



Year 12 Syllabus in a nutshell

IB English Language B





Year 12/13 Syllabus in a nutshell–IB English Language B

In English B there are five prescribed themes:

Identities
Experiences
Human Ingenuity
Social Organization
Sharing the planet

Within these five Themes students investigate topics such as cultural identity, personal beliefs, identity, humans of the future, sports, migration, technology and human interaction, education, the environment and globalisation, art, poverty, climate change and politics.

The 15 specific topics covered are:

- Citizens of the World
- Belief & Identity
- Beauty & Health
- Pilgrimage
- Extreme sports
- Migration
- Future Humans
- Technology & Human Interaction
- Redefining Art
- Minorities & Education
- Partners for Life
- The Future of Jobs
- Ending Poverty
- Climate Change
- Power to the People

Concepts

The development of language skills is complemented by conceptual understandings. The following concepts are fundamental to successful communication:

- AUDIENCE
- CONTEXT □ PURPOSE
- MEANING
- VARIATION



Texts

The concept of 'text' and 'text types' is crucial to English B. Different text types have different types of audience, purpose, layout and language choices. Students will engage with and produce some of the following types of text throughout the two years of the course:

- **Personal**

Blog
Diary
Email
Personal letter
Social media posting/chat room

- **Professional**

Blog
Email
Essay
Formal letter
Proposal
Questionnaire
Report
Set of instructions

Survey

- **Mass media**

Advertisement
Article (newspaper, magazine)
Blog
Brochure
Film
Interview
Leaflet
Literature*
News report
Opinion column/editorial
Pamphlet
Podcast
Poster
Public commentary (editorial/
readers' letters)
Radio programme
Review
Speech
Travel guide
Web page



N.B. Conventions for each of the main text types can be found on the relevant department Firefly pages.

Literature (HL only)

The study of two literary works is required at higher level, and students are expected to understand the fundamental elements of the works, such as THEMES, PLOT, CHARACTERS, SETTING and IDEAS. These may well relate back to the five PRESCRIBED THEMES.

Reading list

Books studied at Higher Level might include “the Life of Pi”, “Lord of the Flies”, “Of Mice and Men”, “Animal Farm” or “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time”. Students may, at the discretion of the teacher, choose a different literary work based on their own interest.

Grade equivalents

The English B course is graded on a scale of 1 – 7. The following table gives an indication of the level of competence an English B student might reach and compares grades to the CEFR and other internationally accepted English language exams such as IELTS:

CEFR Level	English B		English A: Language and Literature		English A: Literature		English Literature and Performance
	SL	HL	SL	HL	SL	HL	SL
C2							
C1		7	7	7	7	7	
B2+	7	6	6	6	6	6	
B2	6	5	5	5	5	5	5
	5	4		4	4	4	
B1	4	3					
A2	3	2					
A1	2						

<https://www.ibo.org/news/news-about-the-ib/benchmarking-diploma-programme-language-courses-to-the-cefr/>



Assessment

□ Higher Level Assessment External assessment

Paper 1 (1 hour 30 minutes) 25%

Writing- 30 marks

One writing task of 450-600 words from a choice of three, each from a different theme

Paper 2 (2 hours) - 50%

Listening (1 hour) - 25 marks

Reading (1 hour) - 40 marks

Comprehension exercises based on three audio passages and three written texts, drawn from all five themes

Internal assessment

This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course - 25%

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 - 30 marks

□ Standard Level Assessment External assessment

Paper 1 (1 hour 15 minutes) 25%

Writing - 30 marks

One writing task of 250-400 words from a choice of three, each from a different theme

Paper 2 (1 hour 45 minutes) - 50%

Listening (45 minutes) - 25 marks

Reading (1 hour) - 40 marks

Comprehension exercises based on three audio passages and three written texts, drawn from all five themes

Internal assessment

This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course - 25%

A conversation with the teacher, based on a visual stimulus, followed by discussion based on an additional theme - 30 marks



In terms of written outcomes, for paper one students will be expected to write the following text-types:

- Article (newspaper, magazine)
- Blog
- Brochure / leaflet/ pamphlet
- Diary/ journal
- Email/ Letter
- Essay
- Interview
- News report
- Opinion column/ letter to the editor
- Personal statement
- Proposal
- Report (official)
- Review
- Set of guidelines/ instructions
- Social media posting/ online forums
- Speech/ presentation/ debate