

An Introduction To IB Higher and Standard English B

Overview

This course is designed for students with some years of previous experience in the language. The focus of the course will be on English language building and the development of the four main communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Students should be able to competently handle a variety of texts types at a reasonable level of difficulty (SL: *Intermediate*; HL: *Advanced Intermediate* level) prior to commencing the course. Throughout the course itself, they will be required to respond both in written and verbal forms to topics, ideas and themes related to countries in which English is the dominant language. Texts taken from the Media and appropriate literary works are the basis for study in this course.

Students are strongly encouraged to develop and reinforce their English language skills by regularly reading books and newspapers, watching television, and speaking daily in the target language.

Levels of Study

English B is studied at either Higher or Standard Levels, depending on a student's prior knowledge and proficiency in English.

Topics

The following topics provide the basis for exploring language and ideas in English B:

1. Core

Students explore all three of the following Core topics: Social Relationships; Communication and the Media; Global Issues

2. Optional

Students explore **two** of the following Options: Health, Customs and Traditions; Leisure; Cultural Diversity; Science and Technology

Objectives:

As prescribed by the IBO, the main objectives of this course are:

- Communicate clearly and effectively in a wide range of situations
- Understand and use accurately oral and written forms of the language that are essential for effective communication in a range of styles and situations
- Understand and use a wide range of vocabulary
- Select a register and style that are appropriate to the situation
- Express ideas with general clarity and fluency
- Structure arguments in a clear, coherent, and convincing way
- Understand and analyze moderately complex written and spoken material
- Assess subtleties of the language in a wide range of forms, styles, and registers
- Show an awareness of, and sensitivity to, the culture(s) related to the language studied

Literature

Students must study a minimum of two literary works at Higher Level and may study some literary texts at Standard Level. One of the literary works studied at Higher Level will form the basis of a 500 to 600 word written assignment, produced in class over 3-4 hours, under assessment conditions. Students are expected to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the literary works studied, but are not required to undertake literary criticism.

Assessment Outline

| Standard Level External Assessment | Weighting 70% |
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| <p>Paper 1 (1 ½ hours) Receptive skills text-handling exercises on 4 texts from the Core topics</p> | 25% |
| <p>Paper 2 (1 ½ hours) Written productive skills One writing exercise from a choice of 5, based on the Options</p> | 25% |
| <p>Written assignment: Receptive and written and productive skills Intertextual reading of three sources followed by a written exercises of 300-400 words and a 100 word rationale based on the Core topics</p> | 20% |
| | Weighting 30% |
| <p>Internal Assessment Oral: Interactive skills Internally assessed and externally moderated by IB towards the end of the course</p> | |
| <p>Individual oral Based on the Options with 15 minutes preparation time and a 3-4 minute presentation and 5-6 minute discussion with the teacher</p> | 20% |
| <p>Interactive oral activities Based on the Core topics. Three classroom activities are assessed by the teacher. The individual oral is used to moderate the marks.</p> | 10% |
| Higher Level External Assessment | Weighting 70% |
| <p>Paper 1 (1 ½ hours) Receptive skills Text-handling exercises on 5 texts from the Core topics</p> | 25% |
| <p>Paper 2 (1 ½ hours) Written productive skills Two compulsory writing exercises</p> <p>Section A: One task of 250-400 words, based on the Options, to be selected from a choice of five</p> | 25% |
| <p>Section B: response of 150-200 words to a stimulus text based on the Core topic</p> | 20% |
| <p>Written assignment: Receptive and written and productive skills Creative writing of 500-600 words plus a 150 word rationale based on one of the literary texts studied</p> | |
| | Weighting 30% |
| <p>Internal Assessment Oral: Interactive skills Internally assessed and externally moderated by IB towards the end of the course</p> | |
| <p>Individual oral Based on the Options with 15 minutes preparation time and a 3-4 minute presentation and 5-6 minute discussion with the teacher</p> | 20% |
| <p>Interactive oral activities Based on the Core topics. Three classroom activities are assessed by the teacher. The individual oral is used to moderate the marks.</p> | 10% |