

GROUP TWO

Language B

Nature and Aims

The Language B course is designed for students with some previous experience of the target language. In the language B course, students further develop their ability to communicate in the target language through the study of language, themes and texts. In doing so, they also develop conceptual understandings of how language works.

The Language B course provides students with the intercultural understanding and allows them to go beyond the confines of the classroom, expanding their awareness of the world and fostering respect for cultural diversity.

Courses Available

ACS (Independent) offers the following courses based on the level of demand and availability of places:

Standard Level (SL)

- Chinese
- Hindi
- Malay
- Tamil

Syllabus

The syllabus comprises the following five prescribed themes and three categories of texts types. The themes provide opportunities for students to communicate about matters of personal, local or national, and global interest. The themes also allow students to compare the target language and culture(s) to other languages and cultures with which they are familiar.

Themes:

- Identities
- Experiences
- Human ingenuity
- Social organisation
- Sharing the planet

Texts:

- Personal texts
- Professional texts
- Mass media texts

(for the detailed syllabus content, please refer to "Course Outline" handout)

Assessment

External Assessment (75%)

Written Production (25%)

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

Listening comprehension (25%)

Comprehension exercises on three audio passages, including personal, professional and mass media texts, drawn from all five themes.

Reading comprehension (25%)

Comprehension exercises on three written texts, including personal, professional and mass media texts, drawn from all five themes.

Internal Assessment (25%)

Individual Oral Exam (25%)

A conversation with the teacher, based on a visual stimulus, followed by discussion based on an additional theme.

“The Limits of your language are the limits of your world” Ludwig Wittgenstein

IB Diploma Programme (first exams 2020)

Language B - Standard Level

Course Outline

5 Themes	Guiding principle	Prescribed topics	Possible questions
Identities	Explore the nature of the self and how we express who we are.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifestyles • Health and wellbeing • Beliefs and values • Subcultures • Language and identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What constitutes an identity? • How do we express our identity? • What ideas and images do we associate with a healthy lifestyle? • How do language and culture contribute to form our identity?
Experiences	Explore and tell the stories of the events, experiences and journeys that shape our lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure activities • Holidays and travel • Life stories • Rites of passage • Customs and traditions • Migration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does travel broaden our horizons? • How does our past shape our present and our future? • How and why do different cultures mark important moments in life? • How would living in another culture affect our worldview?
Human ingenuity	Explore the ways in which human creativity and innovation affect our world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entertainment • Artistic expressions • Communication and media • Technology • Scientific innovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do developments in science and technology influence our lives? • How do the arts help us understand the world? • What can we learn about a culture through its artistic expression? • How do the media change the way we relate to each other?
Social organization	Explore the ways in which groups of people organize themselves, or are organized, through common systems or interests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social relationships • Community • Social engagement • Education • The working world • Law and order 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the individual's role in the community? • What role do rules and regulations play in the formation of a society? • What role does language play in a society? • What opportunities and challenges do the 21st-century workplace bring?
Sharing the planet	Explore the challenges and opportunities faced by individuals and communities in the modern world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The environment • Human rights • Peace and conflict • Equality • Globalization • Ethics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What environmental and social issues present challenges to the world, and how can these challenges be overcome? • What ethical issues arise from living in the modern world, and how do we resolve them? • What challenges and

5 Themes	Guiding principle	Prescribed topics	Possible questions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban and rural environment 	benefits do globalization bring? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What challenges and benefits result from changes in urban and rural environments?

Assessment Outline

Assessment component	Weighting
External assessment Paper 1 (1 hour 15 minutes) 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.	75% 25%
Paper 2 (1 hour 45 minutes) Receptive skills—separate sections for listening and reading (65 marks)	50%
Listening comprehension (45 minutes) (25 marks)	25%
Reading comprehension (1 hour) (40 marks) Comprehension exercises on three audio passages and three written texts, drawn from all five themes.	25%
Internal assessment This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.	25%
Individual oral assessment A conversation with the teacher, based on a visual stimulus and at least one additional course theme. (30 marks)	

Assignment

- Listening comprehension practice based on Audio and Video.
- Oral practice based on Video or visual stimulus.
- Reading comprehension practice based on the past year exam papers.
- Writing practice on different text types including personal and professional texts.
- Spelling exercise on common words.
- Revision on Grammar and vocabulary.