

Language Acquisition (Language B)

What is the Language Acquisition course about?

The Language Acquisition courses are designed to provide students with the necessary skills (receptive, productive and interactive) and intercultural understanding to communicate successfully in an environment where the language studied is spoken. These two-year courses are organised into themes, which students explore through the study of a variety of authentic written and spoken material.

Hindi, French, Spanish B are offered at Standard Level and Higher Level.

What skills would I develop as a learner?

The Language B course focuses on development of language skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing, to enable the student to use the language they have acquired in a wider range of contexts and for different purposes.

What are the differences between standard level and higher level?

- Content: studies around the five themes and optional topics; additionally, HL students will read two works of literature
- Teaching time: a minimum of 240 hours at Higher Level; a minimum of 150 hours at Standard Level
- Levels of difficulty and demands of assessments are commensurate with the course in question
- Assessments for HL will include literary extracts

What is studied in the Language B courses?

All Language Acquisition courses will be delivered through five prescribed themes: Identities, Experiences, Human ingenuity, Social organization and Sharing the planet. Additionally, HL students will read two literary texts.

What is the assessment like in Language Acquisition?

In the Language Acquisition course, students will have three assessment components#:

- Productive skills – Writing
- Receptive skills – this includes two components, listening and reading, which are tested separately
- Productive skills – Speaking in the form of individual orals

How will this Language Acquisition course help me later?

Knowledge of an additional language or languages is highly desirable for admissions in universities around the world. It also serves as a basis for further studies through the use of the additional language.

On a more personal level, this course enables the student to communicate in a language other than his mother tongue or the language of instruction, creating opportunities for social interaction, an awareness of different perspectives and a greater appreciation of other cultures and for one's own.

[This subject brief was prepared after consulting the *Language B Guide (first examinations 2015)*, March 2013; the *Language ab initio guide (updated for first exams 2015)*, August 2014; and the *Language Acquisition Curriculum Review, Third Report to Teachers*, May 2017.]