

IB SECOND LANGUAGE: MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE

All students who opt for the IB study a modern foreign or classical language. Those who particularly enjoy languages may choose to study two. We offer French, German, Spanish and Chinese as Language B for which a GCSE Level (or equivalent level of prior learning) is required. We also offer Spanish and Mandarin at ab initio Level (i.e. for beginners).

German and Chinese as Language A are courses designed for native speakers. The course offered is Language A: Language and Literature, and it follows the same structure as the English A: Language and Literature course. The course develops essay skills and practises dealing with complex texts in German or Chinese. Please refer to the English section for more on the course structure. While German is available at both Standard and Higher Level, Chinese is offered at Standard Level only.

Entry Requirement

To study the language at Standard Level a GCSE grade 6 is required, but candidates with a grade 7 or above should consider Higher Level. For ab initio there should be no prior study of the subject.

The Standard Level course entails four periods per week; Higher Level students have six periods and undertake more advanced work. In addition, all students have a weekly conversation lesson with the native language assistant to boost their confidence in speaking.

IB Language B courses are very accessible and our IGCSE students cope well with their demands.

For the Language A courses, a native speaker level of language competency is required.

Introduction

The Language part of the IB develops crucial elements in its learners. Beyond understanding and using the language in many different contexts, you will enhance your intercultural understanding and acquire a great set of transferable skills, such as learning to work with complex (linguistic) systems. Through the study of texts and social interaction, you will increase your awareness and appreciation of the different perspectives of people from other cultures. The skills you pick up will open doors to further study and work opportunities. Language skills are highly sought after both by universities and employers and are a great asset in fields ranging from Arts to Law, from Business to Science, from History to Engineering. After the course, you might find yourself using foreign language sources for your university essays, giving presentations to international business partners or impressing friends with your intercultural knowledge and sensibility. Previous students have studied abroad, and some have gone on to take up language degrees or international law.

Syllabus Content

The Language B course develops receptive and productive skills (i.e. understanding and producing language). Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing exams each carry a weight of 25% towards the final mark. Much like in GCSE English, students will become familiar with a variety of different linguistic registers and text types. The language skills are practised within the context of themes and topics – such as Identities and Experiences, Human Ingenuity, Social Organisation and Sharing the Planet - which promote an awareness of the society in which the language is spoken and afford an insight into its culture. The Higher Level course includes a literary element, usually in the form

of a play, short novel, prose extracts or poems. These works are studied for their themes, characters and contexts, not analysed

for their literary devices. The course content is flexible and we tailor it according to the students' interests.

The overall assessment outline for the course are as follows (subject to change):

Language B SL	Language B HL	Language ab initio
<p>Paper 1 Writing 1 hr 15 min Producing a text based on a choice of specific text types (e.g. article, speech, letter, flyer) of 250-400 words length 25% weighting</p>	<p>Paper 1 Writing 1 hr 30 min Producing a text based on a choice of specific text types (e.g. article, speech, letter, flyer) of 450-600 words length 25% weighting</p>	<p>Paper 1 Writing 1 hr Producing 2 texts based on a choice of specific text types (e.g. article, speech, etc.) of 70-150 words each 25% weighting</p>
<p>Paper 2 Receptive skills – listening and reading (separate sections) Listening comp. – 45 min Reading comp. – 1 hr 50% weighting</p>	<p>Paper 2 Receptive skills – listening and reading (separate sections) Listening comp. – 1 hr Reading comp. – 1 hr 50% weighting</p>	<p>Paper 2 Receptive skills – listening and reading (separate sections) Listening comp. – 45 min Reading comp. – 1 hr 50% weighting</p>
<p>Internal Assessment Individual oral 12-15 min + 15 min of preparation 25% weighting</p>	<p>Internal Assessment Individual oral 12-15 min + 20 min of preparation For HL, this is based on an extract from the two literary works studied during the course 25% weighting</p>	<p>Internal Assessment Individual oral 7-10 min + 15 min of preparation Picture-based presentation and discussion followed by general conversation 25% weighting</p>