

Snap Shot | Answer key

2 “Becoming Chinese” – a new social media fad

2 b Listening

Understand what “Becoming Chinese” or “Chinamaxxing” means

hashtag / motto	“You’ve met me at a very Chinese time in my life”; #chinamaxxing; #BecomingChinese; “Everyone wants to be Chinese these days”
habits adopted	drinking warm water; wearing slippers and Chinese-inspired outfits; embracing traditional Chinese medicine (TCM)
What caused the trend?	banning of TikTok in the US, users joined RedNote; trend bubbling in the background; erupted after TikTok era; spread to Australia; YouTube
When / why did it explode?	in late 2025; linked to Trump’s immigration policy with ICE; desire for a better community, twist with the <i>Fight Club</i> line “You met me ...”
explaining the trend	nostalgia for Western idea of community; desire for connecting to people; responding to seasonality; slowing down
the Chinese view of the trend	find it interesting; like idea that their culture is seen positive; feel conflicted (because of Chinese image during pandemic); fear a quick trend
What is an important question?	cultural appreciation or appropriation?; will it be a passing fad or deeper cultural understanding?

2 c Reading

Boosting China’s soft power?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
F	A	H	B	G	E	J	F

not used: D, I

2 f Language in use

Passing fad or cultural appropriation?

1	fascination		
2	moderation	9	commentators
3	perceptions	10	government
4	appreciation	11	anxieties
5	oversimplifications	12	uncertainty
6	creators	13	ideological
7	themselves	14	reflective
8	largely	15	curiosity

2 g Reading

Hyping Chinese culture – not just a thing of Gen Z

1. The text is about the European fascination with East Asian culture. Luxury goods like porcelain and silk from China and other parts of East Asia inspired strong interest in

Europe from the 16th century onward, but European designers (especially in the Rococo period) did not accurately distinguish between Asian cultures. They mixed elements into one stylized, “exotic” fantasy. Some key features of Chinoiserie included pagodas, dragons, exotic landscapes, and figures in “Chinese” dress, often based more on imagination than real knowledge of China.

2. Both the Chinamaxxing fad and historic Chinoiserie paint an idealised rather than fully realistic picture of China. Just like Chinoiserie mixed and simplified Asian elements, “Chinamaxxing” often highlights curated aspects (e.g. lifestyle, food, aesthetics) instead of showing the full complexity of Chinese society. In both cases, many people engaging with the trend had / have little direct experience of China. Their perception was / is shaped by media, trends, or imagination.
3. The wallpaper presents China as peaceful and harmonious, with figures dressed in elegant clothing and living in balance with nature. The people depicted engage in various activities, such as swinging and smoking a pipe.