	['legəsi]	*n.*	遗产
migration	[maɪ'greɪʃn]	*n.*	迁移
embody	[ɪm'bɒdi]	*v.*	体现
via	['vaɪə]	*prep.*	通过
ups and downs			起起落落
reach the prime			达到巅峰
pilot city			试点城市

Notes

1. This passage is adapted from the article on the website of "NewsGD.com".
2. Central Plains School 中原文化。中原文化是黄河中下游地区的物质文化和精神文化的总称，是中华文化的母体和主干。中原文化以河南为中心，以广大的黄河中下游地区为腹地，逐层向外辐射。中原地区是中华文明的摇篮，在古代，这里不仅是中国的政治、经济中心，也是主流文化的中心。
3. Manchu School 满族文化。满族文化最早可追溯到七千多年前的肃慎新开流文化和茶啊冲文化时期，肃慎、挹娄、勿吉、靺鞨、渤海、女真，是现代满族一脉相承的祖先。
4. Huxiang School 湖湘文化。先秦、两汉的楚文化对两宋以后建构的湖湘文化有着重要的影响，是湖湘文化的源头之一。南北朝及唐宋以来，由于历史的变迁和发展，特别是经历了宋、元、明的几次大规模的移民，湖湘士民在人口、习俗、风尚、思想观念上均有很大变化，从而组合、建构出一种新的区域文化形态，被称为湖湘文化。
5. Jiangsu Zhengjiang School 江浙文化。江浙文化又称吴越文化，是汉文明的重要组成部分，也是江浙的地域文化。以太湖流域为中心，其覆盖范围包括今上海、江苏南部、浙江、安徽南部和江西东北部。吴越文化又可细分为"吴文化"和"越文化"，两者同源。
6. Bashu School 巴蜀文化。巴蜀文化指四川盆地的地域文化，是灿烂的中华文化的重要组成部分。巴文化以四川省东北部地区（巴中、达州、阆中）为中心，巴文化国家重点保护遗址有罗家坝遗址（四川宣汉县）、城坝遗址（四川渠县）、蜀文化则由三个古族融合而成，以德阳、成都地区为中心，蜀文化国家重点保护遗址有三星堆遗址（四川广汉市）、金沙遗址（成都市青羊区）。
7. Qilu School 齐鲁文化。齐鲁文化是"齐文化"和"鲁文化"的合称。东临滨海的齐国产生了以姜太公为代表的思想学说，又吸收了当地土著文化（东夷文化）并加以发展。两种古老文化存在差异，相对来说，齐文化尚功利，鲁文化重伦理；齐文化讲求革新，鲁文化尊重传统。两种文化在发展中逐渐有机地融合在一起，形成了具有丰富历史内涵的齐鲁文化。
8. Zhenhailou (Five-story) Tower 镇海楼。又名望海楼，位于中国广东省广州市越秀山（越秀公园）小蟠龙冈上，中国 4A 级旅游景区，为广州市标志性建筑之一，广东省级文物保护单位。又因楼高 5 层，故又俗称"五层楼"。
9. Nanyue King Zhao Tuo 赵佗（约公元前 240 年—公元前 137 年），即南越武帝。秦末大乱时，赵佗割据岭南，建立南越国。南越国建立伊始，赵佗实施"和辑百越"政策，引入中原农耕技术与先进文化，同时又将异域文化和海洋文化引进岭南，使岭南地区从落后的刀耕火种进入农耕文明时代。
10. Cantonese culture 广府文化。广府文化从属于岭南文化，是中华文明的重要组成部分，由中原与江南移民文化所形成，传承了中原汉文化的精髓，在岭南文化中影响最大，在各个领域常被当作广东汉文化的代表 。广府文化指广东珠

三角广州府地区使用粤方言的汉族居民的文化，形成于广州府地区，又流行于广东、香港、澳门、广西东南部以及海外粤语华人社区。广州府自设立以来，经济发达、商贸繁荣、文教鼎盛，是广府文化的核心地带和兴盛之地，在广东省一直处于领先地位 。广府文化的代表有“粤菜”“醒狮”“广绣”“广彩”“广雕”“岭南画派”“岭南园林”“粤剧”“粤曲”等。

