



# Language B SL

## Nature of the Subject

Language B-SL is available in French and Spanish. It is a language acquisition course designed for students with some previous academic experience of the target language. In the language B course, students will 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. In more practical terms, students will be able to:

- understand a range of written and spoken authentic personal, professional and mass media texts on topics of interest.
- write texts for a variety of purposes and make oral presentations on topics of interest.
- initiate and maintain the flow of conversations and discussions on a variety of topics relating to course content and the culture(s) of the target language and using a variety of strategies to negotiate meaning and foster communication.

## **Syllabus outline**

The Language B-SL syllabus approaches the learning of language through meaning. Through the study of five themes, students build the necessary skills to reach the assessment objectives of the course through the expansion of their receptive, productive and interactive skills.

The content of both HL and SL Language B courses explores the practical use of the language via five themes:

- Identity
- Experiences
- Human Ingenuity
- Social Organization
- Sharing the Planet

## **Prior Learning**

Students already at CEFR A2 or B1 in the target language can comfortably take language B SL.

## **Assessment Objectives**

Having followed the Diploma Programme course in Language B, students will be expected to:

1. Communicate clearly and effectively in a range of contexts and for a variety of purposes.
2. Understand and use language appropriate to a range of interpersonal and/or intercultural contexts and audiences.

3. Understand and use language to express and respond to a range of ideas with fluency and accuracy.
4. Identify, organize and present ideas on a range of topics.
5. Understand, analyze and reflect upon a range of written, audio, visual and audio-visual texts.

## **Teaching Approach**

In our Language B courses, we focus on inquiry-based learning, where students actively explore and ask questions, diving into topics on their own. We emphasize understanding concepts, not just memorizing facts, so students really get the big picture. Our classes are globally oriented, helping students understand different cultures and perspectives. We recognize that everyone learns differently, so we adapt our teaching to meet these diverse needs. Finally, we encourage students to work together; this way, they learn from each other and build communication skills. These approaches help make learning more effective and engaging.

## **Why students might choose this subject**

Studying Language B in the IB program enhances communication skills and cultural understanding. This course offers students a deeper appreciation of another culture through language study, opening up global perspectives and career opportunities. It not only improves linguistic proficiency but also develops critical thinking skills. Ideal for those aiming for international careers or education, Language B is a stepping stone to becoming a global citizen, equipped with the skills to thrive in a diverse world.

## Course Assessment

The **final Diploma grade** in the subject is determined by two assessment components:

### **1. Internal assessment:** Individual oral assessment (25%)

A conversation with the teacher, based on a visual stimulus, followed by discussion based on an additional theme (30 marks). This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.

### **2. External assessment:** Paper 1 & Paper 2 (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.