

New language programmes IBDP – start teaching Sept 2011

Overview of group 1 and 2 changes

Group	Last examinations 2012	First teaching 2011 First examinations 2013
Group 1	Language A1 (SL) Language A1 (HL)	Language A: literature (SL) Language A: literature (HL) Language A: language and literature (SL) Language A: language and literature (HL) Literature and performance (transdisciplinary SL)

Group	Last examinations 2012	First teaching 2011 First examinations 2013
Group 2	Language A2 (SL) Language A2 (HL) Language B (SL) Language B (HL) Language ab initio (SL)	 Language B (SL) Language B (HL) Language ab initio (SL)

Group	Last examinations 2009	First teaching 2008 First examinations 2010
Group 2 classical languages	Latin (SL/HL) Classical Greek (SL/HL)	Latin (SL/HL) Classical Greek (SL/HL)

Requirements

Students are required to select at least one language from group 1. They are also required to select a different second language from either group 1 or group 2. Students also have the option of studying a third language (from either group) as an elective instead of a group 6 subject.

Rationale for group 1

Group 1 courses are designed to support future academic study by developing high levels of language competence and communication skills as well as social, aesthetic and cultural literacy. Literature plays a central role in the courses, which aim to support lifelong learning through engaging students as actively as possible with the texts they study.

Each course highlights a different perspective in the study of texts.

- In language A: literature the focus is directed towards developing an understanding of the techniques involved in literary criticism and promoting the ability to form independent literary judgments.
- Language A: language and literature looks more openly at the method of inquiry embodied in critical literacy and is directed towards understanding the constructed nature of meanings generated by language and the web of relationships they share with the social world. In addition, language A: language and literature allows the exploration of a wide variety of non-literary texts.
- Literature and performance enables students to combine literary analysis with practical experience of the investigation of the role of performance in understanding literature.

Group 1 courses are suitable for students who have experience of using the language in an academic context. It is recognized that students have language backgrounds that vary significantly. There are some students for whom the target language is their only proficient language, whereas other students have complex language profiles and are competent in more than one language. One path to a bilingual diploma is to take two group 1 courses, each in a different language (in any combination). Special-request language A and school supported self-taught options remain available in language A: literature. By providing these options, group 1 supports additive bilingualism through the support and development of the student's mother tongue.

Rationale for group 2

Group 2 courses exist to provide students with the opportunity to acquire or develop an additional language (or languages) and to promote an understanding of other cultures through the study of language.

- Language ab initio and language B are language acquisition courses designed to provide students with the necessary skills and intercultural competence that will enable them to communicate successfully in an environment where the language studied is spoken. The ab initio course is designed for students who have little or no experience of the language. Language B is intended for students with prior learning of the language.
- Students can also opt to study a classical language course in Latin or Classical Greek.

From *Guidance for language provision in groups 1 and 2* © IB Aug 2009 (on OCC)