

IB English A: Language and Literature

STANDARD AND HIGHER LEVEL

What are the aims of the course?

To study a wide variety of literary texts from all genres, societies and eras; this includes works in translation

- To become skilled in literary analysis
- To be able to demonstrate those literary skills in both written and oral form
- To appreciate and enjoy Literature

What does it involve?

- The study of six literary texts (HL) or four literary texts (SL)
- Writing essays
- Giving presentations
- Group discussions
- Coursework
- Analysing and annotating texts

- **Standard Level**

External assessment (3 hours) 70%

- **Paper 1: Textual analysis (1 hour 30 minutes)**

The paper consists of two unseen texts. Students write an analysis of one of these texts. (20 marks)

- **Paper 2: Essay (1 hour 30 minutes)**

In response to one of six questions students write an essay based on both the literary texts studied in part 3. The questions are the same at HL but the assessment criteria are different. (25 marks)

- **Written task**

Students produce at least three written tasks based on material studied in the course. Students submit one written task for external assessment. (20 marks)

This task must be 800–1,000 words in length plus a rationale of 200–300 words.

- **Internal assessment**

This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.

- **Individual oral commentary**

Students comment on an extract from a literary text studied in part 4 of the course. (30 marks)

Students are given two guiding questions. Further oral activity

Students complete at least two further oral activities, one based on part 1 and one based on part 2 of the course.

The mark of one further oral activity is submitted for final assessment. (30 marks)

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- **Higher Level**

External assessment (4 hours)

- **External assessment (4 hours) 70%**

- **Paper 1: Comparative textual analysis (2 hours)**

The paper consists of two pairs of unseen texts. Students write a comparative analysis of one pair of texts. (20 marks)

- **Paper 2: Essay (2 hours)**

In response to one of six questions students write an essay based on at least two of the literary texts studied in part 3. The questions are the same at SL but the assessment criteria are different. (25 marks)

- **Written tasks**

Students produce at least four written tasks based on material studied in the course.

Students submit two of these tasks for external assessment. (20 marks for each task)

One of the tasks submitted must be a critical response to one of the prescribed questions for the HL additional study.

Each task must be 800–1,000 words in length; task 1 should be accompanied by a rationale of 200–300 words, while task 2 should be accompanied by a short outline.

Are there any specific entry requirements?

Students must have gained at least a Level 6 in IGCSE/GCSE English or its equivalent.

The course requires students to be a native or fluent speaker of English.

Why is it a useful qualification?

A wide knowledge of Literature is an asset for life, as are the literary skills developed during the course.

Being able to analyse texts and construct essays is invaluable, as is the ability to produce an oral presentation with confidence and flair.

It forms an excellent basis for further study of Literature at university.