

O.I.B. Presentation

Option International, The French Baccalaureate
American Section

Presentation

- For the OIB, students take all of their subjects in French according to the series they choose except **Language and Literature**, *which replaces the LVI English classes*, and **History/Geography**.
- Half of the History/Geography is taught in French and half in English across the curriculum.

Strengths of the OIB students

- OIB students often are fluent in at least two languages.
- They are able to balance the complexities of two languages and two cultures.
- The OIB diploma indicates that students have learned to think and write according to the rigours of the French dissertation while also having been encouraged to participate actively in class in the American tradition and be creative in their thinking and writing.

Curriculum *Coefficients*

| | Lang/Lit | | Hist/Geo | |
|----|----------|------|----------|------|
| | Written | Oral | Written | Oral |
| L | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| ES | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| S | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 |

Language Literature

- The syllabus includes 13 works to be done over a two year period
- There is a 4 hour written exam and a 30 min oral exam at the end of the Ter Year.

Language and Literature Syllabus

- One Shakespeare Play
- Three 19th/20th/21st century English Language works of prose fiction, one should be American
- Two English language playwrights, one should be American
- Two English language poets, one should be American
- Three works of world literature
- Two English language works of non-fiction

In Seconde the syllabus is:

Hamlet (extracts)

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

Annie John by Jamaica Kincaid

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

Langston Hughes and Emily Dickinson (a selection of 8 poems)

A selection of short stories from *Stories of Ourselves*

In Search of our Mothers' Gardens by Alice Walker

In Première/Terminale the syllabus is:

The Tempest

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne (CORE)

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald* (in-depth)

Dracula by Bram Stoker

Intimate Apparel by Lynn Nottage (CORE)

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

A selection of 8 poems by Martin Espada* (CORE) (in-depth)

A selection of 8 poems by Seamus Heaney

Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri (A minimum of 5 short stories from the work) (CORE)

A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen

The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

"Stranger in the Village" by James Baldwin (CORE)

"Letter from Birmingham Jail" by Martin Luther King

Lang/Lit Written Exam

- It is 4 hours in length.
- The students have the choice of: two essays, one essay and one commentary (of an unseen text) or one essay and one creative writing exercise.
- The students are graded on the following criteria: Knowledge and understanding, response to the question or analysis of the text, analysis and depth or appreciation of literary features, organization, expression.

Lang/Lit Oral Exam

- The students are given an extract from one of the three in-depth works on the program
- They are given 30 min to prepare
- They must give a 10 min presentation of their analysis of the extract, a 5 min presentation of their links between the passage and the rest of the program.
- This is followed by a 15 min exchange between the examiner and the candidate to test their knowledge of the whole program.

History and Geography

- The program is based on 3 – 5 themes in each section of History and Geography.
- The students have a 4 hour written exam and a 20 min oral exam at the end of the Ter year.

History and Geography Syllabus

In Seconde the syllabus is:

History

Theme 1: A New World, the first Americans and the first European settlers;

Theme 2: A New Republic and a New Constitution;

Theme 3: A Country Divided: Slavery and the Seeds of Civil War

Geography

Theme 1: From Development to Sustainable Development;

Theme 2: Managing the World's Resources;

Theme 3: Managing Cities;

Theme 4: Managing Global Spaces

In Première the syllabus is:

History

Theme 1: US Westward Expansion, Economic Growth and Globalization since the mid-19th Century

Theme 2: War in the 20th Century

Theme 3: Totalitarian Regimes and US Foreign Policy

Theme 4: Colonization and Decolonization

Theme 5: The French and the Republic

Geography

Theme 1: Understanding the Notion of Territory

Theme 2: Managing and Developing the French Territory

Theme 3: EU, Growth and Development

Theme 4: France and Europe in the World

In Terminale the syllabus is:

History

Theme 1: How has conflict been remembered?

Theme 2: Media and Public Opinion since the end of 19th century

Theme 3: Pathways to power

Theme 4: The Scales of Governance in the World from 1945 to Today

Theme 5: The USA since 1945

Geography

Theme 1: Understanding a Complex World

Theme 2: Globalization

Theme 3: Development

Hist/Geo Written Exam

- The written exam is 4 hours in length.
- The students choose between: a) writing 2 history essays and either one geography document based question or a 'croquis' exercise; or b) two geography essays and one history document based question.
- The assessment criteria is based on understanding, knowledge, personal response, organization and expression, similar to the Lang/Lit rubric.

Hist/Geo Oral Exam

- The student is given one question from the table or bag containing pre-approved questions, covering both disciplines
- The student has 20 min to prepare a 10 min presentation on this question
- The next 10 min are an exchange between the examiner and the student on the whole program.

Extra-Curricular Activities

In order to ensure a continual bi-cultural and bilingual learning experience for the students, the following elements are offered:

1. **Exchanges/Trips** – we are in the process of setting up an exchange program with a school in the US (German Town Academy); the students will be able to travel to Ireland for one week in order to work on the poetry program on location and will be offered a trip to London to see the Globe.
2. **Debate Club** – we are currently setting up our debate club and it is highly recommended for the OIB students to come and join as this is a great way to improve their skills for arguing ideas. In the future the club will be travelling abroad to compete with other international schools.
3. **Poetry by Heart** – this year is our first in the competition which helps students gain valuable skills in analyzing poetry.