Second Language - Latin

International Baccalaureate

Language options

All students who opt for the IB have to study a modern foreign or classical language. Those who particularly enjoy languages may choose to study two. At Bedford School, we offer French, German, Spanish, Latin and Mandarin. The first four courses will be offered as Language B, a course for non-native speakers who have studied these languages to GCSE and now wish to develop their knowledge further. Mandarin will be available at *ab initio* level; in other words, the course will assume no prior knowledge of the language. The Department will also offer German as Language A2, a course designed for those who already have an advanced knowledge of German and who will probably be native speakers.

Structure and content of the Latin course

The Language B course in Latin focuses on developing and enhancing the students' language skills to enable them to read, understand and appreciate passages excerpted from original Classical authors such as Livy, Cicero and Ovid. In addition, literary study is an integral part of the course at both Standard and Higher level; students typically study examples of two literary genres and learn to appreciate the themes which underpin the text, as well as how the authors' choice of vocabulary and use of stylistic effects increases the enjoyment of the original audience. Current literary topics (of which two will be studied during the course) include: *Tacitus' presentation of Imperial policy* (Ancient History), *Cicero's Political Speeches* (Oratory) and *Roman Epic poetry* (studying Virgil's *Aeneid*).

Assessment

Assessment is by terminal examination. Two written papers are taken at the end of the course: the Language paper asks candidates to translate an unseen passage from a prescribed author. The Literature paper tests the candidates' understanding and appreciation of the literary topics studied during the course. Candidates at Higher Level are also required to offer an Individual Study; this will normally take the form of a Research Dossier containing an annotated collection of source materials relating to a topic in classical history, literature, language, religion, mythology, art, archaeology or influence. The topic will be selected by the student after discussion with the teacher, and will require considerable independent learning skills. Alternatively, candidates may demonstrate advanced language skills by submitting a piece of English prose translated into Latin.

Aims and requirements

The aims and requirements of the IB in Language B are the same as for AS/A2. Candidates for Higher Level Latin will normally have attained at least a Grade A at GCSE (or equivalent qualification).