

IB LANGUAGE A: LITERATURE

Entry Requirement

An IB HL student should be able to demonstrate a strong competency in English before HL can be recommended. At least a 6 in IGCSE English Literature is required, although a 7 is preferable.

Introduction

The course is built on the assumption that literature is concerned with our conceptions, interpretations and experiences of the world. The study of literature can therefore be seen as an exploration of the way it represents the complex pursuits, anxieties, joys and fears to which human beings are exposed in the daily business of living. It enables an exploration of one of the more enduring fields of human creativity, and provides opportunities for encouraging independent, original, critical and clear thinking. It also promotes respect for the imagination and a perceptive approach to the understanding and interpretation of literary works.

Through the study of a wide range of literature, the Language A: Literature course encourages students to appreciate the artistry of literature and to develop an ability to reflect critically on their reading. Works are studied in their literary and cultural contexts, through close study of individual texts and passages, and by considering a range of critical approaches. In view of the international nature of the IB and its commitment to intercultural understanding, the Language A: Literature course does not limit the study of works to the products of one culture or the cultures covered by any one language. The study of works in translation is especially important in introducing students, through literature, to other cultural perspectives. The response to the study of literature is through oral and written communication, thus enabling

students to develop and refine their command of language.

Language A: Literature is a flexible course that allows teachers to choose works from prescribed lists of authors and to construct a course that suits the particular needs and interests of their students. It is divided into three areas of study:

- Readers, writers and texts
- Time and space
- Intertextuality

Within these, students will cover literary works comprising a range of different forms from different time periods and cultures, including a number of texts in translation.

The aims of Language A: Literature at SL and at HL are to:

- Introduce students to a range of texts from different periods, styles and genres
- Develop in students the ability to engage in close, detailed analysis of individual texts and make relevant connections
- Develop the students' powers of expression, both in oral and written communication
- Encourage students to recognize the importance of the contexts in which texts are written and received
- Encourage, through the study of texts, an appreciation of the different perspectives of people from other cultures, and how these perspectives construct meaning
- Encourage students to appreciate the formal, stylistic and aesthetic qualities of texts
- Promote in students an enjoyment of, and lifelong interest in, language and literature

Syllabus Content

Standard Level (SL)

Assessment component Weighting

External assessment (3 hours) 70%

Paper 1: Guided literary analysis (1 hour 15 minutes)

The paper consists of two literary passages. Students choose one and write a guided literary analysis in response to two questions. (20 marks) 35%

Paper 2: Essay (1 hour 45 minutes)

The paper will require candidates to write a literary essay about two works in response to a question. Candidates must choose from one of four tasks, each of a general nature. They must compare and contrast two of the works they have studied in connection with one of these tasks. The works used to answer this paper could be works written by authors on the prescribed reading list or works freely chosen, and they could be either works studied in translation or written originally in the language studied. There will be a focus on genre so the texts used could be from any combination of literary forms. The only restriction is that no work used for a paper 2 response can have been used in the preparation of other components (25 marks) 35%.

Internal assessment

Individual Oral (30%)

This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course. It will consist of a 15-minute individual oral exploring two of the texts in relation to a global issue of the student's choice. The first 10 minutes will consist of the student's analysis of the extracts and the overall texts in connection with the chosen global issue. In the remaining 5 minutes, the teacher will ask questions of the student that will encourage further development, exploration or discussion. The

prompt the students will respond to will be: Examine the ways in which the global issue of your choice is presented through the content and form of two of the texts that you have studied.

Higher Level (HL)

Assessment component Weighting

External assessment 80%

Paper 1: Literary commentary (2 hours 15 minutes)

The paper consists of two literary passages. Students write a literary commentary on each of the passages. (20 marks) 35%

Paper 2: Essay (1 hour 45 hours)

The paper will require candidates to write a literary essay about two works in response to a question. Candidates must choose from one of four tasks, each of a general nature. They must compare and contrast two of the works they have studied in connection with one of these tasks. The works used to answer this paper could be works written by authors on the prescribed reading list or works freely chosen, and they could be either works studied in translation or written originally in the language studied. There will be a focus on genre so the texts used could be from any combination of literary forms. The only restriction is that no work used for a paper 2 response can have been used in the preparation of other components (25 marks) 25%.

Higher Level Essay (20%)

The HL essay is a component that requires candidates to write a 1200-1500 word formal essay, following a line of inquiry of their own choice into one of the texts studied. HL Language A: language and literature candidates will have a choice between writing about a non-literary or literary text. Students can choose any of the texts studied during the course, with the exception of the texts they have used for their internal assessment or

that they plan to use for their Paper 2. In order to guide students in their choice of topic, a recommendation will be made in the guide to use the seven central concepts in the course as a starting point for developing a line of inquiry.

Internal assessment

This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end Individual Oral (20%)

This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course. It will consist of a 15-minute individual oral exploring two of the texts in relation to a global issue of the student's choice. The first 10 minutes will consist of the student's analysis of the extracts and the overall texts in connection with the chosen global issue. In the remaining 5 minutes, the teacher will ask questions of the student that will encourage further development, exploration or discussion. The prompt the students will respond to will be: Examine the ways in which the global issue of your choice is presented through the content and form of two of the texts that you have studied.

The Learner Portfolio

This constitutes a collection and selection of a student's work including all sorts of tasks students might develop in their interaction with the texts and in their preparation of all assessment components. It will consist not only of entries where students reflect on the texts studied, but also of all sorts of activities which students might engage in as they respond critically or creatively to the texts they read. It can be either an electronic portfolio or a paper one. Although it will not be formally assessed by the IB, the learner portfolio will be a central element of the new courses and will be instrumental in the preparation of all assessment components.