

IB Language B (French/German/Spanish/Mandarin)

HIGHER AND STANDARD LEVEL

What are the aims of the course?

All IB students must study a second language at either Higher or Standard Level. Language B is a foreign language programme for students who have previous experience of learning the language, at least to GCSE level or equivalent. The courses available at Rossall are in French, German, Spanish and Mandarin. Other languages may be arranged.

What does it involve?

The skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are developed through the study of a wide range of oral and written material alongside the further study of grammatical structures. At the end of the courses students should be able to communicate accurately and effectively, in speech and in writing, and be able to understand and respond to the language in a range of contexts. The courses, through a list of core and optional topics, study the life and culture of the countries where the language is spoken. Students studying for the Higher Level will also study two works of literature in the language.

How is it assessed?

Standard Level

External assessment (3 hours) 75%

- **Paper 1 (1 hour 15 minutes) 25%**
Productive skills – writing (30 marks) One writing task of 250–400 words from a choice of three, each from a different theme, choosing a text type from among those listed in the examination instructions.
- **Paper 2 (1 hour 45 minutes) 50%**
Receptive skills – separate sections for listening and reading (65 marks) Listening comprehension (45 minutes) (25 marks) Reading comprehension (1 hour) (40 marks) Comprehension exercises on three audio passages and three written texts, drawn from all five themes.
- **Internal assessment: 25%**
This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course. Individual oral assessment a conversation with the teacher, based on a visual stimulus, followed by discussion based on an additional theme. (30 marks)

Higher Level

External assessment (3 hours 30 minutes) 75%

- **Paper 1 (1 hour 30 minutes)**
25% Productive skills – writing (30 marks) One writing task of 450–600 words from a choice of three, each from a different theme, choosing a text type from among those listed in the examination instructions.
- **Paper 2 (2 hours) 50%**
Receptive skills – separate sections for listening and reading (65 marks) Listening comprehension (1 hour) (25 marks) Reading comprehension (1 hour) (40 marks) Comprehension exercises on three audio passages and three written texts, drawn from all five themes.
- **Internal assessment 25%**
This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course. Individual oral assessment A conversation with the teacher, based on an extract from one of the literary works studied in class, followed by discussion based on one or more of the themes from the syllabus. (30 marks)

Are there any specific entry requirements?

Language B is designed for students who possess a degree of knowledge and experience in the target language.

Why is it a useful qualification?

It will open doors for you – the ability to speak a second language is an acknowledged and proven competitive advantage in the work place.

It will open your mind – understanding other cultures and changing your view on the world, teaching you to be flexible and mobile.

It will open your heart and encourage you to meet new people, make friends and possibly change your life!

In the words of Federico Fellini:

“A different language is a different vision of life.”