11. Teochew culture 潮汕文化。潮汕文化隶属于岭南文化，是广东三大文化之一。潮汕文化是汉文化的子文化，是古中原文化的遗存，也是中华民族优秀文化的重要组成部分，是在历代传承过程中不断发展而形成的汉文化。潮汕文化是潮汕人（潮汕民系）创造的文化，有中外文化兼容的特点，特征是以海洋文化为主。

12. Hakka culture 客家文化。客家文化是指客家人共同创造的文化，包括客家话、戏剧音乐、舞蹈、工艺、民俗等。客家文化源自中原汉人南迁时自身所保留的唐宋时期的华夏文化和中原文化。崇文重教、耕读传家是客家文化的特点。客家文化的基本特质是儒家文化，祖先崇拜、重教观念、寻根意识、开拓精神以及奇特而丰富多彩的民俗风情都体现了客家人习俗源长、崇德敦教的特点，颇有中原遗风。

13. Guangzhou Glazed Porcelain 广州彩瓷。广州彩瓷是广州织会彩瓷的简称，它是在各种白瓷器皿上彩绘后烧成的一种具有浓厚东方特色的传统手工艺品。彩瓷大都采用中国的织锦图案，以颜色鲜明绚丽而著称，是我国釉上彩瓷的一个独特的品种。

14. Guangzhou Embroidery 广绣。广绣是粤绣之一，指广州、佛山、南海、番禺、顺德、东莞、宝安、香山等地的刺绣，即以广州为中心的珠江三角洲民间刺绣工艺的总称。广绣的针法主要有 7 大类、30 余种，包括直扭针、捆咬针、续插针等。广绣以构图饱满、形象传神、纹理清晰、色泽富丽、针法多样和善于变化的艺术特色而闻名宇内，包括刺绣字画、刺绣戏服、珠绣等。广绣也作为一种著名的造型艺术，与江苏的苏绣、湖南的湘绣、四川的蜀绣被并称为中国的四大名绣。2006 年 5 月 20 日，广绣经中华人民共和国国务院批准，列入第一批国家级非物质文化遗产名录。

15. Guangzhou Carving 广雕。广雕是广府雕塑的简称，是指以广州为代表的具有岭南传统文化特色的雕刻工艺及其制品。广雕中最负盛名的是牙雕、玉雕和木雕。

16. Buddhist master of Huineng 六祖惠能大师（638 年—713 年）。唐新州（今广东新兴县）人，中国禅宗杰出大师。他弘化于岭南，得到五祖弘忍传授衣钵，继承了东山法脉并建立了南宗。

17. Marine Silk Road between South China and Persian Gulf Region 中国华南地区与波斯湾地区之间的海上丝绸之路。自 3 世纪 30 年代起，作为中国“南大门”的广州就是海上丝绸之路的主港，中国与南洋和波斯湾地区的定期航线都集中在广州。

Assignments

Activity 1 After-reading Exercises

I. Complete the following passage with the words and expressions from the box.

migration	prime	market	opened its door	outstanding
openness	pilot	Hakka	ups and downs	pragmatism

Various schools of Chinese culture went through its (1) _____ in Chinese history, starting from Central Plains School, Manchu School, Huxiang School, Jiangsu Zhejiang School, Bashu School and Qilu School. Today, it seems that Lingnan School of South China is in its (2) _____ with the speedy social changes in Southern China coastal areas and China's shift from the planned economy to the (3) _____ economy. No wonder that Guangdong has been chosen twice as one of the five (4) _____ cities that are opened to the outside world.

Guangdong has a long tradition of (5) _____ and flexibility due to its desire for prosperity, while its capital city Guangzhou is considered to be the center of Cantonese culture and the most (6) _____ example of Lingnan culture.

If you look a step further into Lingnan culture, it's not difficult to find that it's composed of three parts—Cantonese culture, Teochew culture and (7) _____ culture—with (8) _____, openness, innovation and accommodation as its characteristics. In the last century, Deng Xiaoping, among numerous celebrities who played active roles in promoting Lingnan culture, went to South China in person to encourage locals to answer the call of China's policy of reform and opening-up. Since then, Guangdong has (9) _____ widely to the outside world and is embracing globalization. What's more, as the Cantonese's (10) _____ abroad, Lingnan culture has grown to be a significant cultural force in the world.

II. Work in groups and discuss the following questions.

1. According to the passage, what are the characteristics of Lingnan culture? Besides those, do you know any other characteristics of Lingnan culture?
2. Which city is the best manifestation of "openness" in Lingnan area? In what ways?