

IB English A: Literature

STANDARD AND HIGHER LEVEL

What are the aims of the course?

- 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.
- Develop in students an understanding of the techniques involved in literary criticism
- Develop the students' ability to form independent literary judgments and to support those ideas

What does it involve?

- The study of thirteen literary texts
- Writing essays
- Giving presentations
- Group discussions
- Coursework
- Analysing and annotating texts

How is it assessed?

Standard Level

External assessment (3 hours) 70%

- **Paper 1: Guided literary analysis (1 hour 30 minutes)**
The paper consists of two passages: one prose and one poetry. Students choose one and write a guided literary analysis in response to two questions. (20 marks)
- **Paper 2: Essay (1 hour 30 minutes)**
The paper consists of three questions for each literary genre.
In response to one question students write an essay based on at least two works studied in part 3. (25 marks)
- **Written assignment**
Students submit a reflective statement and literary essay on one work studied in part 1. (25 marks)
The reflective statement must be 300–400 words in length.
The essay must be 1,200–1,500 words in length.
- **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 (10 minutes)**
Students present a formal oral commentary and answer subsequent questions on an extract from a work studied in part 2. (30 marks)
- **Individual oral presentation (10–15 minutes)**
The presentation is based on works studied in part 4. It is internally assessed and externally moderated through the part 2 internal assessment task. (30 marks)

Higher Level

External assessment (4 hours) 70%

- **Paper 1: Literary commentary (2 hours)**
The paper consists of two passages: one prose and one poetry.
Students choose one and write a literary commentary. (20 marks)
- **Paper 2: Essay (2 hours)**
The paper consists of three questions for each literary genre.
In response to one question students write an

essay based on at least two works studied in part 3. (25 marks)

- **Written assignment**
Students submit a reflective statement and literary essay on one work studied in part 1 (25 marks)
The reflective statement must be 300–400 words in length.
The essay must be 1,200–1,500 words in length.
- **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 and discussion (20 minutes)**
Formal oral commentary on poetry studied in part 2 with subsequent questions (10 minutes) followed by a discussion based on one of the other part 2 works (10 minutes). (30 marks)
- **Individual oral presentation (10–15 minutes)**
The presentation is based on works studied in part 4. It is internally assessed and externally moderated through the part 2 internal assessment task. (30 marks)

Are there any specific entry requirements?

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.