

IB German A Literature

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What are the aims of the course?

This course is aimed at native speakers of German and introduces them to “a range of texts from different periods, styles and genres” (Language A Literature Guide). Students learn to express themselves appropriately in written and spoken German and to develop their analytical skills with regard to literary texts. They will also be encouraged to develop a deeper understanding of the context of literary work as well as of the “formal, stylistic and aesthetic qualities of texts” (as above). The course is therefore aimed at developing students’ understanding of the processes involved in literary criticism as well as their ability to form and justify independent judgements, transferable skills vital not only in the field of literature.

What does it involve?

Students study 13 literary works, three of which were not originally published in their mother tongue (Works in Translation). The syllabus is divided into four parts, each tested in a different way in the course of the IB Diploma programme as well as in final examinations. One “Works in Translation” text forms the basis for a Written Assignment completed in the second year of the course, and students have to do two oral examinations, one presentation and one oral commentary. The two final examination papers test the students’ ability to comment on an unseen text and to write a comparative essay in response to a genre-based question.

While it is not a language acquisition course, students will be enabled to further develop their language skills. They will also gain knowledge about literary conventions and develop a critical approach to literary texts.

How is it assessed?

The course is assessed internally (assessed by the teacher and moderated by the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO), 30%) and externally (70%), thus testing a variety of skills.

Internal Assessment (30%):

- Individual oral presentation (15%): Students deliver a presentation of 10–15 minutes based on the Part Four option (Literature and Film)
- Individual oral commentary and discussion (15%): a formal commentary of poetry studied in Part Two is followed by a discussion of another Part Two work

External Assessment (70%):

- Written Assignment (25%): Students write a reflective statement of 300–400 words and an essay (1200–1500 words) on one Works in Translation text
- Paper 1 (20%): Unseen Literary commentary (two hours) based on a choice of two texts (one poetry, one prose)
- Paper 2 (25%): Comparative essay in response to a choice of three genre-based essay questions based on at least two works of the same genre studied in Part Three

Are there any specific entry requirements?

Students wishing to study IB German A Literature should be native speakers of German, or have a near-native command of the language.

Why is it a useful qualification?

Throughout the course, students develop transferable skills which will stand them in good stead for whatever they choose to do later in life.

